

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SCREENING REPORT
(ADDENDUM TO SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT)**

**FOR
PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**

**TO THE
DRAFT MUINE BHEAG / ROYAL OAK
LOCAL AREA PLAN 2016-2022**

for: Carlow County Council

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OCTOBER 2016

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Muine Bheag / Royal Oak Local Area Plan (LAP) 2016-2022.

It forms an Addendum to the original SEA Environmental Report prepared for the Draft LAP.

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or variation to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive¹ requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programmes or variations to these. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan - or alteration to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the requirement for SEA to be undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Local Area Plan. Requirements in relation to the screening of Proposed Material Alterations to Draft Local Area Plans are provided under Section 20 (3) (f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

This Report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Plan and all other associated documents including:

- The Proposed Material Alteration document(s);
- The SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Plan;
- The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan;
- The AA Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations.

1.2 Process so far

SEA was undertaken on the Draft Plan in order to comply with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations – the SEA Environmental Report which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display contains the findings of the assessment. The SEA Environmental Report summarised the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) that was also undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan.

A Stage 2 AA² was also undertaken on the Draft Plan in order to comply with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations – a Natura Impact Report was prepared that contains the findings of this assessment.

The Plan and associated documents, including those relating to the SEA and AA processes, were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions were responded to in a Chief Executive's Report and Elected Members decided upon Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan which are the subject of this report.

¹ 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

² Appropriate Assessment is an impact assessment process concerning Natura 2000 Sites.

Section 2 SEA Screening

2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether each Proposed Material Alteration would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of 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, (see Section 2.5) and will be updated to take account of any submissions or observations received from environmental authorities.

2.2 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening has been undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan. AA is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance.

The Habitats Directive³, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen the alterations for effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then the alterations must undergo Stage 2 AA.

The AA Screening process has determined that the Proposed Material Alterations would not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network of sites⁴ and, therefore, Stage 2 AA is not necessary. An AA Screening Report contains the findings of this assessment and has informed this SEA Report.

2.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The requirement for Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DECLG, 2009). SFRA was undertaken on the Draft Plan and the findings of the SFRA were placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan as well as being summarised in the SEA Environmental Report.

Flood risk considerations including those that are detailed in the SFRA have been taken into account in the preparation of this SEA Addendum.

2.4 SEA Screening Analysis

Table 2.1 examines whether each part of the Proposed Material Alterations would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Effects encompass the full range of effects⁵, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other Proposed Material Alterations, the provisions of the Draft Plan and other plans and programmes.

³ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁴ Except as provided for in Section 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 These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

The examination takes 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, (see Section 2.5) and will be updated to take account of any submissions or observations received from environmental authorities.

Table 2.1 is supplemented by Table 2.2 which provides details on:

- The likely significant effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the Proposed Material Alterations in combination with the Draft Plan;
- Key mitigation measure(s) that are already contained within the Draft Plan; and
- Residual non-significant adverse effects.

Table 2.1 Relevant Proposed Material Alterations and SEA Screening

| Proposed Material Alteration | Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening |
|--|--|
| <p>Proposed amendments involving additional text are shown in green Proposed amendments involving deletion of text are shown in red with a strike through Proposed new amendments as part of the SEA / AA Screening Process are shown in blue</p> <p>Amendment 1</p> <p>Rezone site from agriculture to New Residential Phase 1.</p> | <p>This change to the land use zoning at this site is from Agriculture (the objective of which is “to retain and protect agricultural uses”) to New Residential Phase 1 (the objective of which is “to provide for new residential development and other services incidental to residential development”). Notwithstanding demand for development, the change facilitates a potentially greater extent of built development at the site. The site is not within Flood Zone A or B nor is it within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.</p> <p>Any development arising within this area would have to comply with the provisions of the Local Area Plan, some of which are included on Table 2.2, and the provisions of the County Development Plan as relevant.</p> <p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential adverse effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration to the land use zoning will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p> |
| <p>Amendment 2 (a)</p> <p>Include new Section 10.4.5 on Geological Heritage as follows:</p> <p>10.4.5 Geological Heritage The geology of County Carlow has influenced the landscapes, soils, habitats, economic activities such as quarrying and features of local cultural interest such as stone walls, limekilns etc. The Geological Survey of Ireland, in partnership with Carlow County Council, has developed a list of County Geological Sites (CGS), as part of the Irish Geological Heritage Programme. These are sites of local geological and geomorphological interest, or sites which contain a feature of local geological and geomorphological interest. Some of these sites, which are of national significance, may in the future, be proposed by the Geological Survey of Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, as geological Natural Heritage Areas (NHA’s). The programme of CGS documentation is an on-going, dynamic process as additional sites may be added through new exposures such as quarrying and road cuttings and through notifications from local community knowledge.</p> <p>Include additional Geological Heritage Policy as Follows:</p> <p>“To seek to protect and maintain the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest that may be proposed by the DoAHG and / or the GSI within the Plan area and to seek the promotion of the importance of Country Geological Sites in tourist material / publications as appropriate”.</p> <p>The definitions for Geodiversity and Natural Heritage shall be included as footnotes to Chapter 10.</p> <p>Geodiversity: Geodiversity (and Geological Heritage) refers to the variety of rocks, minerals, natural processes, landforms, fossils and soils that underlie and determine the</p> | <p>Changes to the text that does not comprise Plan provisions but which sets the context for provisions would not interact with the environment.</p> <p>The addition of the Geological Heritage Policy would further contribute towards beneficial effects upon the protection of the environment – including the protection of the Ballymoon Esker proposed Natural Heritage Area – that is provided for already by the Draft Plan.</p> <p>As the new policy would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p> |

| Proposed Material Alteration Proposed amendments involving additional text are shown in green Proposed amendments involving deletion of text are shown in red with a strike through Proposed new amendments as part of the SEA / AA Screening Process are shown in blue | Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening |
|---|--|
| <p>character of our landscape and environment. Geology is the science that comprises the study of the Earth, the rocks of which it is composed and the processed by which it evolves. It is in effect, the story of our planet and every rock holds clues to understanding its evolution.</p> <p>Natural Heritage: The Heritage Act (1995) defines natural heritage as including flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland waterways, heritage gardens and parks.</p> | |
| <p>Amendment 2 (b)</p> <p>Amend Section 1.5 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as follows:</p> <p>The Muine Bheag / Royal Oak area was assessed for risk of flooding in line with the standards and recommendations of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. Certain lands within the Plan boundary were rezoned to water compatible uses (including lands from residential to open space and amenity uses) while others have been identified which will require submission of site specific flood risk assessment appropriate to the type and scale of developments being proposed. An assessment of flood risk is required in support of any planning application where flood risk may be an issue and this may include sites where a small watercourse or field drain exists nearby. The level of detail will vary depending on the risks identified and the proposed land use. As a minimum, all proposed development must consider the impact of surface water flood risks on drainage design. In addition, flood risk from sources other than fluvial and tidal should be reviewed.</p> <p>In the case of development at appropriate lands, which may be liable to flooding, a site-specific assessment will be carried out at each location. This assessment will include; a) measures to eliminate risk of flooding at the particular development and b) which will not increase the risk of flooding at other locations. Each application will be considered on its particular merits. This LAP also sets out general policy requirements contained in the guidelines to inform strategic land-use decisions with the purpose of ensuring that flood risk management is fully integrated into the plan.</p> <p>Include additional text in Section 1.6 Public Consultation</p> <p>A total of 10 submissions were received, 5 from statutory bodies with the remainder from landowners, community interests and local residents. The contents of these submissions were considered in the Chief Executive's Report and were taken into account when formulating this draft local area plan.</p> | <p>The addition of requirements in relation to flood risk further contribute towards beneficial effects upon flood risk management and the protection of the environment including human health. This amendment provides further detail to the collection of flood risk management provisions that have already been included in the Draft Plan.</p> <p>As the new policy would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p> |
| <p>Amendment 2 (c)</p> <p>Include addition text in Chapter 4 Section 4.5 Brownfield/ Derelict/ Vacant/ Underutilised Sites Vacant development sites are an opportunity for Muine Bheag to provide for additional housing, employment and other space. Active land management including the</p> | <p>Changes to the text that does not comprise Plan provisions but which sets the context for provisions would not interact with the environment.</p> <p>The Draft Plan already provides for the development of vacant sites and renewal of sites and areas in need of regeneration - this change provides further detail on how what is already provided for in this regard will be achieved. There are no additional adverse effects arising from this change (significant, potential or uncertain) that were not envisaged and mitigated by the SEA of the Plan. The SEA process has successfully facilitated the integration of</p> |

| Proposed Material Alteration Proposed amendments involving additional text are shown in green Proposed amendments involving deletion of text are shown in red with a strike through Proposed new amendments as part of the SEA / AA Screening Process are shown in blue | Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening |
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| <p>implementation of the vacant land levy are key planning policies to implement the vision of the LAP and the core strategy of the County Development Plan. The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 provides for a levy on vacant sites and this is a key measure in implementing the Core Strategy by encouraging the development of such vacant sites.</p> <p><i>It is an objective of the Council:</i></p> <p>ECO 6: To provide for the development of vacant sites in designated areas (residential land and / or regeneration land identified in attached map) and to encourage and facilitate the appropriate development and renewal of sites and areas in need of regeneration in order to prevent;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land • Urban blight or decay • Anti-social behaviour, or • A shortage of habitable houses or of land for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses. <p>Include additional text in Chapter 6, Section 6.3 Strategic Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and facilitate the appropriate development and renewal of sites and areas in need of regeneration in order to prevent; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of ruinous or neglected condition of any land o Urban blight or decay o Anti-social behaviour o A shortage of habitable houses or of land for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses. | <p>mitigation into the Plan in order to contribute towards the protection of the environment – see Table 2.2. Positive effects arising from the development of these sites have already been envisaged by the SEA of the Plan and will be further contributed towards.</p> <p>As these changes would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p> |
| <p>Amendment 2 (d)</p> <p>Include additional text to Heritage Objective HO 6</p> <p><i>"To support and facilitate in co-operation with relevant interested organisations including NPWS, the OPW, the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society and Fáilte Ireland, the development of an appropriate cycle and defined pedestrian way linking the railway station, town centre, river and sites and facilities of interest in the town and its environs. Any proposed cycling or walking routes along the River will be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive".</i></p> | <p>This change provides further detail on what is already provided for by the Plan with respect to the undertaking of Appropriate Assessment for various types of projects. As such, it further contributes towards beneficial effects upon the protection of the Natura 2000 Sites that is already provided for by the Draft Plan.</p> <p>As the new policy would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p> |

| Proposed Material Alteration | Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening |
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| <p>Proposed amendments involving additional text are shown in green Proposed amendments involving deletion of text are shown in red with a strike through Proposed new amendments as part of the SEA / AA Screening Process are shown in blue</p> <p>Amendment 2 (e)</p> <p>Include additional Policy in Section 6.5 <i>"It is the policy of the Council to promote the development of quality shopfronts and in particular traditional shopfronts which contribute to the distinctive character of the town and to facilitate the improvement of vacant shops and premises in the town centre."</i></p> | <p>The Draft Plan already provides for the retail development, the protection of architecture and regeneration - this change provides further detail on what is already provided for in this regard. There are no additional adverse effects arising from this change (significant, potential or uncertain) that were not envisaged and mitigated by the SEA of the Plan. The SEA process has successfully facilitated the integration of mitigation into the Plan in order to contribute towards the protection of the environment – see Table 2.2. Positive effects arising from the protection of architectural heritage provided for by this policy have already been envisaged by the SEA of the Plan and will be further contributed towards.</p> <p>As these changes would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p> |
| <p>Amendment 2 (f)</p> <p>Include additional text to Policy LU 2 as follows: <i>"To prioritise the use and enjoyment of the town streets and spaces by pedestrians and cyclists so that the impact of the private car and HGV traffic is moderated and a more reasonable balance is achieved between the interests of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, including a more consistent approach to car parking in the town centre including increased provisions of off-street car parking"</i>.</p> | <p>This change provides more detail on the reason for this policy and would not be likely to interact with the environment.</p> <p>As the new policy would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p> |
| <p>Amendment 2 (g)</p> <p>Include additional text to Policy TP 4 as follows: <i>"It is the policy of the Council to support the Government's Electric Transport Programme 2008 – 2020 by facilitating the roll-out of battery charging infrastructure for electric vehicles at various locations throughout Muine Bheag". The provision of such infrastructure shall comply with the requirements and specifications of Trans Policy 14 and Energy Policy 12 as contained in the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021.</i></p> | <p>This change emphasises the need to comply with the County Development Plan, a requirement that already is in force. Therefore this change does not have any environmental consequences and would not result in significant environmental effects. SEA is not required.</p> |
| <p>Amendment 2 (h)</p> <p>Include additional designated archaeological areas as highlighted green and amend map to illustrate same.</p> <p>10.4.2 Archaeological Heritage</p> <p>The archaeological heritage of an area includes structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kind as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water.</p> <p>There are thirteen designated areas of archaeological potential within Muine Bheag's zoning boundary recorded on the OPW's Sites and Monuments Record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CW016-039 in Moneybeg – An Enclosure site • CW016-040 in Kilree – An Enclosure site • CW016-104 in Kilree – A Trackway Site • CW016-108 in Moneybeg – An Enclosure • CW016-109 in Moneybeg – An Enclosure • CW016-023 in Dunleckney – A Mound • CW016-112 in Dunleckney – A Ring Ditch • CW016-118 in Moneybeg – A Field System (now occupied by housing) • CW016-119 in Moneybeg – A Field System (now occupied by housing) | <p>This change adds to the baseline description of archaeological heritage provided for the Plan but it does not change the policies/objectives of the Plan that provide for the protection of this heritage. Therefore this change would not result in significant environmental effects and SEA is not required.</p> |

| Proposed Material Alteration | Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening |
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| <p>Proposed amendments involving additional text are shown in green Proposed amendments involving deletion of text are shown in red with a strike through Proposed new amendments as part of the SEA / AA Screening Process are shown in blue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CW016-126 in Dunleckney – A Ring Ditch • CW016-131 in Kilree – Excavation / Miscellaneous • CW016-040002 in Kilree – A Quarry • CW016-040001 in Kilree – An Enclosure | |
| <p>Amendment 3 (a) Amend flood line to reflect detailed modelling conducted of Dunleckney Stream to include 10m Riparian Zone Amendment 3 (b) Rezone area from open space and amenity to Residential Phase 1 Amendment 3 (c) Rezone area from open space and amenity to Residential Phase 1 and Residential Phase 2 Amendment 3 (d) Rezone area from open space and amenity to Residential Phase 1</p> | <p>In the absence of detailed modelling of the Dunleckney Stream and further to concerns expressed by the Elected Members, the Council appointed consultants to undertake hydraulic modelling of the stream. This has resulted in new floodlines that significantly reduce Flood Zone A, the area at elevated levels of flood risk. Amendment 3 (a) provides for the amendment of flood lines along Dunleckney stream to reflect the modelling exercise. This change would not interact with the environment but is taken into account by Amendments 3 (b), (c) and (d).</p> <p>Amendments 3 (b), (c) and (d) provide for an extension of the Residential Phase 1 and 2 land use zoning objectives (in place of the Amenity & Open Space land use zoning objective) into lands that were removed from Flood Zone A as a result of the modelling exercise as well as into lands that remain in Flood Zone A. The following mitigation has been integrated into the Plan to ensure that flood risk will be appropriately considered at project level in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines thereby mitigating any potential effects on flood risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The various policies and objectives contained in the Draft Plan relating to flood risk management and Section 11.7 from the Draft Plan (as listed on Table 2.2 below); • Other Plan provisions (such as Policy HR13 concerning buffers); and • Amendment 2 (b) above. <p>With regard to significant effects on flood risk, and associated interactions with environmental components including human health, implementation of this mitigation will ensure that significant environmental effects do not arise; therefore SEA is not required.</p> <p>With regard to other potentially significant environmental effects, the changes provided for by Amendments 3 (b), (c) and (d) from the Amenity & Open Space land use zoning objective to the Residential Phase 1 and 2 land use zoning objectives facilitate a potentially greater extent of built development. Any development arising within these areas would have to comply with the provisions of the Local Area Plan, some of which are included on Table 2.2, and the provisions of the County Development Plan as relevant. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential adverse effects arising from these Proposed Material Alterations will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p> |
| <p>Amendment 4 Amend Land Use Zoning Matrix to facilitate greater levels of employment uses within relevant land use Zonings.</p> | <p>Of the three land use zonings affected by this amendment, all already provide for various types of built development within the Draft Plan. The amendment facilitates more use options for development on relevant lands however any development arising would have to comply with the provisions of the Local Area Plan, some of which are included on Table 2.2, and the provisions of the County Development Plan as relevant. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential adverse effects arising from these Proposed Material Alterations will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p> |

Table 2.2 Potential Adverse Effects, if unmitigated, Mitigation Measures and Residual Adverse Effects

| Topic | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated | Recommendation | Details of how incorporated into the Plan | Residual Effects |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| All | Various below | <p>Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p> <p>Cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The Council will contribute towards compliance with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR9. | Various below |
| All | Various below | <p>Information to be considered at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment</p> <p>Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the sensitivities identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses or areas of semi-natural habitats); • Proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; • Entries to the Record of Protected Structures | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policies; HR8, HR 9, HR16, HR2 and HR3. | Various below |
| Biodiversity and flora and fauna | Loss of biodiversity with regard to designated biodiversity and flora and fauna, ecological connectivity and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna | <p>Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network</p> <p>Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); and Flora Protection Order sites.</p> <p>Contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)^[1], the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)^[2], the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)^[3], the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC). • National legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976^[4], the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No. 349 of 1989) (as amended), the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011) and the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008^[5]. • National policy guidelines (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same), including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policies HR8 and HR9. | Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces |

^[1] Including Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur).

^[2] Including Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur).

^[3] Including protected species and natural habitats.

^[4] Including species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.

^[5] Including protected species and natural habitats.

| Topic | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated | Recommendation | Details of how incorporated into the Plan | Residual Effects |
|-------|--|---|---|------------------|
| | | <p>Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment and water resource management Plans, including the relevant River Basin Management Plan. • Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: Ireland's 2nd National Biodiversity Plan (including any superseding version of same). • Freshwater Pearl Mussel Regulations (S.I. 296 of 2009) (including any associated designated areas or management plans). • Ireland's Environment 2014 (EPA, 2014, including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges. <p>Appropriate Assessment All projects and plans arising from this plan (including any associated improvement works or associated infrastructure) will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The Plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or 3. The Plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. <p>Protection of Natura 2000 Sites No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).</p> | <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR10.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through Policy HR11.</p> | |

| Topic | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated | Recommendation | Details of how incorporated into the Plan | Residual Effects |
|-------|--|--|---|------------------|
| | | <p>Biodiversity and Ecological Networks Contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Non-Designated Sites Contribute towards the protection of non-designated habitats and species, as appropriate.</p> <p>Non-native invasive species Support, as appropriate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water.</p> <p>Protection of Riparian Zone and Waterbodies and Watercourses Planning authorities shall demonstrate that waterbodies and watercourses are protected from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine as appropriate.</p> <p>Constrained Land Use Zoning HR 11B: To require applications for development within the constrained land use zoning objective for the Natura 2000 site (Map 13) to undergo Appropriate Assessment and demonstrate that the proposal will not give rise to any effect on the Natura 2000 site in view of its qualification features and conservation objectives.</p> <p>Visitors To seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, any projects are a suitable distance from the water's edge and legislation relating to habitats, species, connectivity and designated sites is complied with.</p> <p>Rewording of the following objectives from an earlier draft of the Plan LU 8: To investigate the feasibility of encourage the development of investigate the feasibility of water-related activities, subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive. SM 4: To utilise existing features such as the River Barrow and canal tow path as the focus and basis for development walking routes connecting the town to its wider county context, subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive. SMO 3: To seek the rehabilitation of the existing footbridge at canal lock and provide for a new footbridge over the canal at Hotel Street. RC 2: To support the conservation and development of local angling waters and investigate the feasibility of developing these waters and associated infrastructure required to advance the sport in the town, subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> | <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR16.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HP 21.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR22.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR13 and also objective FLO4 (Chapter 9).</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR11B</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy TP7</p> <p>Reworded as detailed.</p> | |

SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

| Topic | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated | Recommendation | Details of how incorporated into the Plan | Residual Effects |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Population and human health | Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water are not mitigated | Also see measures under environmental vectors soil, water and air below. | See below. | Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events |
| | | <p>Human Health Assess proposals for development in terms of, inter alia, potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, the Council shall ensure the introduction of mitigation measures in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>Radon Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p> | <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through objective PO1.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through objective PO2.</p> | |
| Soil | Adverse impacts on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource | <p>Also see measures under water below.</p> <p>Soil Protection and Contamination Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work which is proposed.</p> | <p>See below.</p> <p>Incorporated into the Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate change and Environmental management) through policy P5.</p> | Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces |
| Water | Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology | Also see measures under soil above and material assets below. | See below. | Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events |
| | | <p>Water Framework Directive and associated legislation Contribute towards the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, groundwater and associated habitats and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same). To also support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation, including the implementation of Sustainable Drainage System techniques for new development.</p> <p>River Basin Management Plan Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan, and associated Programmes of Measures, or any such plans that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan, as well as relevant recommendations contained in the Water Quality in Ireland 2010 – 2012 (EPA, 2015, and any updated/superseding document). Proposals for development would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands. Also to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 which provides guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> | <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policy WSP1.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policy WSP2.</p> | |

| Topic | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated | Recommendation | Details of how incorporated into the Plan | Residual Effects |
|-------|--|--|---|------------------|
| | Increase in flood risk | <p>Flood Risk Management Policies and Objectives</p> <p>FL 1: To support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DoEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding legislation or policy guidance). Carlow County Council will also take account of the OPW Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans (CFRAMS) as appropriate, the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for County Carlow 2015 – 2021.</p> <p>FL 2: To have regard to the findings and recommendations of the current Strategic Flood Risk Assessment carried out for Muine Bheag / Royal Oak Local Area Plan area.</p> <p>FL 3: To implement the use of the sequential approach and application of the Justification Tests for Development Management and Development Plans, during the period of this plan, as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines as follows: 1) Avoid development that will be at risk of flooding or that will increase the flooding risk elsewhere, where possible; 2) Substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible; and 3) Justify, mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible. In the case of development at appropriate lands, which may be Liable to Flooding, a site specific assessment will be carried out at each location. This assessment will include measures; a) to eliminate risk of flooding at the particular development and b) which will not increase the risk of flooding at other locations. Each development will be considered on its particular merits.</p> <p>FL 4: To ensure that all developments have regard to the surface water management conditions contained within the SFRA and appropriate section of the Local Area Plan / County Development Plan.</p> <p>SW 1: To require the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in all new developments where appropriate. The following measures will apply;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The infiltration into the ground through the development of porous paving, swales and detention basins. - The holding of water in storage areas through the construction of green roofs, rainwater harvesting, detention basins, ponds and wetlands. - The slowdown of the movement of water. <p>FLO 1: To ensure the implementation of the DoEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (including its accompanying Technical Appendices) and including the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's Circular PL 2/2014 (or any updated/superseding document) in relation to flood risk management within the plan area.</p> <p>FLO 2: To undertake a review of the SFRA following any subsequent alteration of flood mapping produced as part of the CFRAM.</p> <p>FLO 3: To ensure that Flood Risk Assessments are carried out for any development proposal, in accordance with the "Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG/OPW 2009). This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development.</p> <p>FLO 4: To protect water bodies and watercourses within the plan area from inappropriate development, including the river, canal, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. A 10 metre strip on either side of such channel will be retained, where required, to facilitate access thereto. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>SWO 1: To improve and extend where technically feasible and economically viable the surface water disposal infrastructure to serve all zoned land, in order to facilitate development.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policies FL1, FL2, FL3, FL4 and SW1, objectives FLO 1, FLO 2, FLO 3, FLO 4 and SWO 1 and Section 11.7 of the Plan. | |

| Topic | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated | Recommendation | Details of how incorporated into the Plan | Residual Effects |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | <p>Section 11.1.7 "Flood Risk Management" from the Plan The Council will have regard to the Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Local Authorities (DEHLG and OPW 2009) when preparing Development Plans and Local Area Plans and when assessing planning applications. The key requirements for the management of development in areas at risk of flooding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All development proposals within or incorporating areas at moderate to high risk of flooding will require site specific and appropriately detailed Flood Risk Assessments • All development proposals within or incorporating areas at moderate or high risk of flooding will require the developer to show how the Development Management Justification Test in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009) was applied to the site • Demonstration by the applicant that the sequential approach was applied in site layout and design where their development is acceptable. Proposals shall also demonstrate that mitigation and management measures can be put in place and that the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere | | |
| Air and Climatic Factors | Failure to contribute towards sustainable transport and associated impacts (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) | <p>Overall development approach for the Plan, consolidating the town and providing for growth within and adjacent to the town centre Also see measures under human health</p> <p>CAFE Directive Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>National Climate Change Adaptation Framework Recognise European and national objectives for climate adaptation and work with the EPA, the Southern Regional Assembly and neighbouring planning authorities in implementing future Guidance for climate change proofing of landuse plan provisions as is flagged in the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (DECLG, 2012).</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of open space amenities • Sustainable management of water • Protection and management of biodiversity • Protection of cultural heritage • Protection of protected landscape sensitivities. | <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policy P1.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9) through policy CCP1.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapters 9 and 10) through policy HR15 (chapter 10) and objective CCO1 (chapter 9).</p> | None |
| Material Assets | The need to provide adequate and appropriate water services (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for such needs) | <p>Irish Water Collaborate with and support, as relevant and appropriate, Irish Water in its new role as the lead authority for water services.</p> <p>Sufficient Capacity Development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity in the public water and wastewater infrastructure.</p> | <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9) through policies WSP3, WW1 and objectives WSO1 and WWO1.</p> <p>Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policy WSP6.</p> | Residual wastes to be disposed of |

| Topic | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated | Recommendation | Details of how incorporated into the Plan | Residual Effects |
|-------|--|--|---|------------------|
| | | <p>Focus on Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland In conjunction with Irish Water, implement relevant recommendations set out in the EPA (2015) publication Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2014 (and any subsequent update).</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) partly through policy WW2. | |
| | | <p>Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policy WW1. | |
| | | <p>Drinking Water Regulations Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 and compliance of water supplies comply with the 48 parameters identified in these Regulations.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through objective WSO1. | |
| | | <p>The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall have regard to the EPA (2015) publication The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland - A Report for the Year 2013 (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through objective WSO4. | |
| | | <p>EPA's Remedial Action List The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall undertake recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failure to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through objective WSO5. | |
| | Increases in waste levels | <p>Construction Waste Construction wastes arising will be managed and disposed of in a way that ensures the provisions of the Waste Management Acts and new Waste Management Plan. Construction Waste Management Plans will be implemented where relevant to minimise waste and ensure correct handling and disposal of construction waste streams in accordance with the Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment, July 2006.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policy WMP5. | |
| | | <p>Waste Creation Support the minimisation of waste creation and promote a practice of reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policy WMP1. | |

| Topic | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated | Recommendation | Details of how incorporated into the Plan | Residual Effects |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| | | <p>Waste Disposal Safeguard the environment by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of appropriately.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure, Climate Change and Environmental Management) through policy WMP2. | |
| Cultural Heritage | Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation | <p>Archaeological Heritage Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended).</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR1. | Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage (Recorded Monuments) however this will occur in compliance with legislation Potential loss of unknown archaeology however this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Plan |
| | | <p>Protection of Archaeological Sites Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR2. | |
| | | <p>Consultation Consult with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR5. | |
| | | <p>Architectural Heritage Contribute towards the protection of architectural heritage by complying, as appropriate, with the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 10 – Built and Natural Heritage) through policy HR3. | |
| Landscape | Occurrence of adverse visual impacts | <p>Landscape Designations Contribute towards the protection of county and local level landscape designations from incompatible developments. Proposals for development that have the potential to significantly adversely impact upon these designations shall be accompanied by an assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development - demonstrating that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p> | Incorporated into Draft Plan (Chapter 6 – Town Centre, Landscape and Public Realm) through policy L1. | The landscapes within and surrounding the town will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments. The Plan contributes towards the protection of landscape designations. |

2.5 Schedule 2A

PART 1

1. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources*

The changes proposed by the Material Alterations relate to the provisions of the Draft Local Area Plan which provides a framework for land use planning in Muine Bheag / Royal Oak. Proposed Material Alterations encompass changes to the text and maps of the Draft Plan.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and associated Local Area Plan set a framework for projects and other activities, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

2. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy*

The Proposed Material Alterations are being made to the Draft Local Area Plan. The Local Area Plan is not expected to influence higher or lower tier plans.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and associated Local Area Plan influence other plans, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

3. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development*

The Draft Local Area Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate has undergone SEA. This process integrated environmental considerations into the Draft Plan and found that the Draft Plan contributes to environmental protection and management and sustainable development.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and associated Local Area Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

4. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan*

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets.

Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the Draft Plan contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, it contributes towards its amelioration.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to the Proposed Material Alterations and associated Local Area Plan, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

5. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection)

The Draft Local Area Plan relates to the land use sector and has undergone SEA. This process integrated considerations with regard to EU and national legislation on the environment into the Plan, including those relating to the waste management and the Water Framework Directive.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of the Proposed Material Alterations for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

PART 2

1. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

- a) **special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**
- a) **special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

- b) **exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;**

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

- c) **intensive land-use.**

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

Section 3 Conclusion

The potential effects arising from the Proposed Material Alterations are either present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Therefore it is determined that SEA is not required for the Proposed Material Alterations.

A one-page SEA determination accompanies this SEA Report.