

## Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination (For Proposed Local Authority Development)

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Blackrock DART to Park Active Travel Scheme</b>
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**Description of the Proposed Development:**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, is proposing to develop the pedestrian and cycle link between the Blackrock DART Station and Blackrock Park, Blackrock. Co. Dublin.

The proposed scheme extends for approximately 130m between Blackrock Dart Station (Bath Place) and Blackrock Park. The proposal involves the construction of a footpath and two-way cycle track to tie into the existing pedestrian and cycle facilities within Blackrock Park to the west of the scheme and Bath Place to the east of the Scheme. The project includes for a bridge over the Priory Stream to replace the existing narrow pedestrian/cyclist bridge. The proposal would replace the existing narrow laneway connecting Bath Place to Blackrock Park.

The scheme proposals consist of the following:

- Provision of 130m of a two-way cycle track varying in width from 3m to 3.65m
- Provision of a 2m wide footpath and associated 1m and 3m grass verges
- Provision of a new prefabricated bridge over the Priory Stream which is proposed to replace the existing narrow pedestrian bridge
- Provision of a sustainable urban drainage system will collect surface water run-off from the proposed development and will regulate discharge into the Priory Stream
- Provision of a public lighting system and landscaping
- Retention of the existing masonry wall along the northern boundary and its extension at both ends to close off access to the existing laneway
- Construction of a new boundary wall which will replicate the style of the existing boundary wall
- Accommodation works within private lands to facilitate the proposed development including but not limited to landscaping and the relocation of the existing folly

**Legislative Context:**

This determination has considered the relevant legislative context as set out at section 1 of the EIA Screening Report entitled 'Environmental impact Assessment Screening June 2024' including, but not limited to:

- Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (known as the EIA Directive) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.
- The Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended.
- The Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (S.I. 600/2001)
- European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018) (S.I. 296/2018)

**EIA Screening Report:**

The Capital Projects Office, Infrastructure and Climate Change Department of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) commissioned Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report (EIASR) to determine whether the proposed development may have potential to give rise to significant environmental effects and whether an EIA is required for the Proposed Development. The EIASR details the characteristics of the Proposed Development and its likely significant effects (if any) on the environment.

The EIASR has been considered and evaluated by Miguel Sarabia, Planning Department and is satisfied that the EIASR gives full consideration to the relevant legislative context; sets out the requirements for mandatory and sub-threshold EIA; and agrees with the contents and conclusion set out in the EIASR.

The proposed development does not fall within any of the classes of projects identified in Annex I of the EIA Directive and listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the 2001 Regulations which require a mandatory EIA.

Furthermore, the proposed development does not meet or exceed the thresholds set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the 2001 Regulations for any classes of projects identified in Annex II of the EIA Directive (as transposed in Part 2 of the Regulations).

Therefore, the proposed development does not trigger the need for a mandatory EIA.

The proposed Active Travel Scheme by DLRCC falls into Class 10(b)(iv) of Annex II to the EIA Directive, as transposed in Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the 2001 Regulations and does not exceed the relevant threshold of 2 hectares. Therefore, the proposed active travel improvements are considered "sub-threshold development".

EIASR concludes:

*"Based on all available information, and taking account of the scale, nature and location of the Proposed Development it is our opinion that the preparation of an EIAR is not a mandatory requirement (under Schedule 5, Part 1 and 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 - 2023)." The "sub-threshold EIA Screening Report has been prepared to determine whether there are likely significant environmental effects from the Proposed Development on the receiving environment with regard to Schedule 7 of the Regulations."*

The EIASR concludes stating that *"the proposed Blackrock Dart - Park Active Travel Scheme by itself or in combination with other projects is not likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore an EIAR is not required to be prepared."*

The reasons for this conclusion as set out in the EIASR include *inter alia* the following -

- In the absence of any mitigation measures, the proposed scheme, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will not result in likely significant effects on South Dublin Bay SAC or South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA or any other European site.
- Due to the limited nature of the works it is considered that there will be no significant cumulative impacts with other developments in the general area;
- Limited noise, vibration and dust emissions may be generated during construction; however, this is anticipated to be minimal in effect and will cause no significant impacts;
- There will be no significant impact on biodiversity, groundwater, surface water or traffic;
- There will be no significant impacts on recorded monuments or historic features.

**Determination:**

Having regard to the foregoing, the proposed Blackrock DART to Park Active Travel Scheme does not trigger a mandatory EIA under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended or the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Further, the Council (as

Competent Authority) determine, for the reasons set out above and in the EIA Screening Report, that the proposed development, is not likely to have significant effects on the environment due to the nature, scale or location of the proposed development relevant to areas of environmental sensitivity and the types and characteristics of potential impacts, cumulation of effects with those arising from other existing and/or proposed projects and measures to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.

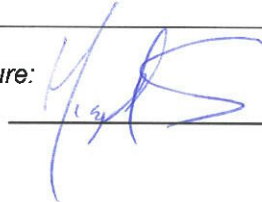
The Council determines that no significant impacts on the environment will arise from the construction or operation of the proposed Blackrock DART to Park Active Travel Scheme and that an EIA is therefore not required and an EIAR is not required to be prepared.

Therefore, it has been concluded, for the reasons set out above and in the EIA Screening Report, that the proposed development, by itself or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment and accordingly that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required. An EIAR is therefore not required.

No real likelihood of significant effects on the environment	✓	EIA is not required
Real likelihood of significant effects on the environment		EIA is required

The proposed Blackrock DART to Park Active Travel Scheme is being promoted by the Capital Projects Office, Infrastructure and Climate Change Department. This screening determination has been made by Aidan Blighe, Director of Services of the Planning and Economic Department to apply appropriate functional separation in the carrying out of a Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment which is an appropriate functional separation in accordance with Article 9a of the EIA Directive.

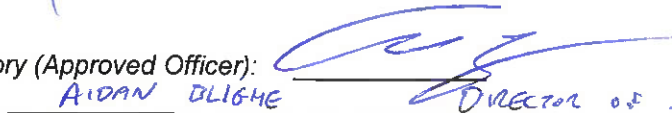
Signature:



MIGUEZ SARABIA  
Name

T/SENIOR PLANNER  
Position / Department

Signatory (Approved Officer):



AIDAN BLIGHE  
Name

DIRECTOR OF SERVICE PLANNING + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Position / Department

Delegation No. 2515

Date:

20/06/24

