

Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination
for the
Louth Noise Action Plan 2024-2028

This determination relates to whether the Draft Louth Noise Action Plan 2024-2028, would or would not, be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment) and transposing Regulations¹; and therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive '*Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)*' and Schedule 1 of the Regulations are considered in an accompanying Screening for SEA Report that has been prepared to inform this determination.

As identified in the SEA Screening Report:

- The Plan is situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.
- The Plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2024, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied), all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. In addition, the Draft Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.
- In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. It is a specific provision of the Plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the County Development Plan (as varied) identified in this accompanying Screening SEA report shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Plan.
- Taking into account all of the above it is demonstrated that: significant beneficial environmental effects are present already under the existing planning framework and would not result from the Plan; and potentially significant adverse effects, if unmitigated, are present already under the existing planning framework, have already been envisaged and mitigated by the relevant assessments and would not result from the Plan. Consequently, it is advised that the Plan would not result in likely significant environmental effects and does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment Report". The undersigned hereby determines that SEA is not required for the Louth Noise Action Plan 2024-2028.

Signatory: 

Date: 

¹ European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004) amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011)