

SEA Directive Statement

Proposed Variation No. 4 Cork City Core Strategy

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC)

Cork City Council, as Planning Authority for the city of Cork, hereby publishes its decision not to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Variation No. 4 Cork City Core Strategy. The reasons for this decision are set out below.

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) require Strategic Environmental Assessments in the case of Local Area Plans where they are likely to give rise to significant environmental effects. A formal "Screening" is required under the Regulations in the case of Variations of Development Plans to determine whether the policy would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. A Screening involves formal consideration of:

- The characteristics of the plan; and
- The characteristics of the environmental effects of the plan and the area likely to be affected.

Having completed a Screening, Cork City Council has determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not necessary for the Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Cork City development Plan 2009-2015 - 'Cork City Core Strategy' as it is considered that the implementation of the material amendments to the city development plan would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

This decision (**MO/xxx/2011**) has been taken having regard to the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (November 2004) from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Cork City Council consulted the Environmental Authorities (in this case the Environmental Protection Agency) as part of the "Screening" process and received no adverse comments regarding the environmental implications of the proposed material amendment.

The proposed material amendments to the development plan are considered to be positive changes to the planning policy framework for the city as a whole, and overall are considered to have a neutral impact on the environment.

Tony Brauders
Acting Director of Services (Planning & Development)
9th May 2011