

# **PROPOSED VARIATION NO.1(II) TO THE WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2016**

## **DONARD SETTLEMENT PLAN**

### **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) SCREENING DETERMINATION**

#### **1. Introduction**

This statement sets out the Council's determination under Article 13K of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the proposed variation (proposed Donard Settlement Plan) of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016.

#### **2. The SEA screening process**

The screening process has been carried out in accordance with Article 13K and has involved the following:

(i) a consideration of whether or not the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, taking into account of the relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Regulations. This assessment was carried out by the Planning Authority. It was the consideration of the Planning Authority that the proposed variation would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, and a Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required for the plan. This consideration is set out in 'SEA Screening Report'.

(ii) consultation with the following environmental authorities on whether or not the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

The Planning Authority sent notice to the three environmental authorities on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The authorities were invited to make a submission to the Planning Authority between the period 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011 to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The responses of the environmental authorities are summarised below:

#### **2.1 The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Submission received 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The submission is essentially made up of four parts:

- (a) A comment on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Proposed Donard Settlement Plan;
- (b) Comments on possible future amendments to the Draft Plan with regard to environmental issues;
- (c) Comments on Infrastructure Planning to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the plan
- (d) Comments on the obligations with respect to national plans and policies and EU Environmental legislation.

#### ***Evaluation***

- a) Planning Authority's position with regard to the need for SEA of proposed variation is noted.

- b) The EPA have advised that it is a matter for Wicklow County Council to determine whether or not any future proposed Amendments/Variations would be likely to have significant effects on the environments.
- c) The EPA have advised that in proposing the plan and any related amendments, variations etc of the Plan and implementing the subject Plan that adequate and appropriate infrastructure should be in place.
- d) The EPA have advised that Wicklow County Council has responsibilities and obligations in accordance with all national and EU environmental legislation

### ***Consideration regarding Significant Environmental Effect in light of Comments Received***

The proposed variation (proposed Donard Settlement Plan) to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 would not be likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

### **2.2 Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government**

Submission received 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The submission has been fully considered.

#### ***Summary of Submission***

There is a potential for impacts on archaeology arising from developments within the context of the Donard Plan. If a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not carried out then the potential archaeological impacts should be addressed in the plan itself

#### ***Evaluation***

Noted, there are objectives contained in the Donard settlement plan that will mitigate against any potential archaeological impacts (objectives DON7).

### ***Consideration regarding Significant Environmental Effect in light of Comments Received***

The proposed variation (proposed Donard Settlement Plan) to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 would not be likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

### **2.3 Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources**

Submission received 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

#### ***Summary of Submission***

No comments/observations

#### ***Evaluation***

Noted

### ***Consideration regarding Significant Environmental Effect in light of Comments Received***

The proposed variation (proposed Donard Settlement Plan) to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 would not be likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

### **3. Determination**

Having considered the relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Regulations and the submissions received from the environmental authorities in response to the notice issued under Article 13K(3), the planning authority determines that the proposed variation (proposed Donard Settlement Plan) to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 would not be likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The planning authority has therefore determined that an environmental assessment is not required for the proposed variation (proposed Donard Settlement Plan) to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016.