



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination relating to the Proposed Variation no. 2 of Sligo CDP 2017-2023 **Extension of duration** **of the current Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied**

This determination relates to whether the proposal to extend the duration of the current Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, would or would not be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment); and therefore would or would not necessitate the undertaking of SEA under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The Planning Authority has initiated the process of extending the duration of the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 under Section 11.D of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The duration of the current Plan would be extended for a maximum period of one year. This additional period is needed for completing the review of the existing development plan and for the preparation of a new development plan.

The criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive '*Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)*' are considered in an accompanying SEA Screening Report that has been prepared to inform this determination.

As identified in the SEA Screening Report:

- The Planning Authority has assessed the degree to which the existing, currently in force County Development Plan provides a framework for development that appropriately reflects the existing, relevant statutory national and regional provisions for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.
- Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 was varied in 2020 to bring it in line with the *National Planning Framework/Project Ireland 2040 (NPF)* and with the Northern and Western Regional Assembly's *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES)*.
- The Planning Authority considers that the current Development Plan, as varied, is consistent with the national and regional planning policies and objectives set out in the NPF and RSES.

- Furthermore:
 - Apart from the duration of the Development Plan, the proposal does not affect the provisions of the current Plan that are already in force;
 - The Development Plan sits within a hierarchy of plans, programmes and legislation which provide a number of high-level environmental protection and management policies and objectives, with which implementation of the Plan must comply;
 - The implementation of the Development Plan and the proposal to extend its duration are consistent with such plans, programmes and legislation; and
 - The proposed extension of the Plan's duration is for a maximum of one year.
- Potential adverse effects that would arise from the existing Plan in combination with the wider planning framework and the extension of duration are present already and were envisaged and mitigated by the original SEA of the existing Plan. The presence of these effects will be extended by a further year.

Any future development under the extended Plan would have to be subject to the various provisions of the existing Plan that relate to sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment. Considering these provisions, any residual adverse environmental effects occurring would not be significant.

- Positive effects that would arise from the existing Plan in combination with the wider planning framework and the extension of duration are present already, were envisaged by the original SEA of the existing Plan and would continue to occur. In this way, the extended Plan would further contribute towards the environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development that is already provided for by the current Plan. The presence of these positive effects will be extended by a further year.
- Taking into account all of the above, the proposal to extend the duration of the current CDP would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.

The Planning Authority has carefully considered the information referred to above, agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report".

It is hereby determined that Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the proposal to extend the duration of the current Sligo County Development Plan.

Signed: 

Date: 3rd Feb 2023

Dorothy Clarke

Director of Services

Planning, Community and Economic Development, Arts & Culture