Comhairle Contae County Council

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Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)

Project Title:	**Dundrum Living Streets Main Street and Sandyford Road**

Description of the Proposed Development:

The proposed development comprises Phase 1 of the Dundrum Living Streets project, involving public realm and streetscape improvements along Main Street and Sandyford Road, Dundrum, Co. Dublin. The works include improvements to pedestrian facilities and accessibility, upgraded paving and public realm treatments, landscaping, street tree planting, rain gardens, street furniture and improvements to the public space around Holy Cross Church. Existing traffic and cycling arrangements will generally be retained, with localised adjustments to parking, loading and pedestrian crossing facilities.

Legislative Context:

This determination has considered the relevant legislative context as set out in the AA Screening report including, but not limited to:

- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds).
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).
- Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

AA Screening Report:

The Active Travel Section, Infrastructure and Climate Change Department of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) commissioned ID Environmental Consultants Ltd. to produce an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) for Dundrum Living Streets Main Street and Sandyford Road proposed development.

The AASR has been examined and evaluated by Ger Ryan, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Department, and is satisfied that the AA Screening Report gives full consideration to the relevant Directives and legislation and agrees with the contents and conclusion set out in the AASR and the reasons therein.

The AASR has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operation phases because of the proposed development.

The AASR assessed all European Sites with potential source-pathway-receptor connectivity to the proposed development. Fifteen European sites were identified: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, South Dublin Bay SAC, Glenasmole Valley SAC, Wicklow Mountains SPA, North Bull Island SPA Knocksink Wood SAC, North-West Irish Sea cSPA, North Dublin Bay SAC, Ballyman Glen SAC, Dalkey Island SPA, Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, Howth Head SAC, Baldoyle Bay SPA, Baldoyle Bay SCA and Bray Head SAC. The closest of these are the 3.8 km North-East of the subject site, respectively. The AASR considers the site-specific conservation objectives. The AASR determines that there is no hydrological connectivity between the proposed works area and nearest SPA and SAC, or any other SPA/SPA within the wider potential zone of influence of the site.

The report states that no possible likely significant effects has been identified as a result of the proposed

development to any European site within or beyond 15km of the subject site.

The proposed development does not fall within the boundary of any SPA or SAC, therefore there is no potential for direct effects.

All works are confined to the existing urban and hardscape environment of Dundrum. This area is already subject to high levels of anthropogenic noise and activity, and any bird species potentially present in the wider area are likely to be habituated to such urban disturbance.

The proposed Phase 1 works at Main Street and Sandyford Road, Dundrum, will connect to the existing surface water drainage network. No direct discharge to the River Slang or any SPA or SAC is proposed.

Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed Phase 1 works, the other plans and projects reviewed, and the potential pathways to European sites, no likely significant effects are predicted in combination with other plans and projects reviewed.

The AASR concludes that *"In our professional opinion and in view of the best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European sites reviewed in the screening exercise, the proposed development individually/in combination with other plans and projects (either directly or indirectly) are not likely to have any significant effects on nearby designated sites.* ***Therefore, progression to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required. "***
It should be noted that the report does not rely on any mitigation measures.

The main reasons for this conclusion are as follows:
"No risks to the conservation objectives of any other European sites noted will occur due to one or a combination of the following:

- *Significant buffer distance between the works area to the European site*
- *Lack of connectivity between the works areas and the designated area*
- *Size, scale and location of the proposed development*
- *The nature of the site's conservation objectives*
- *No impact or change to the management of any designated area or;*
- *No change to the chemical or physiological condition of any designated site as a result of the proposed works."*

Determination:

Having regard to the foregoing, on the basis of objective information and in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, for the reasons set out above and in the AA Screening Report, it has been concluded that the proposed development (**Dundrum Living Streets Main Street and Sandyford Road**),individually or in combination with other plans or projects[1], without relying on any mitigation measures, will not have a significant effect on any European Sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives, and that there is no reasonable scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

[1][1] Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
a) No alternative solution available,
b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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Consequently, a Stage Two AA and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is not required.

Signature: _____ Senior Planner, Planning Department
Name *Position / Department*

Signatory (Approved Officer):

_____ Chief Executive, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Name *Position / Department*

Date: 23/11/26

The proposed scheme (**Dundrum Living Streets Main Street and Sandyford Road**) is being promoted by the Active Travel Section, Infrastructure and Climate Change Department. This Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination in respect of the proposed Dundrum Living Streets Main Street and Sandyford Road scheme has been made by Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council