



## Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination

**under the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011)**

**for:**

**Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)**

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening determination as to whether Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) is likely to have significant effects on the environment is being made by Wicklow County Council under Article 7 (13K) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

In making the determination, the information contained in the accompanying Screening for SEA Report (including information provided by environmental authorities and an examination of the need to undertake SEA against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the above Regulations) is being taken into account. That information has been carefully considered and its reasoning and conclusion agreed with and adopted – allowing a determination to be made that Proposed Variation No. 3 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to full SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Local Area Plan, which itself is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with. The emerging conclusions of the SEA for the Blessington Local Area Plan include that the Local Area Plan would contribute towards: the proper planning and sustainable development of the Blessington area and the wider County; and that the consequential environmental effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Taking into account the measures that have been integrated into the existing County Development Plan (as varied) and the Local Area Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from Proposed Variation No. 3, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse).

Taking into account all of the above: Proposed Variation No. 3 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects; and it is determined that SEA is not required to be undertaken on the Proposed Variation.

The Screening for SEA process will consider any future amendments to the Proposed Variation or Draft Local Area Plan and such consideration may require subsequent determination by the Council, where amendments are proposed.

**Signatory:**

Leonora Earls,

Director of Services, Planning, Economic and Rural Development.

**Date:**

25/10/24