

Sligo County Council

Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010 (as amended)

Planning and development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations
(as amended) (S.I. No. 436 of 2004 and S.I. No. 201 of 2011)

Determination regarding the need for strategic environmental assessment of the proposed amendments of the Draft Ballymote LAP 2012-2018

On 14 May 2012, having considered the Draft Ballymote Local Area Plan (LAP) and the First Manager's Report on the written submissions received, the members of Sligo County Council have resolved to propose amendments to the Draft LAP.

The proposed amendments would, if made, be a material alteration of the Draft LAP.

One of the proposed amendments relates to the zoning of an area for residential uses. The subject area is located within the Zone of Archaeological Protection (ZAP) pertaining to the archaeological monument SL033-09 as provided in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

Schedule 2A of the SEA Regulations 2004 set out the following criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment:

1. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to
 - **the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,**
 - the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan,
 - the relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - **the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,**
 - **the cumulative nature of the effects,**
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),

- **the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:**
 - (a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,**
 - (b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - (c) intensive land-use,
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.

Having regard to the criteria outlined above in **bold type**, it is considered that a significant environmental impact cannot be ruled out in respect of the aforementioned proposed amendment.

Therefore, the Planning Authority has determined that strategic environmental assessment is required in respect of the aforementioned proposed amendment of the Draft LAP, pursuant to S. 20(3)(f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2010.

Paula R. Gallagher

A/Director of Services

29 May 2012