

Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination
for proposal to

Extend the duration of the current Gorey Local Area Plan 2017-2023

This determination relates to whether the proposal to extend the duration of the current Gorey Local Area Plan 2017-2023 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 therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of 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)*' are considered in an accompanying SEA Screening Report that has been prepared to inform this determination.

As the competent authority, Wexford County Council intend to extend the lifetime of the Gorey Local Area Plan 2017-2023 for a period of three years. Although the proposal to extend is being screened for the need to undertake SEA and/or AA, it is acknowledged that there is no provision under national legislation for the screening of Extension of Duration of Local Area Plans, however; Wexford County Council consider that it is appropriate to undertake Screening for SEA and AA.

As identified in the SEA Screening Report:

- In proposing to extend the life of the existing Local Area Plan by a period of up to three years, Wexford County Council has confirmed that it is satisfied that the existing Plan remains generally consistent with the aims and objectives of the relevant statutory national and regional frameworks and strategies, namely the National Planning Framework 2040 and the Southern Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032, and that the Plan, in-combination with the wider planning framework, would continue to provide a framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of Gorey.
- This wider planning framework includes the existing County Development Plan adopted in 2013 provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County, including the town of Gorey and takes primacy over the Local Area Plan, including in any instances where differences in the provisions of the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan. Once adopted in 2022, the new County Development Plan, which is being subject to separate SEA, SFRA and AA processes, will provide for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County, including the town of Gorey from 2022 until 2028. Once adopted, the new County Development Plan will take primacy over the Local Area Plan, including in any instances where differences in the provisions of the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan.




- In implementing the Plan, the Plan and wider planning framework require that adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure is in place to service any development proposed and authorised. It is not envisaged that any development will be permitted on lands identified with a particular land use zoning objective that would exceed the capacity of piped water infrastructure operated by Irish Water. In addition, Plan implementation must ensure that appropriate phasing is followed, and that compact and sequential development is achieved.
- In considering the extended period of the Plan, Wexford County Council has considered the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans. Such matters are contributed towards by the existing Plan and the in-force County Development Plan and are being progressed by the Local Authority in tandem with the review process of the County Development Plan. Furthermore, the LAP must be varied within one year where it is inconsistent with the County Development Plan. This will ensure the LAP is fully consistent with the NPF/RSES.
- Furthermore:
 - Apart from the lifespan of the Plan, the proposal does not affect the provisions of the current Plan that are already in force;
 - The Plan sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions (including those detailed in Appendix I) that provide a number of high-level environmental protection and management policies and objectives with which implementation of the Plan must comply;
 - The proposal to extend the Plan is for a maximum period of three years.
- Potential adverse effects that would arise from the existing Plan in combination with the wider planning framework and the extension are present already, and were envisaged and mitigated by original SEA for the Plan. Projects within the Plan area are required to comply with mitigation measures under the current Gorey Local Area Plan, the Current County Development Plan to be replaced and the emerging County Development Plan. The presence of the potential adverse effects will be extended by a further three years, however; they are likely to be present under the County Development Plan in any case, was the Local Area Plan to expire. Any future development under the extended Plan would have to be subject to the various provisions of the existing Local Area Plan and the relevant County Development Plan in force at that time that relate to sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment (as well as the other provisions from the hierarchy of strategic actions detailed in Appendix I) – see Table 2.4. Considering these provisions, any residual adverse environmental effects occurring would not be significant.



- Positive effects that would arise from the existing Local Area Plan in combination with the wider planning framework and the extension are present already and would be further contributed towards. In this way, the extended Plan would further contribute towards the environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development that is already provided for by the current Plan. The presence of these positive effects will be extended by up to three years, however; they are likely to be present under the County Development Plan in any case, was the Local Area Plan to expire.
- Taking into account all of the above, the Proposal to Extend would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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 proposal to extend the duration of the current Gorey Local Area Plan 2017-2023.

Signatory:



Senior Planner

Date:

16/5/22

