

# Section 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Report of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the future accommodation of growth in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

## What is an SEA?

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic, social and other considerations.

## Why is it needed?

The SEA is being carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the SEA Regulations and in order to maintain high standards in environmental management and planning within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The output of the process is an Environmental Report which should be read in conjunction with the County Development Plan.

## How does it work?

All of the main environmental issues in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown were assembled and presented to the team who prepared the Plan. This helped them to devise a Plan that protects whatever is sensitive in the environment. It also helped to identify wherever there are environmental problems in the area and ideally the Plan tries to improve these.

To decide how best to make a Plan that protects the environment as much as possible the planners examined alternative versions of the Plan. This helped to highlight the type of Plans that are least likely to harm the environment.

## What is included in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Plan?

The Environmental Report contains the following information:

- A description of the environment and the key environmental issues;
- A description and assessment of alternatives for the Plan;
- An assessment of the Plan objectives; and,
- Mitigation measures which set out to aid compliance with important environmental protection legislation - e.g. the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive - and which will avoid/reduce the environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

## What happens at the end of the process?

On the making of the Plan, a document, referred to as the SEA Statement, is made public.

The SEA Statement includes information on how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and why the preferred alternative was chosen for the Plan in light of the other alternatives.