

DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN **2016-2022**

*Natura Impact Report
November 2015*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT	1
1.2	STAGES OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT.....	2
1.3	GUIDANCE	3
1.4	REPORT LAYOUT.....	4
2	DESCRIPTION OF DRAFT DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN	
	2016 - 2022	5
2.1	RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT	5
2.1.1	Designated sites	5
2.1.2	Rivers.....	9
2.1.3	Water and Wastewater Services.....	11
2.1.4	Flood Risk	12
2.2	EXISTING THREATS AND PRESSURES	12
2.3	DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT DÚN LAOGHAIRE- RATHDOWN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN.....	13
2.3.1	County Development Plan Vision.....	13
3	STAGE 1- SCREENING	17
3.1	APPROACH TO AA	17
3.2	SCREENING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.....	18
3.3	CONSULTATION AND REVIEW.....	19
4	STAGE 2 - APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT	20
4.1	INTRODUCTION	20
4.2	CONFIRMATION OF SITES BROUGHT FORWARD FROM AA SCREENING OF DRAFT DÚN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN CDP	20
4.3	DESCRIPTION OF THE EUROPEAN SITES	21
4.3.1	Other Natural Heritage	23
4.4	CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES	24
5	ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS	26
5.1	INTRODUCTION	26
5.1.1	Reduction of Habitat Area.....	26
5.1.2	Fragmentation.....	27
5.1.3	Disturbance to Key Species	27

5.1.4	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value	27
5.2	OVERVIEW OF ELEMENTS IN THE PLAN THAT ARE LIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITES.....	28
5.3	ASSESSMENT OF DRAFT DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES AND MAPS	29
5.3.1	Specific Policies with Potential for Impact	29
5.3.2	Hydrogeological Features.....	31
5.3.3	Water Supply and Wastewater Facilities	32
5.3.4	Transport.....	33
5.3.5	Development at ‘The Gut’	35
5.3.6	Coastal Defences	35
5.3.7	Leisure Facilities	36
5.3.8	Renewable Energy.....	36
5.3.9	Natural Heritage Policies.....	37
5.4	CUMULATIVE AND IN-COMBINATION IMPACTS	42
5.5	MITIGATION MEASURES – TIMESCALE, EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPLEMENTATION	43
5.5.1	Pre-Draft Measures	43
5.5.2	Policy Wording for Plan Updates	48
5.5.3	Specific Mitigation.....	48
6	APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION	51

APPENDICES

Appendix A1 Assessment of Policies and Objectives with Potential for Adverse Effects - SPA

Appendix A2 Assessment of Policies and Objectives with Potential for Adverse Effects - SAC

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1:	European Sites within 15km of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan Boundary	7
Figure 2.2:	European Sites and Rivers within the Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council Administrative Boundary.....	8

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1:	Rivers Flowing Through Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Catchment Area (EPA and WFD Water Quality in Ireland 2010-2012 ²)	10
Table 4.1:	European Sites Brought forward to the Stage 2 Assessment.....	21

Table 4.2:	Description of European Sites Brought Forward for Consideration in Stage 2 Assessment.....	21
Table 4.3	Conservation Objectives for European Sites.....	25
Table 5.1:	Policy Areas with Potential for Significant Impacts.....	28
Table 5.2 -	Suggested Policy Wording for Inclusion into the draft County Development Plan	44
Table 5.3:	Specific Mitigation Recommendation for Inclusion in the Draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan	49

1 INTRODUCTION

This Natura Impact Report provides information in support of an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EC). This European legislation has been transposed in Ireland through the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 to 2015.

1.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as the “Habitats Directive”, provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC) as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA) as follows:

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

Article 6(4) states:

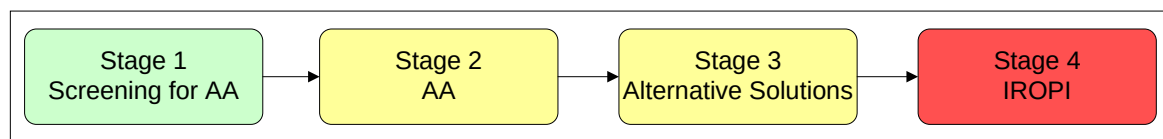
If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

These articles together with the national regulations mean that where the implementation of the Plan has potential to have an effect on a European Site, the relevant authority (in this case Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council) must ensure that an AA is carried out in view of that site's conservation objectives. The Plan can only be approved by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council if it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European Site(s) concerned, or in the case of a negative assessment and where there are no alternative solutions, the plan can only be approved for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI).

1.2 STAGES OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The AA process progresses through four stages. If at any stage in the process it is determined that there will be no significant effect on the integrity of a European Site in view of the sites conservation objectives, the process is effectively completed. The four stages are as follows:-

- Stage 1 – Screening of the proposed plan or project for AA;
- Stage 2 – An appropriate assessment of the proposed plan or project;
- Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions; and
- Stage 4 – Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)/ Derogation.



Source (NPWS, 2010)¹

Stages 1 and 2 relate to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive; and Stages 3 and 4 to Article 6(4).

Stage 1: Screening

The purpose of screening is to assess firstly if the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Site(s); and *in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if the plan individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the site*. If screening determines that there is potential for significant effects or there is uncertainty regarding the significance of effects then it will be recommended that the plan is brought forward to full AA. Screening has been undertaken by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council on various drafts of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan during the review process which commenced in March 2014. . The most recent proposed amendments to the draft Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan have been screened and potential for adverse effects on a European Site have been identified. Therefore the Plan has been brought forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

The aim of stage 2 of the AA process is to identify any adverse impacts that the plan or project might have on the integrity of relevant European Sites. As part of the assessment, a key consideration is 'in combination' effects with other plans or projects. Where adverse impacts are identified, mitigation measures can be proposed that would avoid, reduce or remedy any such negative impacts and the plan or project should then be amended accordingly, thereby avoiding the need to progress to Stage 3.

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

If it is not possible during the Stage 2 assessment to reduce impacts to acceptable, non-significant levels by avoidance and/or mitigation, Stage 3 of the process must be undertaken, which is to objectively assess whether alternative solutions exist by which the objectives of the plan or project

¹ Appropriate Assessment of Plan and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (NPWS, 2010)

can be achieved. Explicitly, this means alternative solutions that do not have negative impacts on the integrity of the European Site. The process must return to Stage 2 as alternatives will require assessment in order to proceed. Demonstrating that all reasonable alternatives have been considered and assessed, and that the least damaging option has been selected, it is necessary to progress to Stage 4. It should also be noted that EU guidance on this stage of the process states that, 'other assessment criteria, such as economic criteria, cannot be seen as overruling ecological criteria' (EC, 2002). In other words, if alternative solutions exist that do not have negative impacts on European Sites; they should be adopted regardless of economic considerations.

Stage 4: Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)/Derogation

This stage of the AA process is undertaken when it has been determined that negative impacts on the integrity of a European Site will result from a plan or project, but that no alternatives exist. At this stage of the AA process, it is the characteristics of the plan or project itself that will determine whether or not the competent authority can allow it to progress. This is the determination of 'overriding public interest'.

It is important to note that in the case of European Site that include in their qualifying features 'priority' habitats or species, as defined in Annex I and II of the Directive, the demonstration of 'overriding public interest' is not sufficient, and it must be demonstrated that the plan or project is necessary for 'human health or safety considerations'. Where plans or projects meet these criteria, they can be allowed, provided adequate compensatory measures are proposed. Stage 4 of the process defines and describes these compensation measures.

1.3 GUIDANCE

This document has been prepared with regard to the following guidance:-

National

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009, revised 2010);
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08;
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Circular Letter PD 2/07 & NPWS 1/07.

European

- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, referred to as MN2000, European Commission 2000;
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, referred to as the "EC Article 6 Guidance Document (EC2000);
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the Concepts of: Alternative Solutions, Imperative reasons of Overriding Public interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence, Opinion of the Commission (2007).

Other

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans. Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants (2006).

The protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European Sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, is also supported by interlinking EU Environmental Directives and applicable national legislation, policies, plans and guidelines, including the following (note: not an exhaustive list):-

- **EU Directives:** Birds Directive (2009/147/EC); Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)205; Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended); Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC); Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) and Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).
- **National Legislation:** Wildlife Act 1976; Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000; European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No349 of 1989 as amended); European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 as amended; Planning and Development Act 2000 and Regulations 2001 as amended; European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011); European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 and the Flora Protection Order 2015.
- **National Policy Guidelines:** Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines 2000; National Landscape Strategy 2015; Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003.
- **Catchment and Water Resource Management Plans:** RBMP 2010-2015 (under review); CFRAMS (in prep); Water Services Strategic Plan 2015.
- **Biodiversity Plans and Guidelines:** Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan.

1.4 REPORT LAYOUT

In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and with reference to the guidance documents mentioned above, this report has been broadly structured as follows:

1. Part 1 – Summary of Screening for Appropriate Assessment

- A Screening Report of the draft County Development Plan and proposed amendments has been prepared under separate cover. However, for context, a summary of the screening process undertaken on the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2021 between Q3 2014-Q3 2015 is presented for information.

2. Part 2 –Appropriate Assessment

- Description of the European sites considered further in the AA;
- Description of potential significant impacts on the conservation feature of these sites likely to occur from the Plan;
- Mitigation measures; and
- Conclusions.

2 DESCRIPTION OF DRAFT DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016 - 2022

2.1 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown covers an area of 125 km² to the south of Dublin City. The County consists of extensive suburban areas and some agricultural lands. Land uses mainly comprise residential, commercial and industrial, with agricultural uses mainly occurring in the southern half of the county. Along the east of the county there is approximately 17 kilometres of coastline, which includes beaches cliffs and marshes.

The County, stretching from the coastal strip along Dublin Bay to the uplands of the Dublin Mountains, contains a wide range of diverse habitats. These include coastal habitats, urban gardens, parks and other areas of managed amenity grassland, woodlands (natural, semi-natural and commercial), hedgerows, rivers and streams, areas of upland grassland and upland heath and bog. Agricultural and upland habitats are predominant in the southern/south-western area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, while urban environments dominate the northern and eastern areas of the County.

2.1.1 Designated sites

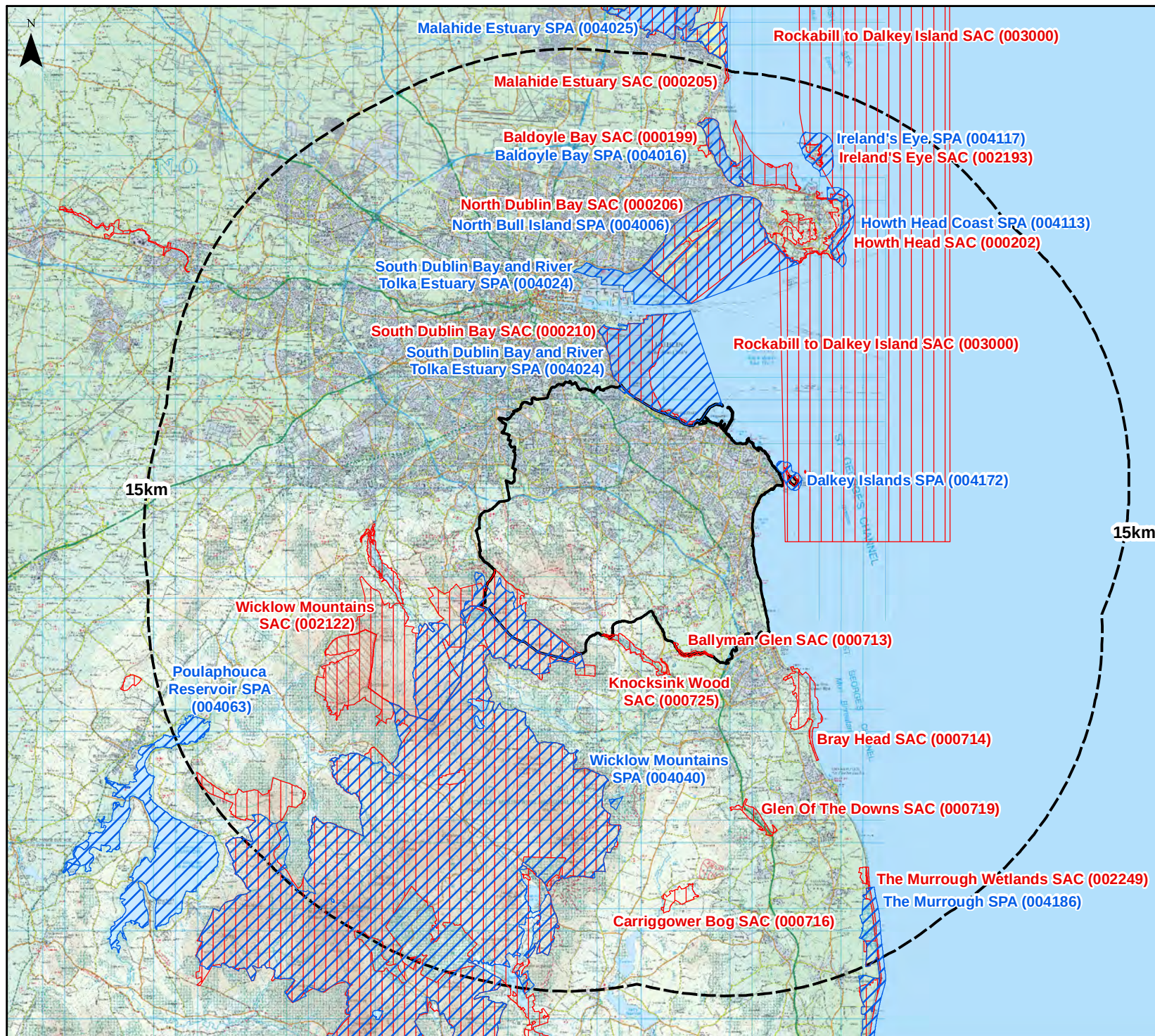
There are eight European Sites situated either within Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County boundary or less than 1km off the coast (**Figure 2.1**). These include:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ▪ Wicklow Mountains cSAC | ▪ Wicklow Mountains SPA |
| ▪ South Dublin Bay cSAC | ▪ South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA |
| ▪ Knocksink Wood cSAC | ▪ Dalkey Islands SPA |
| ▪ Ballyman Glen cSAC | ▪ Rockabill to Dalkey Island cSAC |

In addition there are a further 15 European Sites within 15km of the county boundary and one proposed candidate SAC, the Codling Fault Zone which is likely to be designated in 2016 (**Figure 2.1**). These are:-

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Glenasmole Valley cSAC | 2. Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA |
| 3. North Dublin Bay cSAC | 4. The Murroughs SPA |
| 5. Howth Head cSAC | 6. North Bull Island SPA |
| 7. Ireland's Eye cSAC | 8. Howth Head Coast SPA |
| 9. Baldoyle Bay cSAC | 10. Ireland's Eye SPA |
| 11. Malahide Estuary cSAC | 12. Baldoyle Bay SPA |
| 13. Bray Head cSAC | 14. Malahide Estuary SPA |
| 15. Glen of the Downs cSAC | 16. Codling Fault pcSAC |

There are also nine proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the Plan area. These sites are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and in a number of cases overlap with SAC and SPA designations. They can also act as supporting features for European Sites and may be relevant in the context of site integrity.



Legend

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Authority Boundary

Special Protection Area (SPA)

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Data Source: National Parks & Wildlife Service (www.npws.ie)

Client

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Project

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council CDP Natura Impact Report

Title

European Sites in 15km Zone of Influence

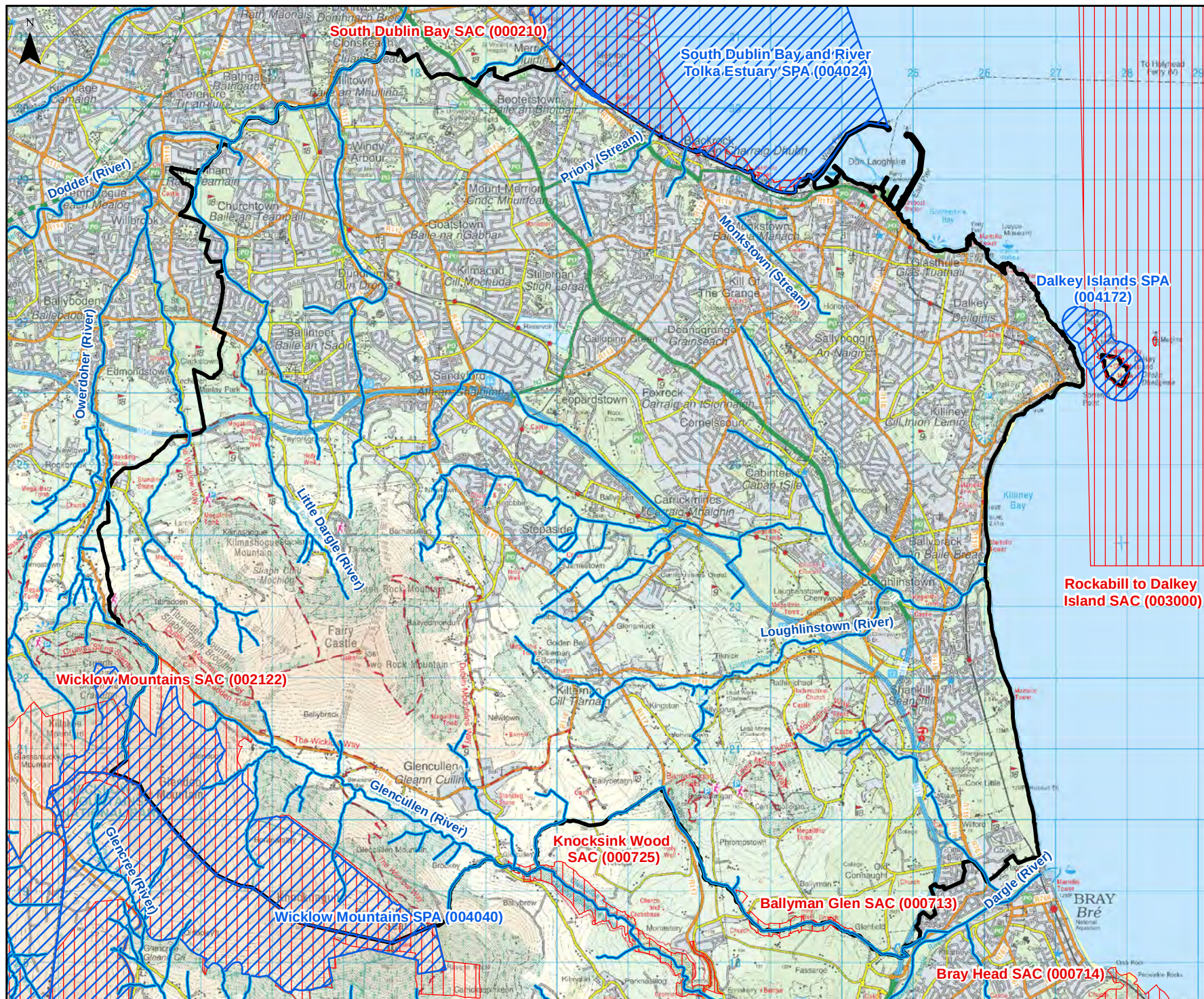
Figure 2.1

West Pier Business Campus,
Dún Laoghaire,
Co Dublin,
Ireland.

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Issue Details	
Drawn By: NON	Project No. MDE1172
Checked By: LC	File Ref: MDE1172arc0001F01
Approved By: LC	
Scale: 1:240,000 @ A4	Projection: ITM (IRENET95)
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Legend

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Authority Boundary
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- River / Stream

Data Source: National Parks & Wildlife Service (www.npws.ie)

Client
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Project
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council CDP Natura Impact Report

Title
European Sites & Rivers within the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown LA Boundary

Figure 2.2

West Pier Business Campus,
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Issue Details

Drawn By: NON	Project No. MDE1172
Checked By: LC	File Ref: MDE1172arc0002F02
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2.1.2 Rivers

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown is located within the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD). The main rivers within the administrative boundary are the Loughlinstown River, the Glencullen River, the Little Dargle River and the River Dodder (**Figure 2.2**). The Loughlinstown-Coastal catchment is the largest catchment in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown comprising the Loughlinstown River and a number of tributaries including the Shanganagh River, Carrickmines Stream and Bridesglen Stream. The Loughlinstown River discharges into Killiney Bay. The ecological characteristics of the Loughlinstown River tributaries are as follows:-

- The Shanganagh system is a regionally important salmonid system;
- The Carrickmines system supports a resident population of *Salmo trutta* (Brown Trout) and a migratory population of Sea Trout; and
- Bridesglen Stream (part of the Carrickmines Stream system) holds populations of *Salmo trutta* (Brown Trout) with *Lutra lutra* (Otter) and Kingfisher present along sections of the stream.

The Brewery Stream system has not been characterised under WFD, however it drains the northern part of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown and flows directly to the coast into South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA and South Dublin Bay cSAC. This area also includes habitat conservation objectives for mudflats and sandflats. There are three streams within the Brewery Stream system. These are the Booterstown Stream, Priory Stream and CarysfortMaretimo Stream:-

- Booterstown Stream - No baseline information is available for this short and narrow watercourse. The Booterstown Stream discharges into Booterstown Marsh, a brackish habitat due to freshwater stream inputs. The marsh is an important habitat for birds along the coastal area;
- Carysfort-Maretimo Stream - Originates in Three Rock Mountain, flowing across the heavily urbanised areas of Sandyford, Leopardstown and Stillorgan before finally discharging into the sea at Blackrock. The Environmental Report carried out as part of the *Carysfort Maretimo Stream Improvement Scheme* (June 2011) found that there was no evidence of fish or invertebrate species of conservation importance within the stream; all species found within the stream were identified as common. The river is not known for populations of salmon, trout or lamprey as significant culverting has made it unsuitable for many fish species; and
- The Priory Stream which rises in the Kilmacud area and makes its way to sea at the Old Blackrock Baths site, mostly in culvert. As a result the watercourse would not be suitable for populations of fish species.

The Glencullen River rises on Glendoo Mountain in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and flows to the south east through Glencullen before entering County Wicklow where it merges with the Dargle River, which flows into the sea at Bray in Wicklow:-

- A tributary section of the Dargle flows through the south eastern corner of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The Dargle is designated and protected as a Salmonid Water under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1998 (SI No. 293 of 1988).

The River Dodder rises to the south east of the County and flows along the north-east boundary. Several of its tributaries are exceptional in the area in supporting *Salmo salar* (Atlantic Salmon) and *Salmo trutta* (Brown Trout):-

- The Little Dargle River, a tributary of the River Dodder flows to the north through Ballinteer where it merges with another stream and continues north where it merges with the Dodder at Rathfarnham, in the north west of the County, before discharging into Dublin Bay.

The status of these rivers within Water Framework Directive categories is detailed in **Table 2.1**. The most recent publicly available data relates to the 2010-2012 period. The status of these water bodies may change under cycle 2 of the EPA WFD Characterisation programme.

Table 2.1: Rivers Flowing Through Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Catchment Area (EPA and WFD Water Quality in Ireland 2010-2012²)

WFD Rivers*	Rivers	Macroinvertebrate Status	Physico-Chemical Status	Ecological Status
Carrickmines Stream	Carrickmines Stream	Moderate	Unassigned	Moderate
	Loughlinstown River			
	Deansgrange			
	Brides Glen Stream			
	Glenamuck North			
	Barnaculla			
Shanganagh	Shanganagh	Good	Pass	Good
	Ballycorus Stream			
Glencullen	Glencullen	High	Pass	High
Dodder Lower	Dodder Lower	Moderate	Pass	Moderate
	Slang			
	Little Dargle			
Kill of the Grange Stream	Kill of the Grange Stream	Poor	Moderate	Poor
Brewery Stream	Brewery Stream	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned
	Elm Park Stream			
	Boosterstown Stream			
	Priory Stream			
	Monkstown Stream			
Dargle	Dargle	Good	Pass	Good

* For the purpose of reporting status under WFD some water bodies have been combined.

According to the *Water Quality in Ireland 2010-2012* report data, the Glencullen River is at high status, the Shanganagh and Dargle are at good status, whilst the remaining water bodies are still falling short of achieving the WFD's objectives (moderate to poor status).

There is no physico-chemical status available for Carrickmines Stream from the 2010-2012 report; however the preceding report indicated the status was good. The macroinvertebrate status of the Shanganagh River has improved from moderate in the 2007-2009 report to good; however the physico-chemical status has declined from good to pass and should be monitored. The Glencullen River recorded good status for all parameters from 2007-2009 but the more recent data shows improvement from good to high for macroinvertebrate and ecological status and the physico-chemical status has declined to pass. The data indicates a general improvement for rivers within the

county however actions will need to be taken in order to identify the pressures that are driving the status of those that are moderate to poor.

While it is recognised that coastal and riverine habitats within the County boundary are vulnerable to impact arising from developments, groundwater dependant European Sites located inland are also at risk:-

- Knocksink Wood cSAC - A wooded valley cut through calcareous glacial drift, with the fast flowing Glencullen River flowing west to east through it. Vegetation types include broadleaf deciduous woods, including wet woodland near the river, heath and a number of tufa – forming springs and seepage areas. Intersects the County boundary at Glencullen covering a 63m² area; and
- Ballyman Glen cSAC - A small glen cut through calcareous sands and gravels, with a tributary stream of the Dargle River flowing west to east through it. The site is notable for the presence of many petrifying springs, for alkaline fen and for wet woodland. It is vulnerable to nutrient run-off and over extraction of water locally. A section of this site intersects the County boundary south of Ballyman covering a 71m² area.

2.1.3 Water and Wastewater Services

As of January 2014, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council no longer has any direct control in relation to the provision of Water or Wastewater Services in the county. The delivery and integration of projects and facility improvements is now the responsibility of the newly established State body 'Irish Water'. Protection and enhancement of the built and natural environment throughout the County is ensured by providing a range of high quality and efficient water supply and wastewater facilities. The delivery and maintenance of this infrastructure is also paramount to the continued sustainable development and economic growth of the County, in line with national and regional designations and targets.

Since 2010, significant progress has been made in the delivery of water services infrastructure serving the county including: -

- The opening of the Shanganagh Wastewater Treatment Works;
- The opening of the Sandyford High Level Water Supply Scheme; and
- The completion of the Glencullen water supply and improvement scheme.

The Old Connaught/Woodbrook Water and Sewerage Schemes are considered critical to servicing the south of the County (and north Wicklow). There are still major water and wastewater infrastructural shortcomings in existence with these schemes. The Council intends to work with Irish Water to address the region's water and wastewater infrastructural shortcomings in the south of the County to facilitate development potential of Old Conna, Woodbrook, Shanganagh, Rathmichael and Fassaroe (County Wicklow) however it is noted that improvement in the existing network, to address identified shortcomings, is currently the priority for Irish Water more so than expansion to facilitate new development.

It is noted that two significant water/wastewater projects are underway in the adjoining counties. These are the Water Supply Project Dublin Region, which is addressing a new water supply for the Greater Dublin Region; and the Greater Dublin Drainage Project which is developing a new

wastewater treatment plant to service the Dublin Region. Both these projects have previously undergone SEA and AA and have now moved from plan to project level. They are both in the preliminary design stage and will be the subject of both an EIS and AA.

2.1.4 Flood Risk

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is vulnerable to adverse effects from changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events and associated flooding of the County's rivers combined with small changes in sea level. Much of the flooding in the County occurs during adverse weather conditions along with the presence of debris and land use changes increasing the risk of flooding. The most recent SFRA for the county compiled information to form Flood Zone maps. The information included risks from coastal inundation and wave overtopping, surface water and manhole surcharge, culvert blockage and direct fluvial flooding. Previously recorded flood events were also taken into consideration. The Flood Zone maps are used to guide development policy within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The report detailed a summary of flood sources for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown which includes fluvial flooding, tidal flooding, residual risk arising from flood defence overtopping or breach, pluvial flooding, flooding from drainage systems, groundwater flooding and climate change.

There are a number of Zone A and B locations identified along the Carysford/Maretimo Stream to where it enters the sea at Blackrock, Loughlinstown River (including Deansgrange Stream and Brides Glen Stream), Crinken Stream, Dodder and Little Dargle. Areas zoned for future development at risk of flooding include: open space/parkland in Stepside (Carysford/Maretimo), Clay Farm site Stepside, Pale Ditch Carrickmines, M50 and Carrickmines Luas Station and open space of SDZ (Deansgrange/Loughlinstown), Old Conna Avenue, Pond area at Old Conna (Crinken Stream) and Dundrum Shopping Centre (Dundrum Slang).

The locations of the most significant recent flooding events in the County are accessible from the OPW's National Flood Hazard Mapping website. Clusters of flood events occur at the mouth of the Shanganagh River at Ballybrack. Flood events at the south east of the County occur along a tributary of the River Dargle. Many flood events are recorded at other various locations in the lower-lying parts of the County also.

2.2 EXISTING THREATS AND PRESSURES

The coastal area of Dún Laoghaire is a popular destination for leisure activities in the County. Leisure activities and developments along the coastline of Dún Laoghaire are likely to place increasing pressure on the ecology of coastal areas. Cycle routes, road developments and leisure facilities in close proximity to the coastline add to this pressure, with potential impacts to coastal/ marine European Sites including direct habitat loss, disturbance or fragmentation; reduction in water quality; destruction of wetlands; bird disturbance; and the risk of introducing invasive species.

Shanganagh Waste Water Treatment Plant is located on the Shanganagh River at the coast. This plant serves an agglomeration area of 105,000 however the plant itself has a PE of 186,000. Ringsend WWTP lies to the north of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown with the agglomeration area for the plant covering a significant portion of the county. The plant has a design capacity of 1,640,000 PE but is operating at 1,764,745 PE. There are also a large number of IPPC and waste facilities in the vicinity of Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Plant.

2.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT DÚN LAOGHAIRE- RATHDOWN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The purpose of the County Development Plan (CDP) is to set out Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's policies for the continuing sustainable development of the County for the period 2016-2022. The Plan is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which requires a number of iterations and periods of consultation prior to the finalisation and adoption of the plan for the period 2016-2022. The Act sets out the mandatory requirements which must be included in a CDP. These include the objectives and zoning of land, the provision of infrastructure, the conservation and protection of the environment, and the integration of planning and sustainable development with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population. It is also required that a Core Strategy is prepared, which, as far as is practicable, is consistent with the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines. The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022, which relates to the entire functional area of the Authority, will, when adopted, replace the current 2010-2016 County Development Plan.

The County Development Plan consists of:-

- The Written Statement – the main policy document.
- A volume of supporting appendices.
- County Zoning Maps including specific local map based objectives.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 introduces the requirement for an evidence-based “Core Strategy” to be incorporated as part of the County Development Plans. The primary focus of the Core Strategy is on residential development and in ensuring that there is an acceptable balance between the supply of zoned, serviced land for residential development and the projected demand for new housing, over the lifetime of the Plan. In this respect, two key datasets are examined:-

- Housing Land Availability Study (supply of zoned land).
- Regional Planning Guidelines for the GDA (population targets).

The County Development Plan sets the scale, location and nature of new development areas but it is other mechanisms such as Local Area Plans and Strategic Development Zones that provide the crucial detail for creating sustainable neighbourhoods. The draft County Development Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council includes the provision for a range of statutory Local Area Plans and one Strategic Development Zone highlighted in the plan.

2.3.1 County Development Plan Vision

The overall vision as presented in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan is for the County to achieve three goals by 2022:.

1. To deliver Ireland's best quality of residential life by 2022. Every resident in every community and village will share in this.

2. To co-ordinate and facilitate economic factors towards achieving full employment in sustainable, meaningful jobs by 2022.
3. To support and sustain economic and natural resources of regional significance to 2022 and beyond.

Further to the overall vision, the written statement contains vision statements, policies and objectives in relation to the following.

2.3.1.1 Strategic Overview

Vision: To continue to facilitate appropriate levels of sustainable development predicated on the delivery of high quality community, employment and recreational environments - allied to the promotion of sustainable transportation and travel patterns - but all the while protecting Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's unique landscape, natural heritage and physical fabric, to ensure the needs of those living and working in the County can thrive in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

2.3.1.2 Sustainable Communities Strategy

Vision: To develop sustainable and successful communities across the County both through the continuing consolidation and redevelopment of the established built up areas, and the promotion of new, compact mixed-use urban villages optimally located in greenfield areas well served by existing or planned public transport networks and where residents will be within walking distance of supporting social and community infrastructure – including shops, services, employment opportunities, schools and leisure facilities.

2.3.1.3 Enterprise and Employment Strategy

Vision: To encourage, support and facilitate further sustainable employment creation, economic growth and business development across a range of sectors - including retailing - by strengthening existing employment areas and revitalising town and district centres, by focusing on appropriate business support mechanisms and by capitalising upon the many inherent advantages available to the County – as evidenced by its economic profile – to improve the overall attractiveness of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as a vibrant place in which to set up and do business.

2.3.1.4 Green County Strategy

Vision: To promote and develop a coherent and integrated green infrastructure network across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown which will secure and enhance biodiversity - including the protection of Natura 2000 sites - provide readily accessible parks, open spaces and recreational facilities, maintain historic and landscape character areas and provide for the sustainable management of water through facilitating the retention and development of a network of green spaces in urban and countryside locations to serve the needs of all citizens and communities in the County.

2.3.1.5 Physical Infrastructure Strategy

Vision: To continue protecting both the environment and the citizens of Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown through the provision of high quality, resilient environmental infrastructure and by aspiring to a carbon–neutral County through the promotion of resource preservation and energy efficiency and through the application of considered climate change mitigation policies for the duration of this Development Plan and beyond. At a more strategic level, and where considered necessary and appropriate, the Council will promote and champion the development of evidence - based climate change adaptation systems targeted at moderating the negative effects of climate change.

2.3.1.6 Built Heritage Strategy

Vision: To ensure that the protection and conservation of the outstanding architectural and archaeological built heritage of Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown forms an integral and component part in the continuing sustainable development of the County and that this valuable, and in many instances non-renewable, resource continues to be safeguarded through proper management, sensitive enhancement and appropriate development and re-development.

2.3.1.7 Community Strategy

Vision: To promote social inclusion and enhanced ‘quality of life’ through integrating the continued sustainable growth and planning of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown with its social and community development by ensuring the retention, provision and maintenance of well considered and appropriate levels of social, community and cultural infrastructure readily accessible to all citizens of, and visitors to, the County.

2.3.1.8 Principles of Development

Vision: To ensure that all new development and redevelopment proposals in the County adhere to the principles of good urban design and contribute to the delivery of a ‘sense of space’, through the promotion of a high quality built environment utilising considered design and development standards. The orderly and sustainable delivery of new developments, of many diverse types and scales, will be realised through the application of the various standards and objectives embedded in the Development Plan via the Development Management process and adherence to the overarching Land Use Zoning imperatives.

2.3.1.9 Specific Local Objectives

Vision: To initiate and/or give effect to the package of Specific Local Objectives within the lifetime of the 2016-2022 County Development Plan.

2.3.1.10 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

Chapter 10 of the County Development Plan contains a vision statement in relation to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment as follows: *To ensure that the implementation of the various policies, objectives, projects and actions embedded in the County Development Plan will have no likely significant effect on the environment nor will they adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.*

2.3.1.11 Maps

The written statement of the County Development Plan is accompanied by land use zoning maps. Zoning seeks to promote the development of uses that achieve the objectives for the area concerned and to prevent the development of incompatible uses. The maps also include specific local objectives (SLOs) which detail the works the council intends to initiate generally within the six-year cycle of the plan. These objectives can include project specific objectives.

2.3.1.12 Appendices

Supporting the written statement are 15 appendices as follows:

- National, Regional and Local Context;
- Housing Strategy;
- Ecological Network;
- RPS/RMP/ACAs / CACAs;
- Industrial Heritage Strategy;
- Wind Energy Strategy;
- Landscape Character Areas;
- ROW /RAR;
- Building Height Strategy;
- Development Management Thresholds Information;
- Rural Design Guide;
- Dún Laoghaire Urban Framework Plan;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- Green Infrastructure Strategy; and
- Sandyford Urban Framework Plan.

3 STAGE 1- SCREENING

The purpose of the Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening of the Draft County Development Plan was to identify the European Sites with the potential to be impacted by the Plan and to determine if there was sufficient information as to decide if a significant effect was likely. By the nature of forward planning, the policies and objectives making up the County Development Plan are an evolving suite which are subject to change as a result of feedback from the SEA and AA processes, public consultation and councillor amendments over an extended period of time.

Each strategic policy and objective in the Draft Plan was reviewed with respect to each identified European Site and a determination was made as to whether there was potential for any aspect of the objective, either alone or in combination with other related objectives, to impact on the integrity of the European Site.

A buffer of 15km was considered as the appropriate zone of influence (Zoi) extending beyond the reach of the footprint of the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan boundary, as per guidance (DEHLG 2010). The actual extent of the Zoi depends on the pathway for potential impacts, as well as the specific nature of different habitats/species for which a European Site is protected; and for this reason must be scientifically defined based upon further information. In certain situations, it would be scientifically appropriate, based on the published information, to extend the distance of the Zoi further afield. In regard of the objectives and potential impacts arising from the implementation of the draft CDP, the 15 kilometre distance was considered to be acceptable to screen all likely significant effects that might arise as a result of the implementation of the plan.

Screening for the Draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 and proposed amendments was undertaken between March 2014 and October 2015. This section provides a summary of the process, key issues for European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Plan and the conclusions relating to the requirement for Stage 2 Assessment.

The County Development Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Sites in the zone of influence of the Plan. However, it does include, *inter alia*, measures to protect, conserve and manage the County's natural heritage in a prudent and sustainable manner, including European Sites, and to seek its enhancement where appropriate and feasible.

3.1 APPROACH TO AA

As a proactive measure, prior to compilation of the first draft County Development Plan, the AA team provided protection policies for inclusion in the draft plan to ensure that protection policies for the Natura 2000 network within and in the vicinity of the County boundary were interwoven into the fabric of the plan (see **Table 5.2**). In addition, other policies including those relating to water supply, waste water, surface water drainage and groundwater were provided to ensure the protection of supporting features, including water quality. As a result, the first draft CDP contained numerous policies and objectives focussed on the protection of the Natura 2000 Network, with the express purpose of contributing to the conservation of European Sites in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

Following this initial proactive step, the Plan team developed draft policies and objectives. The AA team reviewed all draft policies and objectives for potential to impact on European Sites in the administrative area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and within a further buffer of 15km outside the County boundary. In many cases, the objectives and policies were general measures which had no specific potential for impacts, however a small number presented potential for impact and these were further considered in this Screening Report. During the screening process, consideration was given to direct, indirect, secondary and in combination impacts over the short, medium and long term. As noted earlier, there are eight European Sites situated either within the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County boundary or less than 1km off the coast. These include:-

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ▪ Wicklow Mountains cSAC | ▪ Wicklow Mountains SPA |
| ▪ South Dublin Bay cSAC | ▪ South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA |
| ▪ Knocksink Wood cSAC | ▪ Dalkey Islands SPA |
| ▪ Ballyman Glen cSAC | ▪ Rockabill to Dalkey Island cSAC |

Land-use measures proposed in the draft Plan were considered to have the greatest potential to directly impact these sites. Direct impacts included habitat loss and fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development and changes in land use or management, resulting in changes to habitats. Indirect impacts included the effects of disturbance or displacement of species; habitat degradation; and reduced water quality. The introduction of invasive species can also be defined as an indirect impact, which results in increased movement of vectors (humans, fauna, surface water), and consequently the transfer of alien species from one area to another. Impact pathways included:-

- Physical proximity,
- Hydrological linkages,
- Mobile species linkages, and
- Aerial deposition.

Where negative impacts were identified, and following the best practice approach in relation to mitigation, the AA team provided mitigation in the form of new policies and modification to existing policies to ensure no adverse effects on European Sites within the zone of Influence. This approach yielded positive results following the first round screening of all measures, ensuring that the AA process could conclude at Stage 1.

3.2 SCREENING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Following a period of public consultation and the preparation of a Chief Executives Report relating to the submissions received, the elected members considered the Draft Plan and the Chief Executives Report at a series of special Council meetings held in October 2015. In accordance with Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act the elected members have by way of a resolution proposed a number of material amendments. One of these material amendments resulted in the inclusion of a map based feature which is in direct conflict with the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA in the vicinity of Booterstown. In light of this, and based on the precautionary principle it could not be conclusively determined that the European Site would not be adversely affected by the implementation of the draft Plan and therefore a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

3.3 CONSULTATION AND REVIEW

As part of the AA (and related SEA) process, consultation took place with a range of bodies including: EPA; Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG); Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DECLG) and Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR). Responses received during the SEA Scoping and subsequently consultation on the draft development plan, have informed the content and scope of the NIR.

4 STAGE 2 - APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been produced to support the Appropriate Assessment of the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2021 under Article 6(3) of the European Union Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive); the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended); and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to 2015.

The main objective of the Stage 2 Assessment is to determine whether the Plan would result in significant adverse impacts upon the integrity of those European Sites with respect to the site's structure and function; range and its conservation objectives.

Following on from screening, this section sets out the elements of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan that were considered to have potential to give rise to significant effects on European Sites. The potential impacts were assessed in the absence of any mitigation measures, and taking account of the precautionary principle wherein the potential for effects cannot be ruled out, rather than the certainty of the effects occurring was applied.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. In the first instance, the Plan should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European Sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making, and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts.

4.2 CONFIRMATION OF SITES BROUGHT FORWARD FROM AA SCREENING OF DRAFT DÚN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN CDP

As noted in Section 3, previous drafts of the CDP were assessed as part of AA Screening and it was determined that with the necessary protective policies in place that Stage 2 AA would not be required. However, following the most recent consultation on the draft CDP, one particular modification has been proposed which causes concern. While it would be reasonable to focus in on this modification and the related European Sites only in the Stage 2 Assessment, consideration was given to feedback from the DECLG and DAHG which indicated their preference for a more general Stage 2 Assessment and for that reason, the key potential impacts identified and addressed in Stage 1 Screening are re-examined here for clarity.

The Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment identified a total of 23 European Sites within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County and within 15km of the county boundary (Section 2.1 and Figure 2.1). In addition, it is noted that the Codling Fault Zone pcSAC was advertised by the DAHG on May 15th 2015. It remains to be formally designated which will include the drafting of its own Statutory Instrument. As the site may be designated within the lifetime of the plan, it is included in this assessment. It is noted that there are no conservation objectives currently prepared for this site; therefore objectives for similar designated sites have been considered.

Fifteen of the 23 sites identified at the outset of the Screening Stage (comprising 8 cSACs and 7 SPAs) were not brought forward to stage 2 AA owing to one of more of the following reasons:

- By virtue of their distance from the influence of the proposed plan;
- The lack of habitat or hydrological connectivity between the designated site and the elements making up the proposed plan; and / or
- The nature of their qualifying interests and/or their occurrence within the study area.

The Screening stage considered the potential for adverse impacts on each of the remaining eight European Sites using a source-pathway-receptor approach. Where potential for effect was identified or where it was unclear if a pathway existed, the European Site was given further consideration. After reviewing the policies and objectives within the draft CDP, eight sites were considered to have potential for impact (**Table 4.1**).

Table 4.1: European Sites Brought forward to the Stage 2 Assessment

Site Name	Site Code
South Dublin Bay cSAC	000210
Ballyman Glen cSAC	000713
Knocksink Wood cSAC	000725
Wicklow Mountains cSAC	002122
Rockabill to Dalkey cSAC	003000
Dalkey Islands SPA	004172
South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024
Wicklow Mountains SPA	004040

4.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EUROPEAN SITES

In providing a summary description of the sites, the information has been summarised from NPWS sources. **Tables 4.2** provides a description of the characteristics of the European Sites identified as potentially being impacted by the implementation of the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan.

Table 4.2: Description of European Sites Brought Forward for Consideration in Stage 2 Assessment

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
South Dublin Bay cSAC	002010	Extending from the South Wall to the west pier at Dún Laoghaire, this intertidal site is characterised by with extensive areas of sand and mudflats. Its landward perimeters are largely bounded by coastal constructions – seawalls, etc. However, a number of small sandy beaches occur at Poolbeg, Irishtown and Merrion/Boooterstown. There is evidence of incipient dune formation in areas, notably the seaward side of Boooterstown marsh, which is of recent origin. The site is designated for a single Qualifying Interest, namely: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]. South Dublin Bay is also part of a more extensive SPA (South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024) supporting a number of internationally important birds.

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
Ballyman Glen cSAC	000713	The site is located approximately 3km north of Enniskerry where it straddles the county boundary. The Glen is characterised by pastoral ground sloping up from a small stream that winds its way along the Glen floor. The site has been designated SAC due to the presence of petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], a priority Annex I habitat and Alkaline fens [7230]. The fen vegetation at this site is well developed, with an unusually large number of sedge species present. The presence of alkaline fen and of petrifying spring/seepage areas is also particularly notable, as these habitats are listed, the latter with priority status, on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Fens are rare in Wicklow and Dublin, and this is one of only two sites in Wicklow for the Narrow-leaved Marsh orchid.
Knocksink Wood cSAC	000725	Located in a steeply-sided valley, just north-west of Enniskerry in Co. Wicklow, the fast flowing Glencullen River winds its way over granite boulders along the valley floor. Much of the terrain is covered with calcareous drift and supports extensive areas of woodland as well as other ecological features. The SAC has been designated specifically due to the presence of two priority Annex I habitats, namely: Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] and Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]. The site has national importance as having one of the most diverse woodland invertebrate faunas in the country, some of which are considered to be under threat at an international level. A large proportion of the site has also been designated as a Statutory Nature Reserve.
Wicklow Mountains cSAC	002122	This site comprises a complex of upland areas in Counties Wicklow and Dublin, flanked by the Blessington reservoir to the west and Vartry reservoir in the east, Cruagh Mountain in the north and Lybagh Mountain in the south. Most of the site occurs at elevations over 300 m, the highest point being Lugnuquilla at 925m. Within its boundaries there is considerable topographical and geomorphological diversity as well as ecological richness. There is for much of its extent overlap with the Wicklow Mountains SPA. The qualifying features for the site include eleven Annex I Habitats, namely; Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130]; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]; European dry heaths [4030]; Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]; Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]; Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] as well as 2 priority Habitats: Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] and Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] along with a single Annex II species: <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355].
Rockabill to Dalkey Island cSAC	003000	This is a long linear site within the Irish Sea, approximately 7km wide and 40km long runs from Rockabill southwards towards Frazer Bank. It encompasses inshore and coastal waters and includes the seabed, reefs, sandbanks and a small number of islands (Dalkey, Muglins and Rockabill Islands). Its Qualifying Interests are: Reefs [1170] and Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]. The NPWS note that Reefs are an uncommon feature along the Eastern seaboard. Conversely, the SAC is a key habitat for the Porpoise within the Irish Sea. As part of the wider

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
		Dublin Bay complex, the area is an important national and international resource for birds. In relation to terrestrial element of the SAC, Dalkey Island supports large number of terns (Arctic, Common and Roseate while other seabirds commonly seen include Kittiwake, Razorbill, Guillemot, Puffin, Fulmar, Shag, Cormorant, Manx Shearwater, Gannet and Gulls.
Dalkey Islands SPA	004172	The SPA comprises a string of three small islands, namely Dalkey Island, Lamb Island and Maiden Rock, as well as the intervening rocks and reefs, and the surrounding sea to a distance of 200 m. As the largest island, Dalkey Island lies approximately 400 m off Sorrento Point on the mainland from which it is separated by a deep channel. This site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest due to the presence of the Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] and Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194].
South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It far exceeds the boundaries of the preceding SAC. It includes the intertidal area between the River Liffey and Dún Laoghaire, and the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey, as well as Booterstown Marsh. A portion of the shallow marine waters of the bay is also included. The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, being an integral part of the wider Dublin Bay complex. The Special Conservation Interests for the site include 13 Annex I Bird Species and 1 Habitat, namely; Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]; Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]; Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]; Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]; Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]; Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]; Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]; Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]; Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]; Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]; Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]; Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]; Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] & Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].
Wicklow Mountains SPA	004040	This is an extensive upland site, which largely overlaps with Wicklow Mountains cSAC. The SPA comprises a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains within County Wicklow but extends into Co. Dublin. Given its extent, it is considered a site of high ornithological importance owing in part to the range of habitats and the bird species that have been recorded there, in particular Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] and Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], both of which are the qualifying species for the SPA.

4.3.1 Other Natural Heritage

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, stretching from the coastal strip along Dublin Bay to the uplands of the Dublin Mountains, contains a wide range of diverse habitats. These include coastal habitats, urban gardens, parks and other areas of managed amenity grassland, woodlands (natural, semi-natural and commercial), hedgerows, rivers and streams, areas of upland grassland and upland heath and bog. Agricultural and upland habitats are predominant in the southern/south-western area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, while urban environments dominate the northern and eastern areas of the County. While the AA process is specifically addressing European Sites (SAC and SPA), some recognition of other natural heritage areas is also required as they are often supporting features to the objectives of restore or maintain favourable conservation status in the European sites.

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. In many cases the NHA boundary overlaps with the SAC or SPA boundary or extends beyond it forming a buffer to the European Site boundary. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Proposed NHAs in the Plan area include:-

- Booterstown Marsh;
- Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill;
- Fitzsimons Wood;
- Loughlinstown Woods;
- Dingle Glen;
- Ballybetagh Bog; and
South Dublin Bay SAC.

Ballyman Glen SAC and Knocksink Wood SAC are also designated as pNHAs.

4.4 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive requires the focus, at this stage of the assessment to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives/Special Conservation Interests of the qualifying features of the SACs and SPAs.

Conservation Objectives, where available, were downloaded from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) on November 10th, 2015. The Conservation Objectives and their date of issue for the relevant sites are shown in **Table 4.3**.

Site-specific conservation objectives aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying interests, i.e. Annex I habitat and Annex II species, as applicable. The conservation objectives are presented as a list of attributes against which targets have been set. All of the attributes in relation to each relevant feature have been considered in relation to the potential impacts associated with the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan.

The maintenance of favourable condition of these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at national level.

- **Favourable conservation status** of a **habitat** can be described as being achieved when: “its natural range, and the area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable”.
- **Favourable conservation status** of a **species** can be described as being achieved when: “population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long term basis”.

Where conservation objectives have not yet been set, a set of generic conservation objectives has been produced by NPWS.

Generic Conservation Objectives for SACs are as follows:-

- To maintain Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation condition.

Generic Conservation Objectives for SPAs are as follows:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA.

Table 4.3: Conservation Objectives for European Sites

European Site*	Site Code	Conservation Objectives	Version Number & Date of Issue
South Dublin Bay cSAC	000210	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitat for which the SAC has been selected.	Site specific version 1.0 22 nd August 2013
Ballyman Glen cSAC	000713	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Generic Version 4.0 13 th February 2015
Knocksink Wood cSAC	000725	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Generic Version 4.0 13 th February 2015
Wicklow Mountains cSAC	002122	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Generic Version 4.0 13 th February 2015
Rockabill to Dalkey cSAC	003000	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitat and Annex II Species for which the SAC has been selected.	Site specific version 1.0 7 th May 2013
Dalkey Islands SPA	004172	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Generic Version 4.0 13 th February 2015
South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of all SCI's (with the exception of Grey Plover) for which the SPA has been selected. The grey plover is proposed for removal from the list of Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. As a result, a site-specific conservation objective has not been set for this species.	Site specific version 1.0 9 th March 2015
Wicklow Mountains SPA	004040	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Generic Version 4.0 13 th February 2015

*Full Details of the Conservation Objectives/Special Conservation Interests are available on the NPWS website at www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites

5 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

As outlined in the EU document *“Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC”* and the national guidance document *“Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities”*, impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CDP can be categorised under a number of headings:-

- Loss/reduction of habitat areas – (e.g., owing to the development of new projects such as transport or recreational facilities).
- Disturbance to key species – (e.g., from increased recreational pressures leading to works associated with improving public access to protected sites).
- Habitat or species fragmentation – (e.g., from developments such as communications infrastructure or waste water improvement schemes).
- Reduction in Species density.
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value such as decrease in water quality and/or quantity – (e.g., through inadequate wastewater treatment; runoff of pollutants during the construction and operational phases of development; or agricultural run-off).

5.1.1 Reduction of Habitat Area

Direct habitat loss is caused where there is complete removal of a habitat type. Habitat loss can also occur through the reduction of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions. It can arise from the introduction of invasive species, toxic contamination or physical alteration. Indirectly, it can be caused by hydrological disturbance of groundwater dependant sites resulting in loss of habitat function and integrity. Candidate SACs within DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN County are vulnerable in this regard, given the presence of sites that are designated for habitats sensitive to changes in groundwater flow or surface water run-off (e.g., Ballyman Glen).

There is potential that any designated site within the functional area of the draft CDP and its zone of influence may be either directly or indirectly adversely affected in this manner through the implementation of the Plan and its strategic objectives. Development either in isolation or in combination with other similar developments can potentially lead to significant adverse impacts on the environment with long term consequences. Construction of and improvement of water and waste water infrastructure or roads, development of coastal amenities or the installation of communications infrastructure could lead to loss of habitats if inappropriately located within the boundaries of a designated site or if removing supporting landscape features which are required to secure the integrity of a European Site e.g. linear hedgerows and rivers. Installation of linear infrastructure such as roads and other transportation links or pipelines can have a negative impact over a wide distance where such infrastructure crosses designated sites.

Indirectly, habitat loss may also occur through draining of development lands adjacent to or hydrologically linked to designated sites that support water based habitats (and by inference the species that inhabit them) such as the transitional and coastal waters.

5.1.2 Fragmentation

Habitat and species fragmentation can occur through the breaking up, or loss of habitats resulting in interference with existing ecological units. Fragmentation can also result from impediments to the natural movement of species. This is relevant where important corridors for movement or migration are likely to be disrupted, for example, along a river corridor when construction introduces a barrier to the unimpeded movement of mobile species such as salmon or otter from one habitat or area to another.

The installation of linear infrastructure e.g. roads and other transportation links, including bridges, water and wastewater pipelines or electricity transmission lines can have a negative impact over a wider distance where such infrastructure crosses European Sites. Impacts can include habitat or species population fragmentation, for example, a newly installed road interrupting the flight paths of bats. Disturbance impacts to birds can also lead to fragmentation of bird populations. The qualifying interests of SPAs along the coastline of the CDP area are vulnerable to disturbance and potential fragmentation of populations as a result of developments that aim to improve recreational access.

5.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance to key species supported with a European Site is likely to increase as a result of increased recreational activities, improved access, or developments within or adjacent to designated areas. Sources of disturbance are varied and can include: noise, vibration, light, construction and operational activities arising from the inappropriate timing of works or proximity to settlements. The qualifying interests of SPAs along the coastline of the CDP are vulnerable to developments such as increased or new visitor pressure and development such as coastal defence works and cycleways.

5.1.4 Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value

The key indicators of conservation value for the majority of European Sites in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown relate to surface- and groundwater quality and quantity. Impacts on European Sites may occur where there are hydrological connections between the sites and development areas, even where a development is geographically separated from the European Site. The implementation of the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan may result in alterations to the hydrological regime or physical environment of the sites through abstraction, runoff or similar. Coastal European sites and other inland sites such as Knocksink Woods and Ballyman Glen are all vulnerable to changes in surface and groundwater quality.

5.2 OVERVIEW OF ELEMENTS IN THE PLAN THAT ARE LIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITES

Plan chapters containing policies that are considered to have potential for significant negative impacts on European Sites are shown in **Table 5.1** and an assessment of the relevant policies / objectives is presented in **Appendix A1 and A2**.

Table 5.1: Policy Areas with Potential for Significant Impacts.

Policy Area	Wicklow Mountains cSAC	Wicklow Mountains SPA	South Dublin Bay cSAC	South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA	Knocksink Wood cSAC	Ballyman Glen cSAC	Dalkey Islands SPA	Rockabill to Dalkey Island cSAC
Strategic Overview	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	-
Sustainable Communities Strategy	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x
Enterprise and Employment Strategy	x	-	x	x	-	-	x	x
Green County Strategy	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x
Physical Infrastructure Strategy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Built Heritage Strategy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Strategy	x	-	x	-	x	x	x	x
Principles of Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specific Local Objectives	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x indicates a potential significant impact, – indicates that no significant negative impact is anticipated.

5.3 ASSESSMENT OF DRAFT DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES AND MAPS

During the course of the development of the County Development Plan each of the policies were reviewed and mitigation in the form of text changes and additional policies were recommended to ensure the protection of the Natura 2000 network. This integrated approach to policy / objective development was seen as a positive approach to addressing potential adverse effects arising from the CDP through avoidance in the first instance. The approach resulted in termination of the AA process at Stage 1.

However, screening of proposed material amendments to the Draft Plan identified the potential for direct impacts on a European Site and as such a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was triggered. As part of this Stage 2 assessment, policies and objectives of the draft CDP have been reviewed again for completeness within the Stage 2 assessment process (including amendments) and this is recorded in **Appendix A1 and A2**.

It is noted that in many cases, the objectives and policies of the draft CDP are supporting policies which have no specific potential for impacts. In these cases, the integration of the extensive protection policies recommended at the outset of the process and presented in **Table 5.2** of this report, are considered an important positive effect of the AA process as they frame these supporting policies in the context of the importance of protecting the Natura 2000 network. In addition to these more general policies and objectives, there are a number of specific policies with potential for impact.

5.3.1 Specific Policies with Potential for Impact

5.3.1.1 Greenways and Cycleways

Policy OSR8 states that *'It is Council policy to develop a comprehensive network of County Greenways linking parks and public open spaces and to liaise with adjoining local authorities and other stakeholders to achieve and improve wider external linkages and corridors'*. A number of potential cycle routes have been identified in the draft County Development Plan in order to form a network of Greenway routes. There is potential for greenway routes to have a direct impact on European Sites through construction of pathways within or in proximity to a designated site, or indirectly by providing new or improved access to sites that are sometimes highly sensitive to disturbance and visitor pressures. Several coastal habitats (including priority Annex I habitats marked by an asterisk) have been identified as being sensitive to the development of paths and cycle ways, and the associated increase in visitor pressure, including the following²:

- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) (Code: 1330);
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) (Code: 1410);
- Embryonic shifting dunes (Code: 2110);
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes') (Code: 2120);
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') (Code: 2130)*;

² NPWS (2013): *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland*. Habitats Assessment Volume 2. Version 1. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin.

- Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (Salicion arenariae) (Code: 2170); and
- Humid dune slacks (Code: 2190).

Potential impacts of the development of Greenways include direct habitat loss; fragmentation of habitats; habitat disturbance, including increased visitor pressure and trampling; reduction in water quality; destruction of wetlands; bird disturbance; and the risk of introducing invasive species. The Council has committed to ensuring the protection of the Natura 2000 network by stating in Section 4.2.2.7 that *'the Greenway projects will comply fully with the requirements and objectives of the Habitats Directive'*.

The draft County Development Plan also includes specific local objective SL093, *'To promote the development of the S2S Promenade and Cycleway as a component part of the National East Coast Trail Cycle Route'*. The biodiversity and habitats of Dublin Bay are of national and international importance and large sections are designated as cSAC's, SPA's and pNHA's. The indicative S2S route traverses sections of these designated areas, and it is recognised that there are significant potential negative impacts associated with the indicative S2S route.

Potential impacts that may arise from the proposed S2S include direct impacts as a result of habitat loss and indirect impacts as a result of increased disturbance; both of which may arise from the construction of a walkway at Merrion Gates. Eelgrass beds lie to the north of Merrion Gates, and are recognised as a component of Annex I habitat 'Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, which is the principle qualifying Annex I habitat for the designation of South Dublin Bay cSAC. There is also potential for impacts to birds as a result of the proposed project, for example the potential loss of Eelgrass beds would reduce the source of nutrients for birds such as the Annex I species Light-bellied Brent Geese (*Branta bernicla hrota*), a qualifying feature of South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. In addition, increased visitor pressure may result in disturbance to birds such as the population of waders to the west of Seapoint, which would be particularly vulnerable to disturbance as this area is currently visited little. Other potential impacts of the S2S includes fragmentation of habitats; habitat disturbance; reduction in water quality; destruction of wetlands; and the risk of introducing invasive species.

The Council do recognise the potential negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network associated with the proposed S2S cycle route and therefore in consultation with the AA team they have identified and included the need for feasibility studies of this coastal route, including an assessment of route options. It is an objective of the Council to promote the development of the S2S promenade and cycleway subject to the following policy statement in Section 4.2.10 as follows.

Policy LHB11: Coastal Area Feasibility Study

"It is Council policy to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study on the recreational potential along the coastal area of the County which comprehensively addresses recreational impact – including visitor numbers, mapping and surveying of sensitive habitats and species and identification of significant threats on Natura 2000 sites – and which would allow an assessment of any future proposals, alone or in combination, to assess impact on the coastal and marine zone within and adjacent to the County boundary. The Council will explore the possibility of carrying out this study with adjoining and/or coastal Local Authorities and/or their agencies."

The Councils commitment to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment of the proposed S2S development will ensure the protection of the European Sites in the Dublin Bay area.

5.3.1.2 Watercourses

There are three non-designated streams within the County. These are the Booterstown Stream, Carysfort-Maretimo Stream and the Priory Stream, all of which discharge to the South Dublin Bay cSAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (**Figure 2.2**). As such, they provide a pathway for indirect impacts to the qualifying interests of the receiving cSAC and SPA downstream as a result of a reduction in water quality. To prevent downstream impacts, it is essential that the natural character and ecological value of these watercourses is maintained and protected.

The draft County Development Plan clearly sets out the Councils commitment to protecting the watercourses within the County and the designated sites within and adjacent to the County. There are a number of policies within Chapter 4 - Green County Strategy of the draft County Development Plan which focus on maintaining and protecting the natural character and ecological value of these watercourses. Most importantly, development proposals will be required to provide a buffer zone along watercourses (minimum of 10m each side of the waters' edge) to prevent loss of suspended soils, physical damage and release of pollutants. It is an objective of the Council to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and any relevant legislation. In this regard, the Council will facilitate compliance with the relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures, where relevant. These policies to protect the natural character and ecological value of these watercourses will ensure that the receiving South Dublin Bay cSAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA are also protected, and therefore, will not result in any indirect impacts on these European Sites.

In recognition of the importance of rivers and waterways to the character of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, the Council has committed to consult, as appropriate, with Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to any development that could potentially impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats and/or salmonid waters as per *Policy LHB22 - Rivers and Waterways* which states *'It is Council policy to maintain and protect the natural character and ecological value of the river and stream corridors in the County and where possible to enhance existing channels and to encourage diversity of habitat. It is also policy (subject to the sensitivity of the riverside habitat) to provide public access to riparian corridors to promote improved passive recreational activities'*

5.3.2 Hydrogeological Features

It is an objective of the Council to implement and develop Local Area Plans for Kiltiernan/Glenamuck, Woodbrook - Shanganagh, and Glencullen in accordance with the associated adopted policies and objectives. It is also policy to prepare a Local Area Plan for Old Conna once existing infrastructural constraints have been overcome. Associated developments included within these four LAPs could potentially pose impacts on both Knocksink Wood cSAC and Ballyman Glen cSAC. Any changes to the groundwater regime or surface water quality within the County boundary could have adverse effects on the petrifying spring habitat for which both Knocksink Wood cSAC and Ballyman Glen cSAC are designated, and also fen habitat, which is a qualifying interest of Ballyman Glen cSAC. Both petrifying springs and fen are groundwater fed and their presence in these sites supports a diverse range of flora that is indicative of these habitats. Any changes to the groundwater regime could cause these habitats to dry up, resulting in a loss of biodiversity.

Any developments with potential impacts to Knocksink Wood cSAC or Ballyman Glen cSAC will be bound by the following policies set out in the draft County Development Plan:-

- Policy E14 - Groundwater Protection & Appropriate Assessment which states that: 'It is Council policy to ensure the protection of the groundwater resources in and around the County and associated habitats and species in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010'; and
- Policy LHB22 - Rivers and Waterways which states 'It is Council policy to maintain and protect the natural character and ecological value of the river and stream corridors in the County and where possible to enhance existing channels and to encourage diversity of habitat. It is also policy (subject to the sensitivity of the riverside habitat) to provide public access to riparian corridors to promote improved passive recreational activities'.

It is noted that one of the most recent amendments includes the removal of a key policy and a Specific Local Objective associated with protection of the groundwater resource. In the previous draft of the County Development Plan Policy EI23: Rathmichael Ground and Surface Water Protection stated – *"It is Council policy to refuse planning permission for any new developments which include an on-site wastewater treatment facility within the Rathmichael area until the groundwater issues in the area are resolved or ameliorated"* . SLO 126 on maps 10 and 14 stated that *"It was an objective of the Council to refuse planning permission for any new development which includes on site waste-water treatment facilities within the catchment"*. The catchment was then identified on Maps 10 and 14. The policy and the accompanying SLO 126 was to be implemented through the Development Management process through the refusal of planning permission for any new developments - which include an on-site wastewater treatment facility – within the Rathmichael area. Proposals for change of use, alteration to, or extension of existing approved developments within these areas involving on-site wastewater treatment facilities were to be assessed in the context of there being no potential deterioration of ground or surface waters. The Rathmichael area is situated within the WFD Lower Dargle Waterbody (Code IE_EA_10_1275). Under the Water Framework Directive, the overall status of the Lower Dargle is classified as Moderate, and At Risk (1a) as a result of sources including unsewered properties, unsewered phosphorus and diffuse pollution. Ballyman Glen is located approximately 2km from the Rathmichael area, and is also within the Lower Dargle Waterbody area. It is considered that Policy EI23 is an important protection policy for groundwater in the highly sensitive area of Ballyman Glen, which is designated as an SAC for groundwater fed ecosystems. In recognition of this and the precautionary principle, the AA strongly recommends that this policy be reinstated if impacts on the integrity of the Ballyman Glen SAC are to be avoided.

5.3.3 Water Supply and Wastewater Facilities

With regard to water supply and wastewater facilities within the County, medium to large scale development may be required to upgrade sections of the existing network to ensure adequate security of supply as deemed necessary by Irish Water. It is an objective of the Council to facilitate Irish Water in ensuring that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance. Complying with the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation will ensure that sewage will be treated to an appropriate standard such that it will not impact on receiving waters, and therefore, will not result in any indirect impacts on the European Sites. The treatment of sewage and wastewater from areas within Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County is shared by both Ringsend wastewater treatment plant and Shanganagh wastewater treatment plant.

Policy EI2 - Wastewater Treatment & Appropriate Assessment states that 'It is Council policy to provide adequate wastewater treatment facilities to serve the existing and future population of the County, subject to complying with the Water Framework Directive and the associated River Basin Management Plan or any updated version of this document, 'Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2009' (EPA 2011) or any updated version of the document, Pollution Reduction Programmes for Designated Shellfish Areas, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive'.

5.3.4 Transport

5.3.4.1 The Eastern Bypass

The Draft County Development Plan includes Roads Policy ST24: *'It is Council policy, in conjunction and co-operation with other transport bodies and authorities such as the and the NTA, to secure improvements to the County road network – including improved pedestrian and cycle facilities'.* The list of long-term road objectives includes the Eastern Bypass, the reservation of which ends at the coastline adjacent to South Dublin Bay cSAC and within South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. Map sheets 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the CDP show the provisional alignment of the Dublin Eastern Bypass, which is as included in the National Roads Authority NRA (now a constituent part of TII) 'Corridor Protection Study 2011'.

The end of the reservation encompasses approximately 3.5ha of Booterstown Marsh, which is designated as part of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and this represents a direct impact to part of the SPA. Booterstown Marsh is an enclosed area of saltmarsh and muds that is cut off from the sea by the Dublin/Wexford railway line, and is linked to the sea by the Nutley Stream to the east. Sea water incursions into the marsh occur along this stream at high tide. Along with qualifying species of the SPA that make use of Booterstown Marsh, it also supports an important population of Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*), a rare, Red Data Book species that is listed on the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015.

The detailed design of the Eastern Bypass is not currently known although two options are proposed, one being a twin bored tunnel and the other involving cut and cover. Working on the assumption of "worst case scenario", the main potential impacts of the Eastern Bypass on European Sites are direct land-take of approximately 3.5ha of South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, the loss of saltmarsh and mud habitats used by the qualifying features of this SPA, noise disturbance to internationally important bird populations (i.e. the qualifying interests of the SPA) and a reduction in water quality to both South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and South Dublin Bay cSAC. There is also potential for cumulative impacts to the qualifying interests of the aforementioned European Sites with other coastal development and visitor pressure arising from leisure activities along the coastline.

Policy ST24: Roads and the mapping of the proposed Reservation Corridor (maps 1,2, 5 and 6) were brought forwards to a Stage 2 assessment as a precautionary measure as the detailed design of the proposed works for the Eastern Bypass are not known at this stage, therefore adverse impacts to European Sites, as outlined above, cannot be ruled out. However, it is noted that the Eastern Bypass

is included in the list of long term road objectives, and as stated in the Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy³:

“In the case of the Eastern Bypass, the proposal is not recommended for development during the Strategy period. However the retention of a route corridor is recommended, to facilitate the possible future use of the corridor for transport provision”.

The Eastern Bypass will not undergo construction within the lifetime of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022. However, should the Eastern Bypass project be progressed, a full assessment of the potential ecological impacts associated with the proposals will be required, to include the appropriate research and survey work necessary in order to inform a robust assessment of the potential impacts associated with the proposed works. Such survey work is likely to include, as a minimum, habitat survey, botanical survey, ornithological survey, mammal survey and aquatic ecology survey in the appropriate seasons and for the appropriate timeframe for the species or habitat in question, in accordance with best practice guidelines.

The Council is committed to the protection of the environment, and to this end have included several sections within the Plan that include protective wording relevant to the Eastern Bypass Corridor.

Section 8.2.7.1 states that: *‘Any development proposals for sites designated as, or immediately adjacent to, a pNHA, SPA, SAC or cSAC shall be accompanied by an EIS and/or Appropriate Assessment and shall be referred to the NPWS’*. Policy ST24 itself goes on to state that *‘Any road proposals will be subject to Appropriate Assessment’*; and as stated in Section 8.2.7.4 *‘In relation to coastal development regard shall be had to the EU Guidance document ‘The Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Estuaries and Coastal Zones’ (2011) when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity - defined by the structure and function - of any designated sites, coastal and marine fauna, flora and amenities*. Any environmental assessment and appropriate assessment in relation to the Eastern bypass will have regard to the potential impacts of the Eastern Bypass on the Natura 2000 network, and will include an assessment of cumulative and in-combination impacts.

Policy LHB11 states that:

“It is Council policy to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study on the recreational potential along the coastal area of the County which comprehensively addresses recreational impact – including visitor numbers, mapping and surveying of sensitive habitats and species and identification of significant threats on Natura 2000 sites – and which would allow an assessment of any future proposals, alone or in combination, to assess impact on the coastal and marine zone within and adjacent to the County boundary. The Council will explore the possibility of carrying out this study with adjoining and/or coastal Local Authorities and/or their agencies.”

³ National Transport Authority Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030: 2030 Vision.

The inclusion of an environmental assessment at the route selection stage, including an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Eastern Bypass and a feasibility study on the recreational potential along the coastal areas of the County (to include the identification of significant threats to European Sites) will ensure the protection of the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, including potential cumulative or in-combination impacts that may arise from other developments along the coastline of Dún Laoghaire.

The Eastern Bypass Corridor

It is also noted that SLO6 states:

“To promote potential additional future uses of the Dublin Eastern Bypass reservation corridor - including a greenway/cycleway, a pedestrian walkway, biodiversity projects, recreational opportunities inclusive of playing fields - and public transport provision such as Bus Rapid Transit services, pending a decision from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (incorporating the NRA and Railway Procurement Agency)/Central Government in relation to the future status of the Bypass. Any potential additional future short-term uses of the reservation corridor will be subject to a joint feasibility study to be undertaken by the TII and NTA.”

The potential impacts of future uses of the reservation corridor, including the area encompassing Booterstown Marsh, are as given above for the Eastern Bypass. The relevant protective policies regarding future uses of the reservation corridor are also as given above.

5.3.5 Development at ‘The Gut’

It is an objective of the Council to encourage the redevelopment of ‘The Gut’ adjacent to the West Pier to include improved access to the area (SLO 14, Map 3). The Gut is in close proximity to the South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA, and it is considered that there is potential for noise disturbance to the qualifying interests of this SPA. However, as stated in Section 8.2.7.4 *‘In relation to coastal development regard shall be had to the EU Guidance document ‘The Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Estuaries and Coastal Zones’ (2011) when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity - defined by the structure and function - of any designated sites, coastal and marine fauna, flora and amenities.* Any development proposals will undergo screening for Appropriate Assessment as per the overarching wording in the Introduction and the Landscape, Heritage and Biodiversity chapters of the draft County Development Plan. In addition, as noted previously, Policy LHB11 outlines the Councils policy to undertake a feasibility study on the recreational potential along the coastal areas of the County.

5.3.6 Coastal Defences

Section 5.2.5.3 of the Draft County Development Plan includes Policy CC16 Coastal Defence: *‘It is Council policy to implement and have regard to the recommendations of the Coastal Defence Strategy (2010) for the County where feasible. The Council will endeavour to obtain funding from the Office of Public works in order to undertake defence measures for specific areas as prioritised in the Strategy’.* Potential impacts associated with defence works along the coast at Dún Laoghaire include noise disturbance to the qualifying interests of coastal SPAs and a reduction in water quality to coastal cSACs and SPAs. However, Policy CC16 goes on to state that *‘The Council will also require that all coastal defence works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of*

the EU Habitats Directive are met'. In addition, as stated in Section 8.2.7.4 'In relation to coastal development regard shall be had to the EU Guidance document 'The Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Estuaries and Coastal Zones' (2011) when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity - defined by the structure and function - of any designated sites, coastal and marine fauna, flora and amenities.

5.3.7 Leisure Facilities

It is an objective of the Council to promote Water Leisure Facilities for public use at the coastal fringe of the Gut and rear of the West Pier. The potential impacts associated water leisure facilities may include noise disturbance to the qualifying interests of South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA. However, as the Council state within SLO95, the development of water leisure facilities: *'is subject to the appropriate environmental assessments including any assessment required under the Habitats Directive in co-operation with the relevant agencies'.*

With regards to both potential development at the Gut, and water leisure facilities at the coastal fringe of the Gut/ rear of West Pier, the Council has further emphasised its commitment to the protection of Natura 2000 sites by including the following wording in Section 8.2.10.5 of the draft County Development Plan: *(ii) Water Sports and Development*

The Planning Authority will normally only permit proposals for development associated with water sports where all the following criteria are satisfied:-

- *Will not result in damage to sites of nature conservation importance or features of archaeological and built heritage.*
- *Will not result in over intensification of use leading to pollution, excessive noise and nuisance.*
- *Development complies with the Habitats Directive.*

In addition, Policy LHB11 outlines the Councils policy to undertake a feasibility study on the recreational potential along the coastal areas of the County.

5.3.8 Renewable Energy

It is Council policy to support and promote wind energy initiatives, both on-shore and offshore, when these are undertaken in an environmentally acceptable manner. The 2010 - 2016 County Development Plan included an analysis of wind speeds and the sensitive landscapes of the County at a broad level, and their relationship to the existing electricity grid network was undertaken. It was concluded that there was no realistic or practical potential for economic on-shore wind farm development in the County without significant and overriding adverse visual and environmental impacts. This earlier analysis has been subsequently updated, and the same were reaffirmed. The Council remains supportive of offshore wind energy initiatives. Potential impacts associated with offshore windfarms include disturbance to marine habitats such as reefs; noise disturbance to marine life such as harbour porpoise; changes to seabed habitats and marine life and, in turn, indirect effects on the marine life that feeds on them. However, as the Council states in Section 5.2.4.2 *any additional wind and wave projects in the Irish Sea, will be subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.*

5.3.9 Natural Heritage Policies

5.3.9.1 Overarching Policy

The Council is committed to protecting and conserving the biodiversity of Dún Laoghaire, and have included a number of specific policies to ensure the protection and enhancement of European Sites. Policy LHB17: Protection of Natural Heritage and the Environment is an overall policy for the protection of the natural heritage:-

“It is Council policy to protect and conserve the environment including, in particular, the natural heritage of the County and to conserve and manage Nationally and Internationally important and EU designated sites - such as Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Ramsar sites - as well as non-designated areas of high nature conservation value which serve as ‘Stepping Stones’ for the purposes of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive”.

The policy goes on to state that the implementation of this policy will involve, *inter alia*:-

- *Retention of trees, hedgerows and woodlands wherever practical.*
- *Designation of High Amenity zones.*
- *Retention of Green Belt areas.*
- *Identification of Views and Prospects of special amenity value or special interest.*
- *Identification, and mapping, of public rights-of-way and other strategic access routes.*
- *Protection of sites of geological and geomorphological importance.*
- *Protection of a Special Protection Area (SPA).*
- *Protection of proposed Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (pcSAC).*
- *Protection of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA).*
- *Protection of existing access (including established rights-of-way) to such sites where feasible and the promotion of public access where it does not exist at present – but subject to ensuring and maintaining the highest environmental standards.*
- *Development of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Ecological Network.*
- *Identification and protection of non-designated sites of local and high nature conservation value - including those identified in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Ecological Network - and management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.*
- *Maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of “favourable conservation status” of habitats and species within cSACs as per the requirements and obligations of the Habitats Directive.*
- *Control and management of alien/invasive species (e.g. Japanese knotweed, Giant Hogweed etc.) and noxious weeds (e.g. Ragwort etc.) where possible.*
- *Working with local communities, groups, landowners, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and other relevant parties to identify, protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance and promote understanding of sites of local biodiversity value.*
- *Protection of the ecological integrity of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and Annex 1 Habitats.*
- *Promotion of the Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (IBIA) approach- a methodological framework for biodiversity impact assessment that integrates SEA requirements with AA.*

- *Working with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and other parties to identify, protect where appropriate and manage, enhance and promote sites of local biodiversity value.*
- *Recognition of the proposed UN Dublin Bay Biosphere designation.*
- *Implement any relevant recommendation contained in the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaelteacht's National Peatland Strategy, when finalised.*

There is an overarching policy in the introduction to the Draft County Development Plan which confirms that *'The Council will ensure that any plan/project and any associated works in the County, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied'*. This commitment is also made at the start of the Landscape, Heritage and Biodiversity chapter.

Individual policies LHB18: Habitats Directive and LHB20: Designated Sites confirm the Councils commitment to the protection of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with the EU Directives, national legislation and national plans and guidelines.

Policy LHB18: *It is Council policy to ensure the protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines.*

Policy LHB20: *It is Council policy to protect and preserve areas designated as proposed Natural Heritage Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas. It is Council policy to promote the maintenance and as appropriate, delivery of 'favourable' conservation status of habitats and species within these areas.*

5.3.9.2 Protective Policies for Individual European Sites

Specific local objectives 49, 51, 84, 85, 129, 133 confirm the Councils commitment to the conservation of individual European Sites within the draft County Development Plan area:-

- *SLO49: To protect and conserve the Wicklow Mountains National Park Candidate Special Area of Conservation.*
- *SLO51: To protect and conserve the Knocksink Wood Candidate Special Area of Conservation.*
- *SLO84: To protect and conserve South Dublin Bay Candidate Special Area of Conservation.*
- *SLO85: To protect and conserve Ballyman Glen Candidate Special Area of Conservation.*
- *SLO129: To implement the objectives of the Dalkey Island Conservation Plan 2013 - 2023.*
- *SLO133: To protect and conserve Rockabill to Dalkey Island Candidate Special Area of Conservation.*

5.3.9.3 Appropriate Assessment and Development

Section 8.2.2 (v) and 8.2.9.4 of the draft County Development Plan sets out the requirement for Appropriate Assessment screening of new developments:-

Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive there is a requirement to establish whether, in relation to plans and projects, appropriate assessment (AA) is required. If, following screening, it is considered that AA is required, then the proponent of the plan or project must prepare a Natura Impact Statement. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:

- *The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or*
- *The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest - including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or*

The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest - restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.

Section 8.2.7.1 includes the following wording:

Any development proposals for sites designated as, or immediately adjacent to, a pNHA, SPA or cSAC shall be accompanied by an EIS and/or Appropriate Assessment and shall be referred to the NPWS. Regard shall be had to 'Guidance for Local - Authorities Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland' (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) 2009).

5.3.9.4 Biodiversity

The second National Biodiversity Plan *Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016* sets out the strategy for conserving and enhancing Ireland's biodiversity through a series of actions. At a local level the plan highlights the key role that local authorities can play in promoting local natural heritage and requires each local authority to prepare a Biodiversity Plan in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has produced a County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2013. The primary features of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Plan are:-

- To translate International, European and Irish policies and obligations into effective local action on the ground.
- To provide a framework for the conservation of biodiversity of National and local importance.
- To collect biodiversity information on the County.
- To raise public awareness of biodiversity issues and to coordinate existing and new initiatives.
- To provide a basis for monitoring the success of biodiversity conservation at a National and local level.

Policy LHB19: Biodiversity Plan, confirms the Councils commitment to produce a second Biodiversity Plan, which will be set within the context of the second National Biodiversity Plan. Policy LHB18: *It is Council Policy to implement the provisions of the County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2013 and to produce a second Biodiversity Plan which will be set within the context of the second National Biodiversity Plan, 'Actions for Biodiversity, 2011 – 2016' prepared by the Department of the Arts, Heritage, Gaelteacht and the Islands. Due regard shall be had to the recommendations arising from the implementation of the current 2009 – 2013 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Plan or its successor plan.*

5.3.9.5 Article 10 of the Habitats Directive

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive refers to features of the landscape outside designated sites which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, as follows:=

'Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.

Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species'.

The requirements of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive are not specifically considered under the AA (except in so far as they support a qualifying feature) but it is noted that draft County Development Plan includes Policy LHB22: County Wide Ecological Network, *'It is Council policy to develop an Ecological Network throughout the County which will improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The network will also include non-designated sites'.* The inclusion of this policy will have indirect positive impacts on the Natura 2000 network as ecological connectivity within the County Development Plan area is maintained or improved, which will in turn improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. The draft County Development Plan also includes policies LHB21, LHB23, LHB24 and LHB26 which all contribute to the protection and enhancement of ecological corridors in Dún Laoghaire.

LHB21: Non Designated Areas of Biodiversity Importance

It is Council policy to protect and promote the conservation of biodiversity in areas of natural heritage importance outside Designated Areas and to ensure that notable sites, habitats and features of biodiversity importance - including species protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979, the Habitats Directive 1992, and rare species - are adequately protected. Ecological assessments will be carried out for all developments in areas that support, or have potential to support, features of biodiversity importance or rare and protected species and appropriate mitigation/avoidance measures will be implemented. In implementing this policy regard shall be had to the recommendations and objectives of the Green City Guidelines (2008) and 'Ecological Guidance Notes for Local Authorities and Developers' (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Version 2014).

LHB24: Hedgerows

It is Council policy to protect hedgerows in the County from development, which would impact adversely upon them. It is Council policy to promote the County's hedgerows by increasing coverage, where possible, using locally native species and to develop an appropriate code of practice for road hedgerow maintenance.

LHB26: Greenbelts

It is Council policy to retain the individual physical character of towns and development areas by the designation of green belt areas where appropriate.

These Natural Heritage policies ensure that not only are Natura 2000 Sites protected and enhanced, but that the ecological corridors connected to Natura 2000 Sites are also managed appropriately.

5.3.9.6 Invasive Species

Invasive non-native plant and animal species (Invasive Alien Species) can represent a major threat to national, regional and local biodiversity, including the integrity of European Sites. To this end an EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species has recently been introduced (Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 22 October 2014) on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. The Council is committed to assist in controlling invasive species, and to this end has included Policy LHB27: Invasive Species, within the draft County Development Plan:

It is Council policy to support as appropriate the National Parks and Wildlife Service efforts to seek to control and manage alien / invasive species (e.g. Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, etc.) and noxious weeds (e.g. ragwort, thistle, dock, etc.) within the County.

5.4 CUMULATIVE AND IN-COMBINATION IMPACTS

This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination or cumulative effects/impacts of the proposed Draft County Development Plan with other Plans and projects on the twenty three European Sites. Other Plans and projects specific to the relevant European Site include the following:-

- Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017;
- Greater Dublin Area Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;
- National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020;
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016;
- South Dublin Development Plan 2010-2016;
- Cherrywood SDZ Planning Scheme, April 2014;
- Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy, 2011 – 2030;
- Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future, A new Transport policy for Ireland, 2009 – 2020;
- Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, 2002-2031;
- Greater Dublin Water Supply Strategic Study, 1996-2016;
- Dublin Mountains Strategic Plan for Development of Outdoor Recreation 2007-2017;
- Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy. 2011 – 2030 Vision, NTA, June 2011;
- Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan (2011);
- Eastern RBD Management Plan 2009-2015 ;
- IPC Programme;
- Groundwater Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Surface Water Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study;
- Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans.
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Coastal Defence Strategy Study, Final Report, Malachy Walsh and Partners, 2010.

As identified in **Section 2.3.7**, leisure activities and developments along the coastline of Dún Laoghaire are likely to place increasing pressure on the ecology of coastal areas. The Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan area lies in close proximity to the South Dublin Bay cSAC and South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA.

The purpose of the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan is to:-

- Position Dún Laoghaire Harbour as a major marine/leisure/tourism destination;
- Enhance Dún Laoghaire's attractiveness as a gateway for tourists to Ireland by offering state-of-the-art berthing and terminal facilities to ferry and cruise operators at Dún Laoghaire Harbour;
- Maintain and enhance the recreational amenity value of the harbour in the interest of all our stakeholders;
- Promote investment in the harbour; and

- Generate sufficient revenue from commercial operations to secure the long term maintenance and development of the harbour and the government guideline dividend figure for commercial state companies.

It should be noted that the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Master plan is a non-statutory plan and any development in the Harbour area must accord with the provisions of the County Development Plan. Any development arising from the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan or the draft Dún Laoghaire County Development Plan shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment screening. In addition to the aforementioned policies that emphasise the Councils commitment to the protection of European Sites (i.e. the overarching policy in the Introduction and Landscape, Heritage & Biodiversity chapters, wording in sections 8.2.2, 8.2.9.4, and 8.2.7.1 and Policy LHB20), the draft County Development Plan includes commitment to the protection to coastal/ marine European Sites:-

8.2.7.4 Development in the Coastal and 'Nearshore' area: -

In dealing with planning applications in the coastal or 'nearshore' area regard shall be had to the Maritime and Foreshore (Amendment) Bill 2013 and to the findings of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council 'Coastal Defence Strategy Study', (2010).

In relation to coastal development regard shall be had to the EU Guidance document 'The Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Estuaries and Coastal Zones' (2011) when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity - defined by the structure and function - of any designated sites, coastal and marine fauna, flora and amenities.

With the inclusion of these protective policies within the draft County Development Plan, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant in-combination or cumulative effects/impacts arising from the draft County Development Plan.

No other pathway has been identified by which any of the Plans and programmes identified could have a significant 'in combination' effect on any of the Natura 2000 sites identified. In fact, it is considered that the in combination effect of the above water related Plans and programmes would have positive effects on water quality resulting in positive indirect impacts on the coastal cSACs and SPAs.

5.5 MITIGATION MEASURES – TIMESCALE, EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPLEMENTATION

5.5.1 Pre-Draft Measures

As noted earlier, a pre-emptive and proactive approach was taken to the AA at the earliest stages of the plan making process when the AA team provided policies and objectives for inclusion in the draft CDP. These policies and their status are presented in Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2 - Suggested Policy Wording for Inclusion into the draft County Development Plan

Policies and Objectives	Included in the Final Plan?
General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	
The Council will ensure that any plan/project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where a plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where, in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.' It is recommended that this policy is included in the strategic policy section at the front of the County Development Plan and again in relevant chapters throughout the County Development Plan.	Yes - included as an overarching policy in the Introduction and the Landscape, Heritage and Biodiversity chapters.
Biodiversity and Natural Heritage	
Conserve, enhance and manage the County's natural heritage including its biodiversity, landscapes and geological heritage and promote understanding of and sustainable access to it.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.1
Protect the ecological integrity of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and Annex I habitats.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.1
Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening.	Yes - included as an overarching policy in the Introduction and the Landscape, Heritage and Biodiversity chapters, Section 4.1.3.2, 8.2.2(v) and 8.2.9.4.
To ensure that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is produced once Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening has indicated likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites.	Yes - included as an overarching policy in the Introduction and the Landscape, Heritage and Biodiversity chapters, Section 4.1.3.2, 8.2.2(v) and 8.2.9.4.
To promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species, in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).	Yes - Section 4.1.3.4
To promote the approach of an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (IBIA) where suited as an efficient framework in order to streamline biodiversity consideration while assessing environmental impacts within the SEA, EIA and AA objectives, targets and indicators.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.1
To support the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) in the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status for the habitats and species to which the EU Habitats Directive applies.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.1

Policies and Objectives	Included in the Final Plan?
To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law. In the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known, or likely to be, a breeding or resting site of species listed in Habitats Regulations a derogation licence, issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) will be required in advance of a permission.	Yes - Section 8.2.7.1
To ensure the implementation of the EU Freshwater Fish Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to protect any fish and shellfish habitat in the County Development Plan area.	No
Invasive non-native plant and animal species (Alien Species) can represent a major threat to local, regional and national bio-diversity. They can negatively impact on native species, can transform habitats and threaten whole ecosystems causing serious problems to the environment and the economy. The Council is committed to controlling invasive species and will monitor public lands such as open spaces, verges and river valleys for such species. However, vigilance is required by all landowners as invasive species can spread quickly across boundaries. Preventative measures include ensuring that good site hygiene practices are employed for the movement of materials into, out of and around the site and ensuring that imported soil is free of seeds and rhizomes of key invasive plant species. Suggest that this goes in to the Heritage and Biodiversity section of the County Development Plan.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.11
To implement measures to control and manage alien / invasive species (e.g. Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, etc.) and noxious weeds (e.g. ragwort, thistle, dock, etc.) within the County Development Plan.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.1
To ensure the monitoring and control of EIA sub-threshold development within the County Development Plan through the document <i>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development (DEHLG, 2003)</i> with specific reference to the requirement of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening.	Yes - Section 8.2.9.3
Article 10 Article 10 of the Habitats Directive states that; <i>'Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their landuse planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.'</i> Many habitats of conservation concern particularly designated sites are linked to the surrounding landscape by natural and manmade features, such as water courses (rivers, streams, canals and drainage ditches), hedgerows, treelines, roads and railways. Therefore, areas of conservation concern must not be considered in isolation, their linkages and buffer zones must also be protected to ensure the continued migration of species and genetic diversity throughout the entire area. Issues related to connectivity, including maintaining and establishing connections between protected areas, play an integral role in land-use planning. The County Development Plan aims to improve the ecological situation in Dún Laoghaire, and enhance connectivity between small	Yes - Section 4.1.3.6

Policies and Objectives	Included in the Final Plan?
fragmented areas. Within the County Development Plan area and its immediate surroundings, ecological surveys have been completed to identify those habitats which would improve the ecological coherence throughout the entire area. The specific habitats identified include treelines, hedgerows, scrub and woodland, watercourses and semi-natural areas such as mixed broadleaved woodland, sand dunes and saltmarshes, which were mapped and are shown in the Ecological Network Maps. Suggest that this goes in to the Heritage and Biodiversity section of the County Development Plan.	
To promote the protection of habitats which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (e.g. rivers and their banks) or their contribution as stepping stones (e.g. ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	Yes - Sections 4.1.3.6, 4.1.3.7 and 4.1.3.8
To work with local communities, groups, landowners, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and other relevant parties to identify, protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance and promote sites of local biodiversity value.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.1
Ensure that no development, including clearance and storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 10-15m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse in the County Development Plan area.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.7
In the event of lighting being proposed along river or canal corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.	Yes - Section 8.2.7.1
Water Supply and Management	
To require that all development relating to water supply and waste water treatment are subject to Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	Yes - Section 5.1.1.2
Wastewater	
To provide adequate wastewater treatment facilities to serve the existing and future population of the County, subject to complying with the Water Framework Directive, the Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document, Pollution Reduction Programmes for Designated Shellfish Areas, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.	Yes - Section 5.1.1.2, and Section 4.1.3.1
Surface Water Drainage	
To require that a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) is applied to any development and that site specific solutions to surface water drainage systems are developed, which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plans.	Yes - Section 8.2.9.7
Groundwater Protection	
To ensure the protection of the groundwater resources in and around the County Development Plan and associated habitats and species.	Yes - Section 5.1.1.4

Policies and Objectives	Included in the Final Plan?
Coastal Protection	
To have regard to the EU guidance document <i>The Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Estuaries and Coastal Zones (EU 2011)</i> when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any designated sites, coastal and marine fauna, flora and amenities.	Yes - Section 8.2.7.4
Flood Risk Management	
To require that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	Yes - Section 5.2.5.2
To implement the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management for Planning Authorities</i> (DoEHG/OPW 2009) and the National Flood Hazard Mapping (OPW) while referring to the relevant Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the County Development Plan.	Yes - Section 5.2.5.2
To ensure riparian buffer zones are created between all watercourses and any development for a minimum of 10-15m, to militate against flood risk. The extent of these buffer zones shall be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist and following a Flood Risk Assessment. Any hard landscaping proposals shall be located outside of these buffer zones.	Yes - Section 4.1.3.7
Economic Development	
To ensure that any industry development will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	Yes - Sections 8.2.2(v), 8.2.9.4 and 8.2.7.1
To require that all development proposals are subject to AA screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	Yes - Sections 8.2.2(v), 8.2.9.4 and 8.2.7.1
Open Space and Recreation	
It is an objective of the Council to promote the development of the S2S promenade and cycleway. It should be noted that this coastal route will be subject to a feasibility study, including an assessment of the route options. Any development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated cSAC's, SPA's and pNHA's in Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.	Yes - Sections 2.2.7.3 and 4.2.2.7
Sustainable Travel and Transportation	
It is an objective of the Council to promote the development of the S2S promenade and cycleway. It should be noted that this coastal route will be subject to a feasibility study, including an assessment of the route options. Any development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated cSAC's, SPA's and pNHA's in Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.	Yes - Sections 2.2.7.3 and 4.2.2.7

5.5.2 Policy Wording for Plan Updates

The protective policies as originally drafted accounted for a considerable degree of positive protection in relation to the integrity of European Sites. Over the course of the plan formulation, however, suggested additions were presented to the plan team to ensure that individual policies were in compliance with both EU and national legislation. The policies, as now included, in this draft of the plan reflect these discussions. In a small number of cases, it was felt that specific mitigation measures or minor modifications to the text were required and these are recorded below in section 5.5.3.

5.5.3 Specific Mitigation

The overarching protective policies and objectives included in the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan, coupled with other policies including those relating to water supply, waste water, surface water drainage and groundwater (see **Section 5.3** and **Table 5.3**) provides robust general protection of European Sites. Where key issues with potential for significant negative impacts have been identified, specific mitigation measures, including suggested protective policies were provided.

One of the key issues to emerge from the draft Plan was the increasing pressure on coastal European Sites as a result of a range of issues including coastal development, increased and new visitor pressure, water-based leisure activities and construction of infrastructure such as the proposed S2S cycle route. As part of the Appropriate Assessment Screening for the draft Plan, it was recommended that a feasibility study be undertaken in relation to the S2S scheme. This study would consider issues such as protected habitats, species usage of the area, visitor surveys and possible alternative route sections and / or engineering solutions. This feasibility study would offer a framework in which the S2S scheme could advance, and would also serve to inform the environmental assessment of other proposed coastal developments.

The second key issue to emerge from the draft Plan was the inclusion of the reservation corridor for the Eastern Bypass. As shown on maps 1,2, 5 and 6 of the draft Plan, the reservation corridor ends at the coastline within South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, and directly adjacent to South Dublin Bay SAC, and will potentially result in both direct and indirect impacts to these sites. As outlined in **Section 5.3.4.1**, it is recognised that it is unlikely that the Eastern Bypass will be constructed within the lifetime of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CDP 2016-2022. The draft Plan includes a number of protective policies and objectives in relation to the Eastern Bypass, as detailed in **Section 5.3.4.1**. However, should the Eastern Bypass project be progressed, a full assessment of the potential ecological impacts associated with the proposals will be required, to include the appropriate research and survey work necessary in order to inform a robust Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the potential impacts associated with the proposed works.

Finally recent proposals to remove Policy EI23 and SLO126 as discussed in **Section 5.3.2** are considered to have potential for adverse impacts in the vicinity of Ballyman Glen. To date, there is insufficient information on the hydrological situation in the Glen, however given the sensitivity of this area and existing pressures on groundwater status from historic landfills and proposed new development it is considered that the policy and SLO are both essential to protection of environmental conditions in the area. It is therefore recommended that, until such time as

hydrological modelling work on the Glen becomes available, Policy E123 and SLO126 remain in the Plan. The suggested mitigation and current status within the Plan are indicated in **Table 5.3**.

Table 5.3: Specific Mitigation Recommendation for Inclusion in the Draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan

Mitigation	Included in the Draft Plan?
It is Council policy to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study on the recreational potential along the coastal area of the County which comprehensively addresses recreational impact – including visitor numbers, mapping and surveying of sensitive habitats and species and identification of significant threats on Natura 2000 sites – and which would allow an assessment of any future proposals, alone or in combination, to assess impact on the coastal and marine zone within and adjacent to the County boundary. The Council will explore the possibility of carrying out this study with adjoining and/or coastal Local Authorities and/or their agencies.	Yes: Policy LHB11
Should the proposals for the Eastern Bypass be progressed, a full assessment of the potential ecological impacts associated with the proposals will be required to be carried out by the TII, to include the appropriate research and survey work necessary in order to inform a robust Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the potential impacts associated with the proposed works.	Subject to approval of the elected members
To reinstate Policy E123: Rathmichael Ground and Surface Water Protection stated - It is Council policy to refuse planning permission for any new developments which include an on-site wastewater treatment facility within the Rathmichael area until the groundwater issues in the area are resolved or ameliorated and also reinstate SLO 126.	Subject to approval of the elected members

Implementation

The implementation of these mitigation measures will be monitored over the lifetime of the plan to provide a benchmark for the next planning cycle. In relation to the mitigation measures outlined in **Section 5.5.3** and shown in **Table 5.3**, it is considered that the first measures should be substantially completed during the lifetime of this plan. However as a strategic project, for which Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has little control, the mitigation that has been proposed for the Eastern Bypass corridor could extend beyond the lifetime of the current plan.

Quantifying the Effectiveness of the Mitigation Measures to Safeguard Integrity of European Sites

Monitoring measures, including those for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, have been identified in the SEA environmental report of the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan. They are enacted upon adoption and implementation of the plan and remain in place for the entire duration of the plan. The monitoring process shall be carried out on an ongoing basis through the assessment of submitted planning applications as well as environmental monitoring programmes that are already in place by the local authority or other agencies so tasked to do so.

In tandem with this, the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan promotes the strategic importance of the Appropriate Assessment process through the preparation of the strategic goals/core strategy and policies of the plan, in addition to specific references to and objectives for the protection of European sites. The overall approach to the protection of the wider environment serves indirectly to maintain the integrity and conservation status of European Sites through the preservation and extension of green infrastructure networks which support species that depend on the European habitats; and also the protection and improvement of water quality in the city, which underpins the integrity of many of the European sites. Its efficacy should contribute towards and be recorded in the 6 yearly National reporting requirement that each State is obliged to prepare as part of the Habitats Directive.

6 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

The likely impacts that will arise from the draft County Development Plan have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

Provided that the mitigation measures that are outlined in Table 5.3 above are included in the draft Plan it is considered that the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 will not have a significant adverse effect on European Sites, and that the integrity of the European Sites, in view of their conservation interests, will not be adversely affected.

APPENDIX A1

Assessment of Policies and Objectives with Potential for Adverse Effects - SPA

SPA Table

Policy/Objective		Wicklow Mountains SPA			South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA			Dalkey Islands SPA			Impact Avoidance Measures	Residual Impacts
		Potential Impacts			Potential Impacts			Potential Impacts				
Reference	Policy/Objective Wording	Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	Direct	Indirect	Cumulative		
Policy RES1: Supply of Zoned Land	It is Council policy to seek to ensure that sufficient zoned land is available to satisfy the housing requirements of the County over the lifetime of the Plan thereby meeting the household/population targets set by the Regional Planning Guidelines.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As set out in Sections 5.3 and 5.5 of the AA report	None
Policy RES2: Implementation of Interim Housing Strategy	It is Council policy to facilitate the implementation and delivery of the interim Housing Strategy 2016 – 2022.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES3: Residential Density*	It is Council policy to promote higher residential densities provided that proposals ensure a balance between the reasonable protection of existing residential amenities and the established character of areas, with the need to provide for sustainable residential development. In promoting more compact, good quality, higher density forms of residential development it is Council policy to have regard to the policies and objectives contained in the following Guidelines: • ‘Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas’ (DoEHLG 2009). • ‘Urban Design Manual - A Best Practice Guide’ (DoEHLG 2009). • ‘Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities’ (DoEHLG 2007). • ‘Irish Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets’ (DTTaS & DoECLG, 2013). • ‘National Climate Change Adaptation Framework - Building Resilience to Climate Change’ (DoECLG, 2013).	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None

Policy RES4: Existing Housing Stock and Densification*	It is Council policy to improve and conserve housing stock of the County, to densify existing built-up areas and to retain and improve residential amenities in established residential communities.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES5: Institutional Lands	Where distinct parcels of land are in institutional use (such as education, residential or other such uses) and are proposed for redevelopment, it is Council policy to retain the open character and/or recreational amenity of these lands wherever possible, subject to the context of the quantity of provision of existing open space in the general environs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy RES6: Mews Lane Housing	It is Council policy to facilitate measured and proportionate mews lane housing development in suitable locations.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES7: Overall Housing Mix	It is Council policy to encourage the establishment of sustainable residential communities by ensuring that a wide variety of housing and apartment types, sizes and tenures is provided within the County in accordance with the provisions of the Interim Housing Strategy.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES8: Provision of Social Housing	It is Council policy to promote the provision of social housing in accordance with the projects outlined in the Council's Interim Housing Strategy and Government policy as outlined in the DoECLG 'Social Housing Strategy 2020'.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES9: Housing for All	It is Council policy to support the concept of independent and/or assisted living for older people and people with disabilities. In this regard the Council will support the provision of specific purposebuilt accommodation, or adaptation of existing properties, and will promote opportunities for elderly householders to avail of the option of 'downsizing' within their community.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES10: Homeless Accommodation	It is Council policy to support the provision of homeless accommodation or support services throughout the County.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None

Policy RES11: Traveller Accommodation	It is Council policy to implement the 'Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018'. In accordance with the Programme, halting sites, including temporary emergency halting sites and traveller-specific group housing schemes, will be provided for the accommodation of travellers who normally reside in the County and who are included in the most recent 'Assessment of Need' for Traveller-specific accommodation, in addition to providing standard social housing to meet their needs.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES12: Provision of Student Accommodation	It is Council policy to facilitate student accommodation on student campuses or in locations which have convenient access to Third Level colleges (particularly by foot, bicycle and high quality and convenient public transport) in a manner compatible with surrounding residential amenities. In considering planning applications for student accommodation the Council will have regard to the 'Guidelines on Residential Developments for Third Level Students' and its July 2005 Review (particularly in relation to location and design).	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES13: Provision of Womens'and Family Refuges	It is Council Policy to encourage and support any proposals from the HSE and/or other relevant agencies, which seek to provide Women's and Family Refuge facilities within the County.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES14: Planning for Communities*	It is Council policy to plan for communities in accordance with the aims, objectives and principles of 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' and the accompanying 'Urban Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide'. In all new development growth areas, and in existing residential communities it is policy to ensure that proper community and neighbourhood facilities are provided in conjunction with, and as an integral component of, major new residential developments and proposed renewal/redevelopment areas, in accordance with the concept of sustainable urban villages outlined under Policy RES14.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None

Policy RES15: Urban Villages*	In new development growth nodes and in major areas in need of renewal/regeneration it is Council policy to implement a strategy for residential development based on a concept of sustainable urban villages.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy RES16: Management of Oneoff Housing*	It is Council policy to restrict the spread of oneoff housing into the rural countryside and to accommodate local growth into identified small villages subject to the availability of necessary services. It is recognised that much of the demand for one-off housing is urban-generated and this can result in an unsustainable pattern of development, placing excessive strain on the environment, services and infrastructure. However, it is recognised that one-off housing may be acceptable where it is clearly shown that it is not urban-generated, will not place excessive strain on services and infrastructure, or have a serious negative impact on the landscape and where there is a genuine local need to reside in a rural area due to locationally-specific employment or local social needs (subject to compliance with the specific zoning objectives).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy ST1: Integration of Land Use and Transportation Policies*	It is Council policy to actively support sustainable modes of transport and ensure that land use and zoning are fully integrated with the provision and development of high public quality transportation systems.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None
Policy ST2: Development of Sustainable Travel and Transportation Policies*	It is Council policy to promote, facilitate and cooperate with other transport agencies in securing the implementation of the transportation strategy for the County and the wider Dublin Region as set out in Department of Transport's 'Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 –2020' and the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030'. Effecting a modal shift from the private car to more sustainable modes of transport will be a paramount objective to be realised in the implementation of this policy.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None

Policy ST3: Accessibility*	It is Council policy to support suitable access for people with disabilities, including improvements to buildings, streets and public spaces.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy ST4: Walking and Cycling*	It is Council Policy to secure the development of a high quality walking and cycling network across the County in accordance with relevant Council and National policy and guidelines.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None
Policy ST5: Footways and Pedestrian Routes*	The Council will continue to maintain and expand the footway and pedestrian route network to provide for accessible pedestrian routes within the County in accordance with best accessibility practice.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None
Policy ST6: County Cycle Network*	It is Council policy to secure improvements to the County Cycle Network in accordance with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Cycle Network Review whilst supporting the NTA on the development and implementation of the Cycle Network Plan for the Greater Dublin Area.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None
Policy ST7: Public Bike Facilities*	It is Council policy to work towards the provision of 'public bike' facilities within the key urban areas of the County.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		As above	None
Policy ST8: Directional/Information/Waymarking Signage	It is Council policy to provide directional signage for amenities, tourist attractions and local attractions and along cycle and pedestrian routes (waymarking) at appropriate locations throughout the County in accordance with planning and traffic regulations.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		As above	None
Policy ST9: Street Lighting	It is Council policy to provide and maintain street lighting on the public road/footway/cycleways throughout the County in accordance with commonly accepted best practice.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		As above	None

Policy ST10: Public Transport Improvements*	It is Council policy to secure improvements to the public transport system as set out in 'Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020' and the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030' by optimising existing or proposed transport corridors and interchanges and by developing new Park and Ride and taxi rank facilities at appropriate locations.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST11: Quality Bus Network*	It is Council policy to co-operate with the NTA and other relevant agencies to facilitate the implementation of the Bus Network measures as set out in the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport 2011-2030' and to extend the bus network to other areas where appropriate subject to design, public consultation, approval, finance and resources.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST12: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)*	It is Council policy to co-operate with the NTA and other relevant agencies to facilitate the introduction of Bus Rapid Transit measures as set out in the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030' where appropriate subject to design, public consultation, approval, finance and resources.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST13: Public Transport Interchanges*	It is Council policy to facilitate the provision of quality public transport interchanges at strategic Rail and Luas stations within the County in accordance with National and Regional guidelines in order to facilitate focussed access to multiple public transport modes and to maximize the movement of people via sustainable modes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy ST14: Luas Extension	It is Council policy to promote, facilitate and cooperate with other agencies in securing the extension of the Luas network in the County as set out in the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030' and including any future upgrade to Metro.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST15: Rail Stations/Luas Stops	It is Council policy to co-operate with the NTA, Iarnród Éireann, the Rail Procurement Agency and other relevant authorities to secure the improvement and further development of railway stations and Luas stops in the County.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None

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Policy ST24: Roads	It is Council policy, in conjunction and co-operation with other transport bodies and authorities such as the NRA and the NTA, to secure improvements to the County road network – including improved pedestrian and cycle facilities.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST25: Motorway and National Routes	It is Council policy to promote, facilitate and cooperate with relevant transport bodies, authorities and agencies to secure improvements to the County's Motorway and National Road network to provide, protect and maintain for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods both within and through Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST26: Traffic and Transport Assessments and Road Safety Audits*	It is Council policy to require Traffic and Transportation Assessments and/or Road Safety Audits for major developments – in accordance with the NRA Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines 2014 - to assess the traffic impacts on the surrounding road network and provide measures to mitigate any adverse impacts - all in accordance with best practice guidelines.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy ST27: Traffic Noise	It is Council policy to ensure that traffic noise levels are considered as part of new developments along major roads/rail lines in accordance with best practice guidelines.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy ST28: Road Safety	It is Council policy to implement the National Road Safety Plan 2013 - 2020 in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and agencies.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy ST29: Traffic Management*	It is Council policy to introduce traffic management schemes on particular roads and in appropriate areas throughout the County to reduce vehicle speeds to an acceptable level and to reduce the potential for traffic congestion and associated vehicular emissions in urban areas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy ST30: Ports	It is the policy of the Council to improve access to and support the continued development of Dún Laoghaire Port in accordance with the 2013 'National Ports Policy'.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None

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Policy EI22: Water Pollution	It is Council policy to implement the provisions of water pollution abatement measures in accordance with National and EU Directives and other legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy EI23: Rathmichael Ground and Surface Water Protection	It is Council policy to refuse planning permission for any new developments which include an on-site wastewater treatment facility within the Rathmichael area until the groundwater issues in the area are resolved or ameliorated (See SLO 126 Maps 10 & 14).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy EI24: Litter Control	It is Council policy to ensure that public places, and other areas visible to any extent from public places, within the County are maintained free of litter. It is the policy of the Council to publish plans for the prevention and control of litter and for measures to encourage public awareness with the view to eliminating litter pollution in accordance with the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy EI25: Major Accidents	It is Council policy to have regard to the provisions of the 'Major Accidents Directive' (European Council Directive 2012/18/EU). This Directive relates to the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances and its objectives are to prevent major accidents and limit the consequences of such accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy EI26: Energy Facilities	It is Council policy to encourage the provision of energy facilities in association with the appropriate service providers and in accordance with 'Government Policy Statement on Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure' (2012). In addition the Council will facilitate the expansion of the existing service providers, notably Bord Gáis, Eirgrid and the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), in order to ensure satisfactory levels of supply and to minimise constraints for development.	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None

Policy CC7: Energy Performance in New Buildings.*	It is Council policy to promote and support new development that is low carbon development, is well adapted to the impacts of climate change and that energy conservation is considered and designed at the earliest stages through the use of energy efficiency management systems.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC8: Excellence in the Built Environment.*	It is Council policy to lead by example by developing a strategy for effective climate protection within its building stock.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC9: Sustainability in Adaptable Design*.	It is Council policy to promote sustainable approaches to the improvement of standards for habitable accommodation, by allowing dwellings to be flexible, accessible and adaptable in their spatial layout and design.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC10: Radon Gas	It is Council policy, in partnership with other relevant agencies, to promote best practice in the implementation of radon prevention measures.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC11: Renewable Energy.*	It is Council policy to support National and International initiatives to encourage the development and use of renewable energy sources.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC12: Wind & Wave Energy*.	It is Council policy to support and promote, in conjunction with other relevant agencies, wind energy initiatives – both on-shore and offshore – when these are undertaken in an environmentally acceptable manner.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	As above	None
Policy CC13: Small-Scale Wind Energy Schemes*.	It is Council policy to encourage small-scale wind energy developments within industrial areas, and support small community-based proposals in urban areas provided they do not negatively impact upon the environmental quality or residential amenity of the area.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None

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Policy SCC5: Community Facilities	It is Council policy to support the development and provision of a wide range of community facilities distributed in an equitable manner throughout the County.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy SSC6: New Development Areas	It is Council policy to ensure that proper community infrastructure and complementary neighbourhood facilities are provided concurrently with the development of new residential growth nodes in the County.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy SSC7: Schools	It is Council policy to ensure the reservation of primary and post-primary school sites in accordance with the requirements of the relevant education authorities.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy SSC8: Third and Fourth Level Education Facilities	It is Council policy to support the development and ongoing provision of Third and Fourth Level Institutions in the County including University College Dublin (Belfield and Carysfort campuses), Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology and Blackrock Further Education Institute (Formerly Senior College Dún Laoghaire).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy SSC9: Health Care Facilities	It is Council policy to support the Health Service Executive and other statutory and voluntary agencies in the provision of appropriate healthcare facilities - including the system of hospital care and the provision of community-based primary care facilities. It is Council policy to encourage the integration of appropriate healthcare facilities within new and existing communities.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy SSC10: Childcare Facilities	It is Council policy to encourage the provision of affordable and appropriate childcare facilities as an integral part of proposals for new residential developments and to improve/expand existing childcare facilities across the County. In general at least one childcare facility should be provided for all new residential developments subject to demographic and geographic needs. The Council will encourage the provision of childcare facilities in a sustainable manner to encourage local economic development and to assist in addressing disadvantage.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None

6	To consider potential additional future uses of the Dublin Eastern Bypass reservation corridor, including public transport provision generally and Bus Rapid Transit services specifically, pending a decision from the National Roads Authority/Central Government in relation to the future status of the Bypass.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None
80	To facilitate, support and enhance educational facilities in the County, in particular the activities of Dundrum VEC that will foster strong links between education, community and the business sector in the County.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
92	To redevelop the former flats site Rosemount Court as part of the Council's Housing Programme.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None
134	To prepare a Local Area Plan for Dundrum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Map 2: Booterstown/Blackrock/ Stillorgan											As above	None
1	To facilitate, support and enhance the development of University College Dublin including all associated and supporting facilities. A range of uses will be facilitated on Belfield campus lands to encourage and foster strong links between education, community and the business sector in the County.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None
5	The Council will support and facilitate the development of a "Gateway" scheme at the N11 entrance to the UCD campus which will provide for a range of uses normally associated with a major international university. These facilities should encourage a greater interaction with the neighbouring community and the wider public and should include, inter alia, cultural, community and neighbourhood-scale retail facilities, swimming pool, theatre, a significant commercial office component, incubator units, hotel and student accommodation and transport facilities. The "Gateway" shall be of a high architectural standard and embody the principles of sustainability and energy efficiency. The open spaces and sylvan setting of the University campus shall be protected from development in accordance with the University College Dublin Campus Development Plan.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None

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93	To promote the development of the S2S Promenade and Cycleway as a component part of the National East Coast Trail Cycle Route. It should be noted that these coastal routes will be subject to a feasibility study, including an assessment of the route options. Any development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SAC's, SPA's, and pNHA's in Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None
Map 3: Monkstown / Dún Laoighre											As above	None
13	To facilitate the continued development of the Harbour in accordance with the pending Dún Laoghaire and Environs Local Area Plan.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None
14	To encourage the redevelopment of 'The Gut' adjacent to the West Pier to include improved access to the area.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None
15	Coal Quay Bridge. To improve/upgrade access to Dún Laoghaire Harbour and lands adjacent to the West Pier.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None
16	To retain the Carlisle Pier structure and to encourage redevelopment on it that will incorporate uses that will bring significant cultural, social, recreational and economic benefits to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Development should regenerate and enliven the waterfront, be sensitive to the setting and should include a significant portion of cultural and amenity uses with public accessibility and permeability to the waterfront paramount. Such proposals should be carefully scaled and should be designed with variety in the massing of built elements to avoid 'slab like' infilling of the Pier. Any development should creatively re-use remaining components of the original rail sheds.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None
17	To manage and enhance The Metals from Marine Road to Dalkey giving due regard to its historic importance while encouraging its use as a walking and cycling route between Dún Laoghaire and Dalkey.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	As above	None

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84	To protect and conserve South Dublin Bay Candidate Special Area of Conservation.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
93	To promote the development of the S2S Promenade and Cycleway as a component part of the National East Coast Trail Cycle Route. It should be noted that these coastal routes will be subject to a feasibility study, including an assessment of the route options. Any development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SAC's, SPA's, and pNHA's in Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	As above	None
95	To promote Water Leisure Facilities for public use at the coastal fringe of the Gut and rear of the West Pier, subject to the appropriate environmental assessments including any assessment required under the Habitats Directive in co-operation with the relevant agencies.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	As above	None
106	To improve the Streetscape/Public Realm of Monkstown Village.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
107	That Dún Laoghaire Carnegie Library be retained for public and community use.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
128	To encourage the amalgamation of shop units to allow for the creation of medium (150-300 sq.m.) and larger shop floor plates (> 300 sq.m.), particularly in the Central Commercial Core Quarter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
133	To protect and conserve Rockabill to Dalkey Island Candidate Special Area of Conservation.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
136	The Council will review the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Heritage Management Plan 2011, with a view to considering same for inclusion in the County Development Plan 2016-2022, as appropriate.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Map 4: Sandeycove / Dalkey												As above	None
21	To develop the area between East Pier and Sandycove, including the open space at Otranto Place, in accordance with an approved plan.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	As above	None

22	Bullock Harbour: That any residential development shall form part of a mixed-use scheme which will include commercial marine-based activity and public water-based recreational uses and shall have regard to the special nature of the area in terms of the height, scale, architecture and density of built form.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
77	To prepare a Local Area Plan for Dún Laoghaire and Environs.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	As above	None
78	To prepare a Management Plan for Killiney Hill, Dalkey Hill and Roches/Mullins Hill.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
93	To promote the development of the S2S Promenade and Cycleway as a component part of the National East Coast Trail Cycle Route. It should be noted that these coastal routes will be subject to a feasibility study, including an assessment of the route options. Any development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SAC's, SPA's, and pNHA's in Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	As above	None
129	To implement the objectives of the Dalkey Island Conservation Plan 2013 - 2023.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
133	To protect and conserve Rockabill to Dalkey Island Candidate Special Area of Conservation.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Map 5: Dundrum / Balinteer												As above	None
4	To encourage the retention and development of the Airfield Estate for educational, recreational and cultural uses.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
6	To consider potential additional future uses of the Dublin Eastern Bypass reservation corridor, including public transport provision generally and Bus Rapid Transit services specifically, pending a decision from the National Roads Authority/Central Government in relation to the future status of the Bypass.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	As above	None

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63	To co-operate with the National Transport Authority, the Railway Procurement Agency and Wicklow County Council in the establishment of a combined road/Luas bridge across the County Brook Valley to provide connections between the proposed new development areas of Old Conna and Fassaroe (Wicklow County).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
66	To provide pedestrian/cycle access across the M11 corridor at Allies River Road.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
71	That no insensitive or large scale development will take place above the 90-metre contour line at Rathmichael, from Old Connaught Golf Course to Pucks Castle Lane – Maps 10-14. Any proposal for development, other than development directly related to agriculture, forestry, recreation or the promotion of other bona fide rural enterprise or employment activity, shall be domestic in scale, appearance and function.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
76	To continue the development of Shanganagh Park in accordance with the Masterplan, and to develop a sports facility and improved recreational facilities in the park.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
79	To investigate and consider the feasibility of designing and implementing a Management Plan for Carrickgollogan Hill area, to the north of Murphy's Lane and including the Lead Mine complex.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
82	To upgrade and enhance the linear park at Woodbrook Glen/Corke Abbey.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
85	To protect and conserve Ballyman Glen Candidate Special Area of Conservation.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
93	To promote the development of the S2S Promenade and Cycleway as a component part of the National East Coast Trail Cycle Route. It should be noted that these coastal routes will be subject to a feasibility study, including an assessment of the route options. Any development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SAC's, SPA's, and pNHA's in Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	As above	None

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APPENDIX A2

Assessment of Policies and Objectives with Potential for Adverse Effects - SAC

Policy RES3: Residential Density*	It is Council policy to promote higher residential densities provided that proposals ensure a balance between the reasonable protection of existing residential amenities and the established character of areas, with the need to provide for sustainable residential development. In promoting more compact, good quality, higher density forms of residential development it is Council policy to have regard to the policies and objectives contained in the following Guidelines: • ‘Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas’ (DoEHLG 2009). • ‘Urban Design Manual - A Best Practice Guide’ (DoEHLG 2009). • ‘Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities’(DoEHLG 2007). • ‘Irish Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets’ (DTTaS & DoECLG, 2013). • ‘National Climate Change Adaptation Framework - Building Resilience to Climate Change’ (DoECLG, 2013).	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES4: Existing Housing Stock and Densification*	It is Council policy to improve and conserve housing stock of the County, to densify existing built-up areas and to retain and improve residential amenities in established residential communities.	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES5: Institutional Lands	Where distinct parcels of land are in institutional use (such as education, residential or other such uses) and are proposed for redevelopment, it is Council policy to retain the open character and/or recreational amenity of these lands wherever possible, subject to the context of the quantity of provision of existing open space in the general environs.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy RES6: Mews Lane Housing	It is Council policy to facilitate measured and proportionate mews lane housing development in suitable locations.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None

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Policy ST10: Public Transport Improvements*	It is Council policy to secure improvements to the public transport system as set out in 'Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020' and the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030' by optimising existing or proposed transport corridors and interchanges and by developing new Park and Ride and taxi rank facilities at appropriate locations.	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST11: Quality Bus Network*	It is Council policy to co-operate with the NTA and other relevant agencies to facilitate the implementation of the Bus Network measures as set out in the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030' and to extend the bus network to other areas where appropriate subject to design, public consultation, approval, finance and resources.	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST12: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)*	It is Council policy to co-operate with the NTA and other relevant agencies to facilitate the introduction of Bus Rapid Transit measures as set out in the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030' where appropriate subject to design, public consultation, approval, finance and resources.	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None
Policy ST13: Public Transport Interchanges*	It is Council policy to facilitate the provision of quality public transport interchanges at strategic Rail and Luas stations within the County in accordance with National and Regional guidelines in order to facilitate focussed access to multiple public transport modes and to maximize the movement of people via sustainable modes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy ST14: Luas Extension	It is Council policy to promote, facilitate and co-operate with other agencies in securing the extension of the Luas network in the County as set out in the NTA's 'Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030' and including any future upgrade to Metro.	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	As above	None

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Policy RET10: Retail Warehousing & Retail Parks	It is Council policy to strictly control and limit additional new retail warehousing/retail park floorspace in the County for the duration of the Plan. Any limited new retail warehousing will be on lands zoned Objective 'LIW' – "To improve and provide for low density warehousing/light industrial warehousing units", 'MIC' – "To consolidate and complete the development of the mixed use inner core to enhance and reinforce sustainable development", 'OE' – "To provide for office and enterprise development" and 'E' – "To provide for economic development and employment" where the site has good access to a suitable road network and has access to integrated public transport. Where considered appropriate, some very limited retail warehousing may be open for consideration in or near the edge of lands zoned Objective 'MTC' – "To protect, provide for and/or improve Major Town Centre facilities", but only where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will add to the centre's overall attractiveness for shopping. Any application for retail warehousing will require to demonstrate that the proposal will not impact adversely on the vitality and viability of established retail centres in accordance with the criteria set down in the 'Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2012).	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	As above	None
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Policy EI24: Litter Control	It is Council policy to ensure that public places, and other areas visible to any extent from public places, within the County are maintained free of litter. It is the policy of the Council to publish plans for the prevention and control of litter and for measures to encourage public awareness with the view to eliminating litter pollution in accordance with the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy EI25: Major Accidents	It is Council policy to have regard to the provisions of the 'Major Accidents Directive' (European Council Directive 2012/18/EU). This Directive relates to the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances and its objectives are to prevent major accidents and limit the consequences of such accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy EI26: Energy Facilities	It is Council policy to encourage the provision of energy facilities in association with the appropriate service providers and in accordance with 'Government Policy Statement on Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure' (2012). In addition the Council will facilitate the expansion of the existing service providers, notably Bord Gáis, Eirgrid and the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), in order to ensure satisfactory levels of supply and to minimise constraints for development.	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None
Policy EI27: Overhead Cables	It is Council policy to seek the undergrounding of all electricity, telephone and television cables wherever possible, in the interests of visual amenity and public health.	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None

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Policy CC7: Energy Performance in New Buildings.*	It is Council policy to promote and support new development that is low carbon development, is well adapted to the impacts of climate change and that energy conservation is considered and designed at the earliest stages through the use of energy efficiency management systems.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC8: Excellence in the Built Environment.*	It is Council policy to lead by example by developing a strategy for effective climate protection within its building stock.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC9: Sustainability in Adaptable Design*.	It is Council policy to promote sustainable approaches to the improvement of standards for habitable accommodation, by allowing dwellings to be flexible, accessible and adaptable in their spatial layout and design.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC10: Radon Gas	It is Council policy, in partnership with other relevant agencies, to promote best practice in the implementation of radon prevention measures.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC11: Renewable Energy.*	It is Council policy to support National and International initiatives to encourage the development and use of renewable energy sources.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
Policy CC12: Wind & Wave Energy*.	It is Council policy to support and promote, in conjunction with other relevant agencies, wind energy initiatives – both on-shore and offshore – when these are undertaken in an environmentally acceptable manner.	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	As above	None
Policy CC13: Small-Scale Wind Energy Schemes*.	It is Council policy to encourage small-scale wind energy developments within industrial areas, and support small community-based proposals in urban areas provided they do not negatively impact upon the environmental quality or residential amenity of the area.	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x		As above	None

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46	To create a linear park along the Loughlinstown river incorporating a pedestrian route and cycleway (greenway), which will link Cabinteely Park to the sea at Rathsalagh.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
52	To implement and develop the lands at Cherrywood in accordance with the approved Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
54	To implement and develop the lands at Woodbrook and Shanganagh in accordance with the Woodbrook/Shanganagh Local Area Plan.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	As above	None
71	That no insensitive or large scale development will take place above the 90-metre contour line at Rathmichael, from Old Connaught Golf Course to Pucks Castle Lane – Maps 10-14. Any proposal for development, other than development directly related to agriculture, forestry, recreation or the promotion of other bona fide rural enterprise or employment activity, shall be domestic in scale, appearance and function.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
93	To promote the development of the S2S Promenade and Cycleway as a component part of the National East Coast Trail Cycle Route. It should be noted that these coastal routes will be subject to a feasibility study, including an assessment of the route options. Any development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SAC's, SPA's, and pNHA's in Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	As above	None

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71	That no insensitive or large scale development will take place above the 90-metre contour line at Rathmichael, from Old Connaught Golf Course to Pucks Castle Lane – Maps 10-14. Any proposal for development, other than development directly related to agriculture, forestry, recreation or the promotion of other bona fide rural enterprise or employment activity, shall be domestic in scale, appearance and function.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
76	To continue the development of Shanganagh Park in accordance with the Masterplan, and to develop a sports facility and improved recreational facilities in the park.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
79	To investigate and consider the feasibility of designing and implementing a Management Plan for Carrickgollogan Hill area, to the north of Murphy's Lane and including the Lead Mine complex.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
82	To upgrade and enhance the linear park at Woodbrook Glen/Corke Abbey.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
85	To protect and conserve Ballyman Glen Candidate Special Area of Conservation.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above	None
93	To promote the development of the S2S Promenade and Cycleway as a component part of the National East Coast Trail Cycle Route. It should be noted that these coastal routes will be subject to a feasibility study, including an assessment of the route options. Any development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SAC's, SPA's, and pNHA's in Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	As above	None

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