

**Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination
for the
Limerick City and County Festivals and Events Strategy 2024-2028 to be adopted**

This determination whether the Draft Limerick City and County Festivals and Events Strategy 2024-2028 to be adopted would or would not necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

An accompanying Screening for AA Report has been prepared to inform this determination. As identified in that report:

- Implementing the Strategy will involve Limerick City and County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to land use developments, land use activities, tourism and environmental protection and environmental management. The Strategy is situated alongside this 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 Strategy 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 Strategy fully aligns with the provisions of documents including the existing National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Strategy 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.
- Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the Draft Strategy was assessed for all potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests of the European sites considered, in view their Conservation Objectives, in the absence of any mitigation measures. It was found that the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes.
- Therefore, it is concluded in this Screening for AA to inform the competent authority carrying out the AA Screening, that the Draft Limerick City and County Festivals and Events Strategy 2024-2028 to be adopted is not foreseen to have any likelihood for significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for any significant effect to any European site as a result of implementing the Strategy can be ruled out. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

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 Appropriate Assessment Report". The undersigned hereby determines that the Limerick City and County Festivals and Events Strategy 2024-2028 to be adopted is not likely to result in significant effects on European sites, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, and projects etc. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

Signatory:

Date: 22 May 2025