

# SCREENING FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) DETERMINATION

## For the Emerging Draft Limerick City Centre and Environs Blue Green Ring Masterplan

A Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being made by Limerick City and County Council regarding the emerging draft Limerick City Centre and Environs Blue Green Ring Masterplan (draft Masterplan).

The current status of the draft Masterplan is that it is a non-statutory document. The draft Masterplan aims to refine the existing alignment of routes found within the Limerick City and Environs Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBI Strategy), with the intention to designate active travel routes away from vehicular routes and large infrastructure, promoting healthy lifestyles by increasing access to Blue Green Infrastructure and sports facilities for local communities and recreational users through an active travel network with improved air quality.

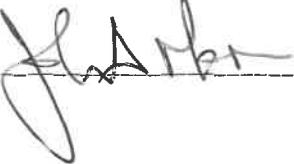
The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument No. (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended, and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended. Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended, requires, subject to certain exceptions, that SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- a. *which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or*
- b. *which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any site.*

The draft Masterplan is not directly connected to or necessary to the management of a European Site; however, the development of the draft Masterplan would have the potential to affect the integrity of European Site. Consequently, it has been determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the draft Masterplan, aligned with AA requirements under: European Council Directive 92/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument No. 477 of 2011), as amended.

Taking the above into account and in order to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into the draft Masterplan, so that the draft Masterplan can usefully inform future decision-making, it has been determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake an SEA of the draft Masterplan, aligned with SEA requirements under: Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment; and European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended.

Signed:



Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024