

Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination
for the
Draft Limerick City and County Tourism Plan 2025-2030


This determination relates to whether the Draft Limerick City and County Tourism Plan 2025-2030, also referred to as “the Draft Plan” and “the Plan”, to be adopted, 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 the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern 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 Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Development Plan and from Fáilte Ireland’s Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands.
- The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as suggestions that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.
- In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.
- Taking 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 Draft Limerick City and County Tourism Plan 2025-2030 to be adopted.

Signatory: 

Date: 5th September 2025

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)