

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT AND DETERMINATION

FOR THE DRAFT COUNTY LOUTH NOISE ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

for: Louth County Council

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APRIL 2018

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Draft County Louth Noise Action Plan 2018-2023.

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or variation to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive¹ requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans and programmes. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on Draft Noise Action Plan. This report should be read in conjunction with the documents cited within, including the Draft Noise Action Plan.

1.2 Context for SEA Screening Requirement

The SEA Directive [Article 3 (2)] requires that SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- (a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, *transport*, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended, or
- (b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC *i.e. the Directive requires that SEA is undertaken where Stage 2 AA is being undertaken on plans, programmes etc.*

The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law by a number of Regulations² and there is various case law³ that relates to SEA requirements.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Guidance Note for Noise Action Planning (2009), as amended in 2018, advises that SEA of a Draft Noise Action Plan may be deemed as necessary.

The Noise Action Plan for County Louth will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. This framework includes existing legislation and plans relating to noise, land use and transport (including those identified under Section 1.4). As a result, SEA Screening must be undertaken on the Draft Noise Action Plan in order to establish whether the plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment and would necessitate full SEA.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

² European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011), and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

³ Including ECJ judgement on a Belgian Government order regarding wind farm development [*ECLI:EU:C:2016:816, Judgement of the Court (Second Chamber), 27 October 2016, Patrice D'Oultremont and Others v Région wallonne*], suggesting that "plans and programmes" referred to by the SEA Directive relate to any measures which establish, by defining rules and procedures for scrutiny applicable to the sector concerned, a significant body of criteria and detailed rules for the grant of administrative consent of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment.

1.3 Background to the Noise Action Plan

The Noise Action Plan for County Louth has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006). These Regulations give effect to the European Union Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC, relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise.

As there are no airports or railways above the respective threshold in County Louth, the Plan refers to road traffic noise only from routes which have more than 3 million vehicle passages. There are 18 roads/stretches thereof⁴ that are covered by the Plan.

Along these roads areas within certain noise contours (the 55dB(A) L_{den} or the 50dB(A) L_{night}) are identified as being 'near' the major road for the purposes of the Plan. Maps of these areas provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland are included within the Plan. The mapping indicates that an estimated population of between 2284 and 5504 have predicted noise levels above the onset levels for assessment of L_{den} and L_{night} respectively.

Louth County Council is the designated authority for these areas, for the purpose of the Noise Action Plan. The EPA is the designated national authority responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Environmental Noise Regulations. The EPA is required to provide advice and guidance to the relevant noise mapping bodies and action planning authorities and is responsible for reporting information to the European Commission. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is the designated noise mapping body acting on behalf of the action planning authorities for major roads where such roads are classified as national roads. Both the EPA and TII are being consulted in relation to the Action Plan.

1.4 Existing Requirements Already in Force

Existing requirements already in force that are taken into account by the screening exercise when considering cumulative effects and the degree of additionality that is provided for by the Noise Action Plan are identified in this section.

There are various measures already in force that provide for noise management. The Plan will further contribute towards these provisions. **At a national and regional level** these include:

- The Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992;
- Building Regulations;
- Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, 2007;
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009;
- Urban Design Manual: A best practice guide;
- Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, now Transport Infrastructure Ireland), which set out limits and mitigation measures for noise related to both the construction and traffic flow on new road schemes;
- The Roads Act 1993;
- IPPC/ Waste Licensing and associated Guidance Note for Noise: Licence Applications, NG4 Surveys and Assessments in relation to Scheduled Activities, containing suggested noise limits;
- Wind Energy Planning Guidelines;
- Quarry and Ancillary Activities;
- National Planning Framework;
- Economic Spatial Strategy; and
- Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035⁵.

⁴ Comprising of the M1 Motorway, five National primary Roads and twelve Regional Roads

⁵ The Transport Strategy for the GDA is informed by other plans relating to transport including Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009). The Strategy provides for sustainable mobility and includes various provisions that will facilitate avoidance and mitigation of potential effects relating to noise.

At County level, the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021, which was subject to full SEA, contains various measures that contribute towards the management of noise and protection of human health. These include:

- Policy ENV 6 - To implement the Louth County Council Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure; and
- Policy ENV 7 - To require that where new development is proposed within the limits of the noise maps for the designated sections of roads in the County, appropriate mitigation measures are undertaken so as to prevent harmful effects from environmental noise.

Other County Development Plan measures contributing towards the management of noise and the protection of human health include the following:

- The provision of a buffer zone up to 15m in width where industrial and other sensitive land uses adjoin, to ensure amenities of adjoining properties are not adversely affected by way of, inter alia, noise (Section 6.3.1);
- Requiring that noise emissions shall comply with the provisions of "Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006)" and the Louth County Council "Noise Action Plan 2013-2018" (Policy EDE 14);
- Specifically in relation to the M1 and the potential for development in close proximity to same, Policy TC 8 states that *"Development proposals of a residential or other nature within 100mts of either the M1 motorway or the N1/A1 national route will be restricted in all but exceptional circumstances*. Any development assessed under this policy will be subject to the provisions of Policy ENV 6 and ENV 7 of this Plan, the "Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities" 2012 and the costs of implementing and mitigation measures concerned should be borne by the developer. *Only where the proposed development is infill development and is located within an established building line."*
- Various provisions relating to sustainable mobility. Notwithstanding the fact that the county boasts an excellent road network, it also has a good network of local, regional and national bus routes in addition to a main line rail service. Sustainable transport modes are increasingly being promoted in the form of improved public transport services, improved cycling and walking facilities and infrastructure supporting the use of electric vehicles. The Plan seeks to promote alternative sustainable modes of transport and this is reflected in the settlement strategy whereby the majority of development is directed to the existing compact towns and other settlements. Cycling as an alternative mode of transport is encouraged and promoted which is evident in the various Plan provisions. In relation to public transport, the Plan includes various provisions committing the Council to seek to promote the enhancement of public transport and infrastructure in towns, villages and the rural areas.
- Various Plan provisions relating to the County's Landscape Character Assessment that identifies 9 Landscape Character Areas and is based on factors including, inter alia, levels of built environment, traffic, noise and artificial lighting. Also included are provisions relating to 2 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (by reason of unspoiled natural landscapes and spectacular scenic quality) and 6 Areas of High Scenic Quality (that whilst not possessing the exceptional natural beauty of areas of outstanding natural beauty, add to the stock of natural scenic landscapes).

At a local level, both the Dundalk and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (extended) and the Drogheda Development plan 2011-2017 (extended), both of which were subject to full SEA, are consistent with the County Development Plan provisions detailed above. In addition, each Plan contains more detailed provisions for the respective settlements of Dundalk and Environs⁶ and Drogheda⁷.

At development control level within the Council the following standard condition is generally applied to commercial and residential development over 5 units: *"The equivalent continuous sound level (L_{eq}) attributable to all on site operations associated with the development, outside of any inhabited house or building used for public assembly, in the vicinity of the site, shall not exceed 55dB(A) L_{eq} (30minutes) over the period 08:00 hours to 20:00 hours, Monday to Friday and 08:00 hours to 16:00 hours on Saturday; and shall not exceed 45dB(A) L_{eq} (30 minutes) at all other times. No pure tones or impulsive characteristics shall be audible outside of any inhabited house in the vicinity of the development."*

Noise reduction measures already in force or due to come into force within the County include the following:

- The completed M1 motorway/N1 dual carriageway through County Louth that has had a significant effect on traffic noise in the County, generally by diverting traffic from congested routes in heavily populated areas. This has resulted in a reduction in the net number of the population subjected to noise pollution.
- The potential for an increase in noise levels at some properties along the M1 motorway was mitigated by measures including the use of appropriate noise barriers.
- The Ardee bypass-N52 for which funding has been provided. The bypass will reduce the volume of traffic within the town of Ardee thus reducing the associated traffic noise levels. Work for this is due to commence in 2018. New residential development is restricted in the vicinity of the motorway. New one-off dwellings are not permitted within 100m of the curtilage of the motorway. The provision of a buffer zone of not less than 15m in width is required where industrial and other land use adjoin. These stipulations are included in the County Development Plan.

The potential noise impact of development is managed through **the Planning and Licensing processes**, including through **Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments** and application of relevant **Guidance relating to noise**.

⁶ These include:

1. Provide a sustainable transportation system for Dundalk and Environs to secure the successful integration of land use and for the convenience of the public. (SO5)
2. Adopt a strategic approach to land use and transportation planning by prioritising development in areas where public transport facilities are available or can economically be provided and by encouraging higher density development in such areas. (TR3)
3. Require applicants for development likely to generate 500 plus vehicle trips per day to submit a mobility management plan. (TR6)
4. It is the policy of the council in co-operation with other agencies, bodies and developers, to implement an integrated pedestrian footpath and cycle path network throughout the plan area. (TR13)
5. Applications for economic development proposals will be assessed having regard to the following:
 - Noise impact assessment and the provision of mitigation measures, where appropriate; and
 - Provision of a buffer zone of up to 15m at the interface of the development and any adjoining areas.

⁷ These include:

1. Provide a sustainable transportation system for Drogheda and its environs to secure the successful integration of land use and for the convenience of the public. (SO5)
2. Require applicants for any development likely to generate 500 plus vehicle trips per day to submit a Mobility Management plan. (TR6)
3. Adopt a strategic approach to land use and transportation planning by prioritising development in areas where public transport facilities are available or can economically be provided and by encouraging higher density development in such areas. (TR7)
4. It is the policy of the council in co-operation with other agencies, bodies and developers, to implement an integrated pedestrian footpath and cycle path network throughout the plan area.

1.5 Consultations

As part of the screening process, environmental authorities⁸ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to whether or not implementation of the Draft County Louth Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 would be likely to have significant effects on the environment could be made to the Council (a period of four weeks was allowed for reply). In order to help facilitate the environmental authorities' response to this notice, an earlier, Draft version of this SEA Screening Report accompanied the notice.

One submission was received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that was considered in the finalisation of this report and in the finalisation of the Draft Noise Action Plan for public display. The issues raised by the EPA and the responses to these issues are identified on Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Submission text	Response
<p>SEA Determination We note your proposed determination with regards to the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Draft County Louth Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (the Plan), as set out in the Draft SEA Screening Report.</p>	Noted.
<p>General Comments on the Plan The link between noise and health/wellbeing is now well recognised. According to the World Health Organisation "<i>Environmental noise leads to a disease burden that is second in magnitude only to that from air pollution, among environmental factors in Europe</i>".</p> <p>In recognition that noise is now firmly on the national agenda, the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040 (DHPLG, 2017) includes Policy Objective 65 to: "<i>Promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life and support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations through national planning guidance and Noise Action Plans</i>".</p> <p>The Plan will play a key role in managing environmental noise by planned measures, such as land-use planning, systems engineering for traffic, traffic planning, abatement by sound-insulation measures, and control of noise sources.</p> <p>We welcome that the EPA Guidance Note for Noise Action Planning (EPA, 2009 and as amended in 2018) has been considered in preparing the Plan.</p>	
<p><i>Relationship with other plans and programmes</i> The Plan should acknowledge and support the need for consistency between the Plan and with the relevant policies and objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region, under preparation.</p>	Text acknowledging this has been integrated into Sections 2 and 9.6 of the Draft Action Plan ⁹ .
<p>In finalising the Plan, there is merit in considering the national / regional transport initiatives that may arise from implementation of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region.</p>	Text has been integrated into Section 2.9 of the Draft Action Plan considering this issue ¹⁰ .

⁸ The following environmental authorities are being notified: the Environmental Protection Agency; the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment; and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

⁹ This text integrated at Sections 2 and 9.6 of the Action Plan is as follows: *All proposals for development/works under the Action Plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) and policy documents such as the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial, the Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region, Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021, the Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended), the Drogheda Development plan 2011-2017 (extended).*

¹⁰ This text integrated at Section 2.9 of the Action Plan is as follows: *National and regional transport initiatives that may arise from implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midlands Region (currently in preparation, see Section 2.10 below) have the potential to result in: adverse health effects that will need to be mitigated; and/or beneficial effects with regard to preserving environmental noise quality. Such issues will be considered during the implementation of the NPF and RSES, including as part of the environmental assessments, where required, for individual transport initiatives.*

Submission text	Response
<p>We welcome the intention to provide sustainable transportation systems for Dundalk & Environs and Drogheda & Environs. The need to encourage and support a modal shift from private fossil fuel based vehicles to public transport, non-fossil fuel based private vehicles, such as electric vehicles, and walking / cycling should be highlighted and supported. There is merit in establishing a 'Transport Strategy for County Louth' to provide for a coordinated means of considering, assessing and developing sustainable transport options, which can be implemented within the various settlements within the County as appropriate.</p>	<p>Noted. Sustainable mobility is currently addressed through land use planning by Louth County Council and by sectoral transport plans/strategies etc. prepared by others. Louth County Council will continue to take into account sectoral transport plans/strategies etc. when undertaking designated functions relating to land use planning and transport.</p>
<p><i>Implementing the Plan</i> Upon adoption of the Plan, there is merit in amending the existing County Development Plan to incorporate and implement the latest version of the Plan and associated commitments. The requirements of the SEA Directive should be considered as part of this process.</p>	<p>Any variation to the existing County Development Plan on foot of adopting the Action Plan will be subject to SEA and AA screening (and full assessments if necessary) in compliance with relevant legislation.</p>
<p>Specific Comments on the Draft SEA Screening Report The SEA Screening Report provides a useful overview of the existing requirements in force within the planning hierarchy that provide for noise management at national, regional, county and local level.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>In addition to the assessment carried out in accordance with Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, we also note that the relevant parts of the Plan have been assessed against the SEA Environmental Report 'Strategic Environmental Objectives' for the Louth County Development Plan, as set out in Table 2.3 Screening Analysis relevant parts of the Noise Action Plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Future Modifications to the Draft Plan Where changes to the Plan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in SEA Regulations Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).</p>	<p>Where changes to the Plan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these will be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in SEA Regulations Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).</p>
<p>Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011), notice should also be given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment • Where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. 	<p>Notice has also been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA screening process. These authorities will be notified again once a determination is made as to whether or not SEA is required.</p>

Section 2 SEA Screening

2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether the provisions of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 *'Criteria for determining whether a Plan or Programme (or Modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the Environment'* of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended, (see Section 2.3).

2.2 SEA Screening Analysis

The analysis of the relevant parts of the Noise Action Plan is undertaken with reference to the main interactions with Strategic Environmental Objectives¹¹ (SEOs). SEOs are taken from the Lough County Development Plan 2015-2021 SEA and are detailed in full at Table 2.1. The range of interactions identified with symbols are detailed on Table 2.2.

Using the SEO codes (Table 2.1) and interaction symbols (Table 2.2), Table 2.3 examines whether each relevant part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.3 is supplemented by Table 2.4 which identifies measures from land use plans in force in County Louth that all proposals under the Action Plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with.

Effects considered encompass the full range of effects¹².

The examination takes account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 *'Criteria for determining whether a Plan or Programme (or Modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the Environment'* of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended (see Section 2.3).

¹¹ Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Draft Plan can be considered in order to help identify whether any provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

¹² These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	SEO
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1	Conserve protected habitats and species.
	B2	Protect Natura 2000 sites in the planning process using the Habitats Directive Article 6 assessment methodology.
	B3	Conserve the diversity of habitats and species in non-designated sites.
Population and Human Health	P1	Facilitate a high level of living for County Louth's population by ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments and sustainable travel patterns.
	P2	Protect human health by adhering to the County Emergency Plan.
Soil	S1	Maximise the sustainable reuse of brownfield sites and maximise the use of the existing built environment.
Water		Prevent any deterioration in the status of any water and to achieve at least "good status" in all waters by 2015.
	SW1	Surface Water
	GW1	Ground water
	DW1	Drinking Water
	WS1	Water Supply
Material Assets	F1	Flooding
		Maximise the use of existing infrastructure and plan for future needs
	MA1	Transportation
	MA2	Waste Management
Air and Climatic Factors	MA3	Wastewater infrastructure
	AC1	Minimise greenhouse gas emissions in line with the National standards and targets.
Cultural Heritage	AC2	Improve ambient air quality.
	CH1	Promote best practice in archaeology and heritage conservation and management.
Landscape	L1	Designate and protect views and prospects within the study area as detailed in the main body of the Plan.

Table 2.2 Main Interactions and associated Symbols

Symbol	Main Interactions Identified
+	Potential beneficial environmental effects are present already and would be further contributed towards.
-	Potentially adverse environmental effects are present already, would be further contributed towards and would be mitigated by compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) ¹³ .
+/-	Potential environmental effects either: are present already and would be further contributed towards; or are potentially adverse and would be mitigated so as not to be significant by compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) ¹⁴ .
0	No significant interaction.

¹³ Including the measures identified on Table 2.4.¹⁴ Including the measures identified on Table 2.4.

Table 2.3 Screening Analysis relevant parts of Noise Action Plan

No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	SEO Codes (see Table 2.1) for Main Interactions																SEA Screening Comments		
		B 1	B 2	B 3	P 1	P 2	S1	SW 1	GW 1	DW 1	WS 1	F1	MA 1	MA 2	MA 3	AC 1	AC 2		CH 1	L 1
1	<p>Aims</p> <p>The Noise Action Plan has been drawn up with the twin aims of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the future noise climate; and Improving the existing noise climate where necessary. <p>All properties identified from the strategic noise maps will be assessed using a noise scoring matrix. Following this, further investigations will be undertaken at the relevant areas.</p> <p>All proposals for development/works under the Action Plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) such as the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021, the Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended) and the Drogheda Development plan 2011-2017 (extended).</p>	-	-	-	+	0	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	+	-	0	0	+	-	-	<p>The Noise Action Plan for County Louth will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. As a result, SEA Screening must be undertaken on the Draft Noise Action Plan in order to establish whether the plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment and would necessitate full SEA.</p> <p>By both protecting the future noise climate and improving the existing noise climate, where necessary, the Noise Action Plan will contribute towards the protection of human health and sustainable development. This protection is already contributed towards by the detailed framework of existing legislation and plans relating to noise, land use and transport (including those identified under Section 1.4). The Noise Action Plan will be one relatively minor part of this extensive framework and provides for limited additionality with respect to existing provisions relating to noise avoidance and management. Potential beneficial environmental effects arising are present already and would be further contributed towards.</p> <p>Potentially adverse environmental effects arising from any development or works, such as those relating to noise abatement measures, alone or in combination with other plans or projects: are present already through the detailed framework of existing legislation, plans and processes relating to noise, land use and transport (including those identified under Section 1.4), would be further contributed towards by the Action Plan and would be mitigated by compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s)¹⁵. The Noise Action Plan requires that all proposals for development/works under the Action Plan demonstrate compliance with these measures that already have effect. These provisions will mitigate any potential adverse environmental conflicts (such as those related to ecology, water, cultural heritage or the landscape) arising from any development or works (such as those related to noise abatement measures such as noise barriers or changing road surfaces).</p> <p>Considering the above, it is not determined that this part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.</p>

¹⁵ Including the measures identified on Table 2.4.
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No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	SEO Codes (see Table 2.1) for Main Interactions																	SEA Screening Comments	
		B 1	B 2	B 3	P 1	P 2	S1	SW 1	GW 1	DW 1	WS 1	F1	MA 1	MA 2	MA 3	AC 1	AC 2	CH 1		L 1
2	<p>Key Actions</p> <p>1. The potential noise impact of future development will be adequately managed through the Planning and Licensing processes, including through existing provision for Environmental Impact Assessments. Implementation of existing Regulations will continue and the County Development Plan will take cognisance of the Noise Action Plan.</p> <p>2. The potential noise impact from increased traffic on major roads will be addressed by reviewing (and revising, if necessary) the Noise Action Plan every 5 years, or sooner where a material change in environmental noise in the area occurs.</p> <p>3. Carry out, following consultation with the EPA, a review of the landscape assessment and characterisation process in order to identify a process to delimit Quiet areas in the open country that will be complementary to the findings of the County Louth Landscape Character Assessment Study. Areas for delimiting will be identified and a proposal will be submitted to the EPA and Minister for approval.</p> <p>4. The accuracy of predicted noise levels will be confirmed and potential noise mitigation measures identified on a priority basis. Confirmation of maps will consist of visual inspection and where appropriate, noise analysis. A cost-benefit analyses on potential actions will be carried out and a list of beneficial, achievable actions for noise mitigation drawn up.</p> <p>5. A budget will be identified with each relevant authority and a programme of works agreed and implemented. As with all proposed works, the delivery of any proposed actions will be contingent on funding being available.</p>	-	-	-	+	0	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	+	-	0	0	+	-	-	<p>Action 1 identifies existing processes in force within the County. Any Variation to the County Development Plan to take cognisance of the Noise Action Plan would have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes, as relevant. Considering the above, it is not determined that this part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment. See also SEA Screening Comments under No. 1 above.</p> <p>Action 2 sets out a timeframe for the Action Plan of 5 years, or sooner where a material change in environmental noise in the area occurs. Reviewing and revising the Noise Action Plan would have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes, as relevant. Considering the above, it is not determined that this part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment. See also SEA Screening Comments under No. 1 above.</p> <p>Action 3 provides for a review of the landscape and characterisation process to identify quiet areas in the open country. A proposal will be submitted to, among others, the EPA for approval. Such a proposal may have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes, if it involved a Variation to the County Development Plan including landscape provisions, for example. Considering all of the above, it is not determined that this part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment. See also SEA Screening Comments under No. 1 above.</p> <p>Action 4 relates to confirming noise maps, the identification of potential noise mitigation actions, a cost benefit analysis of these and the preparation of a list of beneficial, achievable actions for noise mitigation. These actions would be likely to result in the interactions described under SEA Screening Comments at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is not determined that this part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Action 5 involves the identification of a budget and the implementation of the actions for noise mitigation. These actions would be likely to result in the interactions described under SEA Screening Comments at No. 1 above. Such a programme would have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes including if, for example, it involved a Variation to the County Development Plan or an amendment to the Action Plan. Considering all of the above, it is not determined that this part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.</p>

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No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	SEO Codes (see Table 2.1) for Main Interactions																	SEA Screening Comments	
		B 1	B 2	B 3	P 1	P 2	S1	SW 1	GW 1	DW 1	WS 1	F1	MA 1	MA 2	MA 3	AC 1	AC 2	CH 1		L 1
3	<p>Possible Mitigation Measures: Guidance</p> <p>County-wide guidance will be issued in the future on noise exposure levels for proposed development.</p> <p>Where new residential development or other noise sensitive development is proposed in an area with an existing climate of environmental noise, the Plan advises that UK Guidelines¹⁶ shall apply.</p> <p>Where new, or altered, sources of noise are introduced to existing residential or other noise sensitive locations, there are currently a number of guidance documents that already cover these situations. Where existing guidance does not cover the situation under consideration, the Plan advises that UK Guidance^{17,18,19} shall apply.</p>	-	-	-	+	0	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	+	-	0	0	+	-	-	The implementation of the cited guidance would result in the interactions described under SEA Screening Comments at No. 1 above. The issuing of new guidance may have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes. Considering all of the above, it is not determined that this part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.
4	<p>Possible Mitigation Measures: Abatement Measures</p> <p>The Plan specifies various abatement measures under four topics as detailed below:</p> <p>Combating Road Traffic Noise To create an effective overall plan for the reduction of road traffic noise, individual measures should be consolidated into a single set of measures. Examples of this consolidated approach include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic avoidance plans that combine walking, cycling and public transport. Investment in dedicated Cycle Routes. Speed reduction plans involving partial access zones, smoothing traffic flows and reducing driving speeds. Traffic flow relocation by diverting traffic along non-residential, less sensitive routes. Mitigation of noise black spots by optimising traffic signals and traffic management. Traffic congestion management through management and optimisation of the availability of parking spaces. Plans to improve road surfaces and maintenance. <p>Screening Noise Noise barriers can be an effective method of reducing the noise of traffic. Roadside noise barriers may be only acceptable for roadways, where pedestrians do not need</p>	-	-	-	+	0	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	+	-	0	0	+	-	-	The implementation of these measures would result in the interactions described under SEA Screening Comments at No. 1 above. The issuing of new guidance may have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes. Considering all of the above, it is not determined that this part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.

¹⁶ The Scottish Office, PAN 1/2011: March 2011 Planning Advice Note (PAN) provides advice on the role of the planning system in helping to prevent and limit the adverse effects of noise

¹⁷ The Scottish Office, PAN 1/2011: March 2011 Planning Advice Note (PAN) provides advice on the role of the planning system in helping to prevent and limit the adverse effects of noise

¹⁸ BS 4142:2014 Method for Rating Industrial and Commercial Sound, British Standards Institution (BSI), London 2014

¹⁹ ProPG Planning and Noise Guidance note (May 2017)

SEA Screening Report and Determination for Draft County Louth Noise Action Plan 2018-2023

No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	SEO Codes (see Table 2.1) for Main Interactions																SEA Screening Comments		
		B 1	B 2	B 3	P 1	P 2	S1	SW 1	GW 1	DW 1	WS 1	F1	MA 1	MA 2	MA 3	AC 1	AC 2		CH 1	L 1
	<p>to cross. It would be unpractical to place noise barriers along streets, which are crossed by pedestrians along their entire lengths. However they could be erected at the boundaries of private properties or public institutions to protect noise sensitive buildings or areas (e.g. hospitals, schools and public parks).</p> <p>Acoustic Glazing Soundproofing with dual or triple glazing or equivalent products are a possibility for further protection against noise, if no other measures can be applied or if the effect of other measures is insufficient. However, windows must be kept closed to be effective. Assisted ventilation is therefore required to avoid poor ventilation and the associated problems of condensation and dampness. Many people have trouble adjusting to this restriction on their normal behaviour. Also, this form of ventilation is not commonly found in the current or new housing stock.</p> <p>Changing road surfaces Renewing road surfaces or replacing rough paving with smooth asphalt is another action that can be taken to reduce sound levels and noise impact. Measures need to be taken to ensure that vehicle speeds do not increase following the resurfacing of the road. Any increase in speed will lead to an increase in noise and negate possible gains due to the smoother road surface.</p> <p>In the case of noise-reducing road surfaces, Stone Mastic Asphalt or Porous Asphalt can reduce traffic generated noise.</p>																			

Table 2.4 Requirements of relevant land use plans

Environmental Component ²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental components of Water and Landscape.</p> <p>Measures from the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021</p> <p>HER 2 To promote and implement the objectives of the Draft Louth Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2018 and any Louth Biodiversity Action Plan subsequently adopted during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>HER 3 To ensure that all proposed developments comply with the DECLG "Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities 2010"</p> <p>HER 4 The Local Authority will ensure that a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) on all plans and projects and or Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (NIS/NIR) where appropriate, is undertaken to make a determination. Natura 2000 sites located outside of the County but within 15 km of the proposed development site should also be included in such screenings. All screening assessments submitted to the planning authority shall include a written statement indicating control methods proposed to prevent the spread of invasive species onto a Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>HER 5 Any plans or projects that would have a significant adverse impact (either individually or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site will not be permitted.</p> <p>HER 6 To co-operate with the Regional Planning Authority and adjoining local authorities, public agencies and community interests to protect regionally significant heritage assets, environmental quality and to identify threats to existing environmental quality in a transboundary context throughout the region.</p> <p>HER 7 To resist any development that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats or a disturbance of species in the pNHA.</p> <p>HER 13 To protect trees and woodlands of special amenity value and to review and where appropriate make a Tree Preservation Order(s), in relation to trees of special amenity value (including those identified as Possible Tree Preservation Orders in the Level 3 Settlements) or any other tree(s) of amenity value where the planning authority considers such trees to be at risk.</p> <p>HER 14 To investigate the feasibility of carrying out a survey of all trees of special amenity value within the county.</p> <p>HER 15 To require an assessment of the implications of any proposed development on significant trees and hedgerows and streams located on lands that are being considered for development. Survey and protection procedures detailed in Appendix 16 will be required by the council.</p> <p>HER 16 Where in exceptional circumstances, trees and or hedgerows are required to be removed in order to facilitate development, there shall be a requirement that each tree felled is replaced at a ratio of 10:1 and each hedgerow removed is to be replaced with native species where feasible.</p> <p>HER 17 To increase native tree coverage in the County by promoting the planting of suitable trees along public roads, residential streets, parks and other areas of open space.</p> <p>HER 18 To promote such initiatives as private and community driven tree planting schemes.</p> <p>HER 19 To investigate during the lifetime of the Plan the addition of Trees & Woodlands of Special Amenity Value and where appropriate to include in Table 5.8 and Map 5.10 Green Infrastructure Policies²¹</p> <p>ENV 27 Development sites must be investigated for the presence of invasive alien species, which if present must be treated and/or eradicated in accordance with best practice.</p> <p>Measures from the Drogheda Development Plan 2011-2017 (extended)</p> <p>Policy CH 1 Support the implementation of the County Heritage Plan which aims to 'coordinate the conservation, management and sympathetic development of the county's heritage and to encourage community pride in and responsibility for, the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Policy CH 2 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Louth 2008-2012 and support the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Drogheda 2009</p> <p>Policy CH 3 Protect the designated Boyne Estuary SAC and SPA and the River Boyne and Blackwater SAC from any adverse impacts of development and to require appropriate assessment of any development likely to have an impact on such sites.</p>

²⁰ Measures are arrayed by environmental component and measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example

²¹ Including HER 65 To support the green infrastructure network of County Louth. To implement the green infrastructure network in any assessment of development proposals to prevent adverse impact on the ecological connectivity of County Louth's core areas. HER 66 To require the use of the green infrastructure network as a supplementary guide for the protection and conservation of the Natura 2000 sites in County Louth. HER 68 To support the existing features of interest in the Level 3 Settlements of County Louth and promote and facilitate any areas identified for green infrastructure enhancement. HER 69 A minimum of 20m wide riparian corridor shall be kept free from development (except for pathways) along the side of each bank of the river for the purposes of habitat protection, maintenance access requirements, flood alleviation and recreational requirements. Any proposed path should be located a minimum of 6m from the top of the river edge. All proposed coastal walkways will be required to comply with the Habitats, EIA and SEA Directives. HER 70 Identified stone walls shall be incorporated into the overall development proposals. Where it is not feasible to retain the existing walls at the existing location, proposals submitted shall illustrate the removal and rebuild of the wall at a separate location. HER 71 To provide a detailed green infrastructure network for Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee and Dunleer integrated into the local area plan for each area. HER 72 To require future development proposals to integrate into the overall design any important biodiversity features including those listed in Table 16 (Green Infrastructure Strategy, Appendix 14, Volume 2(b)) into the overall design. HER 73 To require development proposals to include native planting schemes in landscaped areas and open spaces. HER 74 To require the integration of Green Infrastructure in all areas of public space. HER 75 To require the integration of climate change mitigation measures in any future spatial plans and climate change adaptation measures in proposed developments

Environmental Component ²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>Policy CH 4 Ensure screening for appropriate assessment and, where required, full Appropriate Assessment is carried out for any plan or project, which individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant direct or indirect impact on any Natura 2000 site or sites.</p> <p>Policy CH 5 Ensure planning applications for proposed developments likely to have significant direct or indirect impacts on any Natura 2000 site or sites is accompanied by a Statement for Appropriate Assessment prepared in accordance with the Guidance issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, December 2009). Strictly protect areas designated or proposed to be designated area plans or amendment/variation to it proposed under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) must be screened for any potential impact on areas designated as Natura 2000 sites [normally called Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs)].</p> <p>Policy CH 6 Identify, protect and enhance ecological corridors based upon existing natural features. Implement recommendations contained within the Drogheda Biodiversity Action Plan 2008. Demonstrate and inform the public of the value of and need to protect and enhance bio diversity in Drogheda including through the provision of interpretation boards and public events. Link and integrate ecological corridors with areas of public open space. Where feasible and appropriate outside the core town area, buffer zones between Natura 2000 sites and surrounding development may be established.</p> <p>Policy CH 8 Seek the protection of important trees and groups of trees within the Plan area and require that designers take into consideration the protection of trees in the design of new developments. Require replacement trees at a ratio of 4:1 where the removal of trees is required in order to facilitate development.</p> <p>Policy RA 6 Identify and protect and enhance ecological corridors, based upon existing natural and manmade features. Link and integrate ecological corridors with areas of public open space.</p> <p>Policy RA 7 To investigate the potential of facilitating non-invasive access to the River Boyne utilising, where feasible buffer zones between Natura 2000 sites and surrounding development. Any proposals which might impinge upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site shall ensure that a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment is carried out. Where required, full Appropriate Assessment shall be carried out for any plan or project which, individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant direct or indirect impact on any Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Policy TC 11 It is the objective of the Borough Council to have a continuous uninterrupted walkway on both sides of the river which links existing residential areas and the Town Centre. The design of the walkway including use of materials, finishes etc. shall be agreed with Drogheda Borough Council. Any walkway proposals which might impinge upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site must ensure that a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment is carried out. Where required, full Appropriate Assessment must be carried out for any plan or project which, individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant direct or indirect impact on any Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended)</p> <p>Policy CH1 Support the implementation of the County Heritage Plan which aims to coordinate the conservation, management and sympathetic development of the county's heritage and to encourage community pride in, and responsibility for, the implementation of the plan.</p> <p>Policy CH2 Support the implementation and recommendations of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Louth 2008 – 2012. Any proposal for development on lands which contain a natural wetland area will be required to carry out an ecological survey to determine the impact of the development on the wetland habitat and to include mitigation measures to protect flora and fauna therein.</p> <p>Policy CH3 Protect the designated SAC, SPA and pNHA in Dundalk Bay from any adverse impacts of development and to require Appropriate Assessment of any development likely to have an impact on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites</p> <p>Policy CH4 Protect important natural and man-made features, landscape and strategic views within the plan area and require designers to submit a visual impact assessment to take into consideration the protection of landscapes and views in the design of new developments.</p> <p>Policy CH5 Seek the protection of important trees and groups of trees within the plan area and require that designers take into considerations the protection of trees in the design of new developments. Require replacement trees at a ratio of 4:1, and of native species, where the removal of trees is required in order to facilitate the development. Make Tree Preservation Orders for the 64 trees and groups of trees identified in appendix 6.</p>
Population and Human Health	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental components of Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Measures from the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021</p> <p>ENV 6 To implement the Louth County Council Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure.</p> <p>ENV 7 To require that where new development is proposed within the limits of the noise maps for the designated sections of roads in the County, appropriate mitigation measures are undertaken so as to prevent harmful effects from environmental noise.</p> <p>ENV 8 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>ENV 9 Details of on-site lighting associated with all future development shall be submitted to and agreed with the planning authority</p> <p>ENV 24 To comply with the SEVESO II Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents.</p> <p>ENV 25 To ensure that land use policies take account of the need to maintain appropriate distance between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and of particular natural sensitivity or interest.</p>

Environmental Component ²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>ENV 26 To have regard to the advice of the HSA when proposals for a new SEVESO site, modifications to an existing SEVESO site or when proposals for development within the consultation zone of a SEVESO site are being considered (including and as detailed in Table 8.2)</p> <p>Measures from the Drogheda Development Plan 2011-2017 (extended) Policy EN 7 Implement the Louth Local Authorities Noise Action Plan. Policy EN 8 New developments shall comply with the requirements of the Guidance Document, Advice Note 2, on Environment Noise Exposure Criteria Policy EN 12 Require site specific quantitative risk assessment based on the conceptual site model in relation to contaminated sites. The assessment should define all known aspects of the site that could impinge upon or affect the contaminant/ pathway/ receptor scenario. Risk assessment must be developed by suitably competent persons having regard to international best practice and published EPA guidance documents including the Environmental Liabilities Directive.</p> <p>Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended) Policy EN 13 Require site specific quantitative risk assessment based on the conceptual site model in relation to contaminated sites. The assessment should define all known aspects of the site that could impinge upon or affect the contaminant/ pathway/ receptor scenario. Risk assessment must be developed by suitably competent persons having regard to international best practice and published EPA guidance documents Policy EN 7 Implement European, national and regional policy in relation to the protection of the environment and the pursuance of sustainable development principles in respect of the councils' policies and procedures. Pursue the precautionary and the polluter pays principles in relation to permitted development in the plan area. Promote and maintain the highest achievable standards of air, noise and water quality in the plan area. Policy EN 8 Implement the Louth Local Authorities Noise Action Plan in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise.</p>
Soil	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental component of Population and Human Health and Water.</p> <p>Measures from the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 HER 8 To promote the designation of qualifying sites of geological interest listed in Table 5.4 as Natural Heritage Areas and the remaining sites as County Geological Sites. HER 9 To protect and promote awareness, where appropriate, of areas of geological interest, including the provision of access and interpretation where desirable and feasible. ENV 28 To implement the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 in respect of derelict and obsolete areas and to implement the provisions of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 in respect of dangerous structures and places.</p> <p>Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended) Policy EN 13 Require site specific quantitative risk assessment based on the conceptual site model in relation to contaminated sites. The assessment should define all known aspects of the site that could impinge upon or affect the contaminant/ pathway/ receptor scenario. Risk assessment must be developed by suitably competent persons having regard to international best practice and published EPA guidance documents. Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Energy Efficiency in Building, 11. Construction Waste, Construction-related waste accounts for about one-third of total land filled waste in Ireland. Therefore, developers and builders should minimise construction waste generated in development projects. During the construction process, measures should be implemented to minimise soil removal (as part of the scheme design process), properly manage construction waste and encourage off-site prefabrication where feasible.</p>
Water	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental components of Population and Human Health, Soil, Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna.</p> <p>Measures from the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 Green Infrastructure Policies (detailed at Environmental Component of "Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna" above). WS 10 To ensure that the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) measures in all developments is mandatory. An integrated approach to drainage will be adopted and all development proposals shall be accompanied by a comprehensive SuDS assessment which will address run-off quantity, run-off quality and impacts on habitat and water quality. Best practice guidance is available from the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study and development proposals will be required to meet with design criteria (adjusted to reflect local conditions) and material designs therein. WS 11 To ensure that all discharges shall be attenuated to green field levels whereby both flow rate and volume of discharge of runoff from developments to receiving waters shall mimic in so far as possible pre-development levels. WS 12 To ensure that when Master Plans are being prepared that sustainable drainage will be adequately addressed. Master plans will identify appropriate aerial features for example ponds and basins based within the overall plan area that can provide both amenity and surface water management facilities for the full area rather than a large collection of small development based units. WS 13 To ensure that all new development shall incorporate appropriate measures to protect existing water bodies through appropriate treatment of runoff. In particular discharges from car parks shall be appropriately treated so as to remove pollutant materials. WS 14 To ensure that all new developments shall be provided with separated drainage systems. ENV 10 To protect the good status classification of identified bathing water areas within County Louth.</p>

Environmental Component ²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>ENV 11 To implement the recommendations contained in the River Basin District Management Plans for the Neagh Bann and the Eastern River Basin Districts, in so far as they relate to County Louth or any subsequent RBDMPs subsequently adopted during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>ENV 12 To increase awareness through educational and other means so as to inform the public of the need and importance of maintaining the highest possible water quality standards.</p> <p>ENV 13 To implement the recommendations contained in any Groundwater Protection Scheme prepared under EU Ground Water Directives and to protect ground water resources in County Louth nutrient sensitive areas and the designated shellfish growing areas within Carlingford Lough and Dundalk Bay.</p> <p>ENV 14 To protect fisheries in all rivers in the County, where appropriate, including relevant species as contained in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>ENV 15 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>ENV 16 To require that collection and storage facilities for farm animal slurry are provided in accordance with the requirements of the Nitrate Directive.</p> <p>ENV 31 Development plans and local area plans should be consistent with the planning system and Flood Risk Management Guidelines – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, and adopt strategic, integrated, sustainable and proactive approach to catchment management to avoid and reduce flood risk within the region, managing the risk from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tidal effects around estuaries and along the coast including the implications of the latest predictions for sea level rise; • fluvial flooding along river corridors and other significant watercourses resulting from catchments within and beyond the Region and other sources of flooding; and • pluvial flooding resulting from surface water runoff and capacity constraints in surface water drainage systems. <p>ENV 32 Where new or upgraded flood/coastal defences are shown to be essential to protect existing development, all such proposals shall be subject to the Floods and Habitats Directive and all other statutory requirements;</p> <p>ENV 33 New development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding. However, it is recognised and acknowledged that the key urban settlements are at risk from coastal and fluvial flooding, but their continued growth and expansion can be facilitated through the careful expansion of the urban core and the implementation of appropriate land uses in areas at risk. New developments within a flood plain, will not only be at risk of flooding, but can add cumulatively to the risk of flooding elsewhere, and serve to undermine the flood plain's natural function of accommodating and attenuating flood flows. Accordingly, to minimise flood risk and help maintain their natural function it is essential to avoid development within flood plains wherever possible. However, where justification to permit development can be provided on sustainability and planning grounds, cognisance must be taken of outputs of CFRAM Studies in the provision comprehensive flood protection and management measures; which should be fully implemented in conjunction with any development in flood risk areas. Appropriate land uses should also be incorporated into those areas at risk.</p> <p>ENV 34 County development plans and local area plans shall include a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Existing and proposed zoning of lands for development in areas at risk of flooding should follow the sequential approach and justification test set out in the DECLG Guidance on Flood Risk Management.</p> <p>A flood plain may be defined as flood zone B, which defines the extent of a flood event with a 0.1% annual probability of exceedance as set out in the DECLG Flood Risk Management Guidelines, 2009.</p> <p>ENV 35 SUDS based drainage plans should be prepared in conjunction with local area plans to optimise flood/runoff management potential of the areas. Reducing the impact of existing and future development on flood risk can be achieved by adequately controlling runoff from new developments and associated areas, through employing Sustainable Drainage Systems, such that development impact is neutral or positive on flooding.</p> <p>ENV 36 Through flood plain protection and SUDS, local authorities should incorporate improvements in biodiversity and amenity for existing and proposed developments. Issues such as coastal squeeze and compensatory measures to mitigate impact of climate change on existing habitat sites should be considered. Appropriate SUDS planning will also address both water quality and amenity dimensions.</p> <p>ENV 37 Direct strategically significant growth to low risk areas. Strategically significant projects and infrastructure should, as a rule, be located in low risk areas.</p> <p>ENV 38 An evidence based approach should be adopted to the application of sequential approach and justification test in zoning of flood susceptible lands for development. This should be transparent and use objective criteria appropriate to proposed zoning transparency and objective criteria will ensure that zoning process optimizes economic, social and environmental value.</p> <p>ENV 39 Founded on the precautionary approach to dealing with flood risk, measures such as flood compensation storage works or new hard-engineered flood defences alone, will not be acceptable as justification for development in a flood plain. The provision of compensation storage or hard defences alone shall not be considered sufficient justification to permit a development. Such measures will only be considered as part of a proposal if development/zoning is warranted by justification test on planning and sustainability grounds in the first instance, and no alternative site is available</p> <p>ENV 40 Recognising the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes shall be adopted. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands. It should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.</p> <p>Measures from the Drogheda Development Plan 2011-2017 (extended)</p> <p>Policy EN 1 Ensure the provision of a high quality water and wastewater infrastructure to support both existing and future developments within Drogheda Borough consistent with sustainability principles and the availability of financial resources whilst prioritising those areas where serious deficiencies are in evidence or where further sustainable development can be reasonably anticipated. Require that developers submit water services solutions consistent with sustainable urban drainage systems (S.U.D.S.) designs for the management of surface water from new developments. Ensure that the provision and operation of water and wastewater treatment facilities is undertaken in accordance with EU policies and directives, relevant national</p>

Environmental Component²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>legislation and national / regional policies. Ensure that satisfactory arrangements with the capacity necessary to service proposed developments are in place prior to any proposals for developments being considered. The Council, where deemed appropriate, may require developers to provide water services or enter into a binding legal agreement to supply them either wholly by themselves or in partnership with other developers and/or the Council, prior to granting of permission and subject to conditions as set down by the Council. Require developers to provide water services infrastructure in excess of that which they require, in the interests of integrated, long-term development of the area where appropriate. Implement the Water Services Strategic Plan when completed. Include the measures identified in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan in so far as they relate to Drogheda to mitigate the impacts of water abstraction and discharges of treated effluent from wastewater plants and storm drains on a prioritised basis, subject to affordability.</p> <p>Policy EN 9 Increase awareness through educational and other means in order to inform the public of the need and importance of maintaining the highest possible water quality standards. Implement the recommendations contained in the Eastern River Basin District Management Plans for the Drogheda Borough Council area and specifically the River Boyne.</p> <p>Policy EN 13 Have regard to the findings of the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study in so far as it relates to Drogheda. Have regard to the document The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Minister Guidelines for Planning Authorities – November 2009 (Flooding Guidelines) issued by the of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p> <p>Require that a site specific flood risk assessment be carried out for development in areas that are at moderate or high risk of flooding. Development will not normally be permitted in areas at moderate or high risk of flooding unless a flood risk assessment clearly demonstrates that flood risk to the development can be adequately managed and that the development will not cause unacceptable adverse impacts elsewhere.</p> <p>Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended)</p> <p>Policy EN 4 Ensure that the incorporation of sustainable drainage measures in all settlements is mandatory. An integrated approach to drainage shall be adopted and all development proposals shall be accompanied by a comprehensive SUDS assessment which shall address runoff quantity/ runoff quality /habitat and water quality impacts. Best practice guidance is available from the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study. Surface water issues and submissions will be required to meet with design criteria (adjusted to reflect local conditions) and material designs therein. Prevent excessive discharges of untreated sewage from overflows and to maximize the utility of piped services, new developments shall preferentially provide / connect to separate surface water drainage systems. Ensure that when developers are master planning areas within and adjacent to settlements, sustainable drainage will be adequately addressed. Masterplans shall identify appropriate aerial features e.g. ponds / basins etc based within the overall plan area that can provide both amenity and surface water management facilities for the full area rather than a large collection of small development based units. Ensure protection of existing surface and groundwater resources.</p>
Material Assets	<p>Measures from the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021</p> <p>WS 1 Louth County Council will work in co-operation with Irish Water in its new role as the lead authority for water services.</p> <p>WS 2 Louth County Council will liaise with and advice Irish Water in identifying, prioritising and progressing the implementation of water and wastewater projects throughout County Louth over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>WS 3 Private Waste Water Treatment facilities other than single house systems will not be permitted except in the following limited circumstances. Consideration may be given to granting permission for private waste water/communal facilities in developments managed by suitable institutions.</p> <p>WS 4 To support the provision of high quality water and wastewater infrastructure for both existing and future developments within County Louth, consistent with the principles of sustainability, prioritising those centres where serious deficiencies are in evidence or where further sustainable development can be reasonably anticipated.</p> <p>WS 5 To support the extension or upgrading of existing water services infrastructure within the County (including those listed in the Irish Water Investment Programme) and the provision of water services infrastructure in un-serviced settlements to assist in the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p> <p>WS 6 To promote and support the development and proper management of Group Water Schemes subject to appropriate level of treatment being provided and suitable robust operational arrangements being put in place.</p> <p>WS 7 To prohibit the use of pump stations for conveyance of sewage unless the proposed pump station will cater for a significant catchment of zoned development lands that otherwise cannot be drained. Where deemed appropriate in consultation with Irish Water, temporary pumping arrangements may be considered as an interim measure, pending the provision of more permanent arrangements within a reasonable timeframe. All arrangements for same will be as per the requirements and agreement of Irish Water.</p> <p>WS 8 To support the commitment to water conservation and leakage reduction within County Louth in accordance with the Water Conservation Programme and in accordance with best practice in order to conserve valuable resources and by reducing wastage.</p> <p>WS 9 To support Irish Water in promoting public awareness of and involvement in water conservation measures by households, businesses and industries.</p> <p>ENV 17 To require that all permitted development taking place within an area served by a public wastewater treatment system connects to that system. ENV 18 To require that on lands identified for non-domestic development and where no public waste water facility exists or is proposed, that the wastewater be adequately treated and discharged to suitable receiving water, subject to a discharge licence. ENV 19 To require that private wastewater treatment systems for individual houses, where permitted, comply with the recommendations contained within the EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems (2009) Serving Single Houses (population equivalent less than or equal to 10). ENV 20 To implement the requirements of the Groundwater Protection Scheme to protect known and potential ground water reserves.</p> <p>ENV 21 To require that proper supervision, installation and commissioning of on site wastewater treatment system by requiring site characterisation procedures and geotechnical assessments, be carried out by competent professionally indemnified and suitably qualified persons.</p> <p>ENV 22 To require that the construction and installation of all wastewater treatment systems are supervised and certified by a suitably qualified competent person as fit for the intended purpose and complies with the Council's requirements.</p>

Environmental Component ²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>ENV 23 To implement and support the provisions of the Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</p> <p>Measures from the Drogheda Development Plan 2011-2017 (extended)</p> <p>Policy EN 1 Ensure the provision of a high quality water and wastewater infrastructure to support both existing and future developments within Drogheda Borough consistent with sustainability principles and the availability of financial resources whilst prioritising those areas where serious deficiencies are in evidence or where further sustainable development can be reasonably anticipated. Require that developers submit water services solutions consistent with sustainable urban drainage systems (S.U.D.S.) designs for the management of surface water from new developments. Ensure that the provision and operation of water and wastewater treatment facilities is undertaken in accordance with EU policies and directives, relevant national legislation and national / regional policies. Ensure that satisfactory arrangements with the capacity necessary to service proposed developments are in place prior to any proposals for developments being considered. The Council, where deemed appropriate, may require developers to provide water services or enter into a binding legal agreement to supply them either wholly by themselves or in partnership with other developers and/or the Council, prior to granting of permission and subject to conditions as set down by the Council. Require developers to provide water services infrastructure in excess of that which they require, in the interests of integrated, long-term development of the area where appropriate. Implement the Water Services Strategic Plan when completed. Include the measures identified in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan in so far as they relate to Drogheda to mitigate the impacts of water abstraction and discharges of treated effluent from wastewater plants and storm drains on a prioritised basis, subject to affordability.</p> <p>Policy EN 2 Ensure an adequate water supply is provided in a sustainable manner to meet existing and future demands of the Drogheda and Environs area. Ensure the quality of water supplied complies with Drinking Water Regulations and to address that impact on same in a prompt and appropriate manner. Implement a policy of effective metering and in the case of non-domestic developments, facilitate charging for services in accordance with Article 9 of EU Water Framework Directive. Implement incrementally the recommendations set out in East Meath, South Louth & Drogheda Water Improvement Scheme Report, consistent with sustainability principles, taking due cognisance of environmental, financial and technical constraints.</p> <p>Policy EN 3 Promote the conservation of water through an ongoing active water conservation programme, implementing best practice in the maintenance and operation of distribution networks and developing appropriate public awareness programmes.</p> <p>Policy EN 4 Ensure that the incorporation of sustainable drainage measures in all settlements is mandatory. An integrated approach to drainage shall be adopted and all development proposals shall be accompanied by a comprehensive SUDS assessment which shall address runoff quantity/ runoff quality /habitat and water quality impacts. Best practice guidance is available from the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study Surface water issues and submissions will be required to meet with design criteria (adjusted to reflect local conditions) and material designs therein. Prevent excessive discharges of untreated sewage from overflows and to maximize the utility of piped services, new developments shall preferentially provide / connect to separate surface water drainage systems. Ensure that when developers are required to Master Plan areas within and adjacent to settlements, sustainable drainage will be adequately addressed. Master Plans shall identify appropriate aerial features e.g. ponds / basins etc. based within the overall Plan area that can provide both amenity and surface water management facilities for the full area rather than a large collection of small, development-based units. To investigate the feasibility of utilising Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) when progressing new road schemes during the lifetime of the plan. Ensure that where appropriate the Code of Practice on Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single Houses is applied.</p> <p>Policy EN 5 Adopt an incremental approach to provision of additional treatment capacity. This will relate both to the scale of existing developments, and appropriate growth at these locations. Availability of services shall not be a precursor to large scale growth in inappropriate locations. Minimise the impact of storm overflows on receiving water quality through implementation of programmed upgrade of units and networks. In accordance with output from Drogheda Sewer Network Improvement - Stage 2, implement a programmed upgrade of networks to minimise the impact of infiltration / exfiltration in sewer system. To eliminate as far as it is practicable to do so, surface water from waste water sewerage network. The Council will not generally permit the use of pump stations for conveyance of sewage unless the proposed pump station will cater for a significant catchment of zoned development lands that otherwise cannot be drained. Where deemed appropriate, temporary pumping arrangements may be considered as an interim measure, pending the provision of more permanent arrangements within a reasonable timeframe. In such instances, the full cost of providing, operating and decommissioning interim arrangements shall be paid in advance by developer along with normal development levies. Ensure that all developments have regard to policies expressed in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Infiltration and exfiltration (b) Climate Change (c) Basements (d) New developments (e) Environment (f) Surface Water <p>Policy EN 6 Implement European, national and regional policy in relation to the protection of the environment and the pursuance of sustainable development principles in respect of the Council's policies and procedures Pursue the precautionary and the polluter pays principles in relation to permitted development in the Plan area. Promote and maintain the highest achievable standards of air, noise and water quality in the Plan area.</p> <p>Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended)</p> <p>Policy EN 2 Ensure an adequate water supply is provided in a sustainable manner to meet existing and future demands of the Dundalk and Environs area. Ensure the quality of water supplied complies with Drinking Water Regulations and to address the impact on same in a prompt and appropriate manner. Implement a policy of effective metering and, in the case of non-domestic developments, facilitate charging for services in accordance with Article 9 of EU Water Framework Directive. Implement incrementally the recommendations set out in Strategic Review of</p>

Environmental Component ²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>Dundalk and Environs Water Supply consistent with sustainability principles, taking due cognisance of environmental, financial and technical constraints. Ensure compliance with 'The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water (EPA, 2009)'</p> <p>Policy EN 3 Promote the conservation of water through an ongoing active water conservation programme, implementing best practice in the maintenance and operation of distribution networks and developing appropriate public awareness programmes.</p> <p>Policy EN 4 Ensure that the incorporation of sustainable drainage measures in all settlements is mandatory. An integrated approach to drainage shall be adopted and all development proposals shall be accompanied by a comprehensive SUDS assessment which shall address runoff quantity/ runoff quality /habitat and water quality impacts. Best practice guidance is available from the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study. Surface water issues and submissions will be required to meet with design criteria (adjusted to reflect local conditions) and material designs therein. Prevent excessive discharges of untreated sewage from overflows and to maximize the utility of piped services, new developments shall preferentially provide / connect to separate surface water drainage systems. Ensure that when developers are master planning areas within and adjacent to settlements, sustainable drainage will be adequately addressed. Masterplans shall identify appropriate aerial features e.g. ponds / basins etc based within the overall plan area that can provide both amenity and surface water management facilities for the full area rather than a large collection of small development based units. Ensure protection of existing surface and groundwater resources</p> <p>Policy EN 6 Adopt an incremental approach to provision of additional treatment capacity. This will relate both to the scale of existing developments, and appropriate growth at these locations. Availability of services shall not be a precursor to large scale growth in inappropriate locations.</p> <p>Extend the licensing of all discharges to sewers. This will apply to all discharges in excess of 55 m3 per day or where the discharge warrants same due to specific characteristics.</p> <p>Minimise the impact of storm overflows on receiving water quality through implementation of programmed upgrade of units and networks.</p> <p>The councils will not permit the use of pump stations for conveyance of sewage unless the proposed pump station will cater for a significant catchment of zoned development lands that otherwise cannot be drained. Where deemed appropriate, temporary pumping arrangements may be considered as an interim measure, pending the provision of more permanent arrangements within a reasonable timeframe. In such instances, the full cost of providing, operating and decommissioning interim arrangements shall be paid in advance by developer along with normal development levies.</p> <p>Ensure that all developments have regard to policies expressed in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study with particular reference to: (a) Infiltration and exfiltration (b) Climate Change (c) Basements (d) New developments (e) Environment (f) Surface Water</p> <p>Require that all new developments connect to the public foul drainage network and facilitate existing developments not currently connected, to do so where the network is extended.</p>
Air and Climatic Factors/ Sustainable mobility and associated effects	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental component of Water and Population and Human Health.</p> <p>Measures from the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021</p> <p>Various sustainable mobility provisions within Chapter 7 Transport.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Policies (detailed at Environmental Component of "Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna" above).</p> <p>Measures from the Drogheda Development Plan 2011-2017 (extended)</p> <p>Various sustainable mobility provisions within Drogheda Development Plan Chapter 5 Transportation.</p> <p>Policy RA 5 Develop a public pedestrian / cycle network by preserving and protecting existing rights of way and by creating new rights of way in the interest of amenity and as the opportunity or need arises.</p> <p>Policy TC 12 Promote greater connectivity and permeability throughout the Town Centre through the provision of improved roads, pedestrian and cycling facilities, parking and signage</p> <p>Dundalk and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (extended)</p> <p>Various sustainable mobility provisions within Dundalk and Environs Development Plan Chapter 5 Transportation.</p> <p>Policy EN 7 Implement European, national and regional policy in relation to the protection of the environment and the pursuance of sustainable development principles in respect of the councils' policies and procedures. Pursue the precautionary and the polluter pays principles in relation to permitted development in the plan area. Promote and maintain the highest achievable standards of air, noise and water quality in the plan area.</p> <p>Policy EN 8 Implement the Louth Local Authorities Noise Action Plan in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Measures from the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021</p> <p>HER 20 To protect archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and to seek their preservation in situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.</p> <p>HER 21 To ensure that any development, both above and below ground, adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of a recorded monument or an area of special archaeological interest (including formerly walled towns) shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting and be sited and designed with care to protect the monument and its setting. Where upstanding remains exist, a visual impact assessment may be required. HER 22 Within areas of special archaeological Interest and other sites of archaeological potential (including formerly walled towns), as listed in the RMP, the Council will require applicants to include an assessment of the likely archaeological potential as part of the planning application and may require that an on-site assessment is carried out by trial work prior to a decision on a planning application being taken. HER 23 To work in partnership with Meath County Council and the relevant agencies and the public to promote, understand, conserve and sustainably manage the Battlefield site of the Battle of the Boyne and to protect and enhance the cultural landscape of</p>

Environmental Component ²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>the Battle of the Boyne Battlefield Landscape.</p> <p>HER 24 That a variation of the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 will be proposed , if required, to make appropriate amendments to the Plan, as a result of any recommendations arising from the publication of The Irish Battlefields Project. HER 25 To work in partnership with Meath County Council and the relevant agencies and the public to promote, understand, conserve and sustainably manage the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne to maintain its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).</p> <p>HER 26 To protect the ridgeline to the north which frames the views Map 5.13 within and from the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne from visually intrusive and inappropriate development, subject to the Development Assessment Criteria set out in Section 5.9.7 and using view-shed analysis as a tool to guide and inform development management.</p> <p>HER 27 To require that all development within Development Zone 6 be subject to Development Assessment Criteria set out in Section 5.9.7.</p> <p>HER 28 To encourage the retention, appropriate re-use and conservation of vernacular buildings in Development Zone 6 in preference to either their replacement or the construction of new buildings on green-field sites.</p> <p>HER 29 To maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Louth County Council will seek to ensure that no development which might have significant, deleterious impacts upon the character of the World Heritage Site is permitted.</p> <p>HER 30 To prepare a Framework Plan for the protection, development and promotion of lands subject to Development Zone 6 (which include for the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, Tentative World Heritage Site of Monasterboice and the Battle of the Boyne Battlefield site). HER 31 To maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Tentative Monasterboice World Heritage Site.</p> <p>HER 32 Louth County Council will support the nomination of Monasterboice as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. HER 33 To ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a protected structure and / or its setting is sensitively sited and designed, is compatible with the special character and is appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, density, layout, and materials of the protected structure.</p> <p>HER 34 The form and structural integrity of the protected structure and its setting shall be retained and the relationship between the protected structure, its curtilage and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, designed views or vistas from or to the structure shall be protected.</p> <p>HER 35 To prohibit inappropriate development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds of a protected structure. Any proposed development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds must demonstrate that it is part of an overall strategy for the future conservation of the entire complex including the structures, demesne and/or attendant grounds.</p> <p>HER 36 To require that all planning applications relating to protected structures contain the appropriate documentation as described in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) or any variation thereof, to enable a proper assessment of the proposed works and their impact on the structure or area. HER 37 To require the retention of original features, such as windows, doors, renders, roof coverings and other significant features which contribute to the character of protected structures.</p> <p>HER 38 To encourage the reinstatement of appropriately detailed features, such as windows, doors, renders, roof coverings and other significant features which have been lost, to restore the character of protected structures as part of development proposals.</p> <p>HER 39 To promote best practice and the use of skilled specialist practitioners in the conservation of, and for any works to protected structures.</p> <p>HER 40 To encourage the retention, sympathetic reuse and rehabilitation of protected structures and their settings, where appropriate and where the proposal is compatible with their character and significance. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions and site development standards may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the protected structure.</p> <p>HER 41 To ensure that the protection of architectural features of special interest are retained as part of any proposed re-development, where there is conflict with other development plan requirements such as open space, car parking, etc.</p> <p>HER 42 To review and update the Record of Protected Structures to include all structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest when new information becomes available and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.</p> <p>HER 43 To permit the deletion of structures from the Record of Protected Structures and the demolition or significant modification of a protected structure, only in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>HER 44 To seek funding streams for specific priority projects and to assist owners with the repair and conservation of protected structures. HER 45 To require that any development within or affecting an ACA preserves or enhances the character and appearance of the architectural conservation area. Any development should respect the character of the historic and traditional architecture in scale, design and materials. Regard should be had to the character appraisal where available/ applicable.</p> <p>HER 46 To ensure that the redevelopment of the towns of historic interest includes the retention of existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>HER 47 To retain any building in an ACA that makes a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the area. Demolition will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Applications for demolition shall be accompanied by a measured and photographic survey, condition report and architectural heritage assessment. An assessment of the impact of the replacement building on the character of the ACA will be required.</p> <p>HER 48 To require that any development proposal takes account of the Council's specific ACA objectives contained in Appendix 5, Volume 2 (b) and the objectives as set out in the ACA character appraisal, where applicable.</p> <p>HER 49 To require that any new development on the periphery of an ACA does not detract from the existing character of the designated ACA.</p> <p>HER 50 To ensure that the protection of architectural features of special interest within the ACA are retained as part of any proposed re-development, where there is conflict with other development plan requirements such as open space, car parking, etc.</p> <p>HER 51 To ensure that any new infrastructure (installed either by the Local Authority or by Public or Private Sector Utility Companies) shall not be located / positioned where it will be detrimental to the character of the ACA.</p>

Environmental Component ²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>HER 52 To ensure that any new trading bays and their associated signage shall not be located where it will be detrimental to the character of the ACA or any important building or vista in the ACA.</p> <p>HER 53 To ensure that the external finish and painted finish of buildings in the ACA are appropriate to the character of the ACA. Changes which affect the special character of the ACA will not be acceptable. Any proposal for the alteration of the external finish requires planning permission. Muted colours will be preferable and garish colours or painting of shop-fronts or facades for brand identity shall not be permitted.</p> <p>HER 54 To retain surviving medieval plots and street patterns in the ACAs, and other towns and villages where in evidence and in the course of development, to record and mark evidence of ancient boundaries and layouts etc. HER 58 To recognise the importance of the contribution of vernacular architecture to the character of a place and promote where feasible the protection, retention and appropriate revitalisation and use of the vernacular built heritage, including structures that contribute to landscape and streetscape character and discourage the demolition of these structures.</p> <p>HER 59 Existing stone kerbs and paving stones are to be maintained and refurbished as must as possible where new kerbs are necessary they are to be of high quality in character with the existing.</p> <p>Measures from the Drogheda Development Plan 2011-2017 (extended)</p> <p>Policy CH 9 Safeguard the archaeological heritage of Drogheda and its environs by protecting designated archaeological sites and Special Archaeological Interest areas and requiring that applicants for planning permission for development in areas known to contain archaeological features submit an archaeological assessment of the site together with the planning application.</p> <p>Policy CH 10 Encourage the appropriate reuse, renovation and rehabilitation of older buildings which are not protected but have some architectural, historic or heritage merit. To protect and maintain the existing grain of the town centre plots.</p> <p>Policy CH 11 Protect and safeguard structures within Drogheda Borough which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and which are included in the Record of Protected Structures contained within Volume 2 of this Plan.</p> <p>Policy CH 12 Preservation of the designated Architectural Conservation Areas listed in Volume 2 and require that new development within such areas is sensitively designed so as not to detract from the character of the areas</p> <p>Policy CH 13 When considering development in the vicinity of the town wall circuit, Drogheda Borough Council will aim to achieve a satisfactory buffer area between the development and the town wall circuit defences in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the amenity associated with the presence of the walls within the historic urban pattern. Drogheda Borough Council will have regard to the preservation and enhancement of the town wall circuit when considering development proposed in their vicinity. Disturbance, removal and alteration of the line of the town wall circuit shall not be considered appropriate within the Heritage Quarter of Drogheda. It is an objective of Drogheda Borough Council to retain the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>In securing such preservation Drogheda Borough Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, both in respect of whether or not to grant planning permission and in respect of the conditions to which permission, if granted, should be subject to.</p> <p>When considering development in the vicinity of all upstanding monuments, including the town wall circuit, Drogheda Borough Council will require the preparation and submission of an archaeological assessment report detailing the potential impact of any development on upstanding, buried structures and deposits. The report will also include a visual impact assessment to ensure adequate consideration of any potential visual impact the proposed development may have on any upstanding remains.</p> <p>To protect, preserve, conserve and restore, where appropriate, the upstanding remnants of the town wall circuit To protect the essential character and setting of the town wall circuit through the control of the design, location and layout of new development in their vicinity and through the control of changes of use of lands so as to ensure that there are no adverse impacts; by the protection of adjoining streetscapes and site features where appropriate, and by</p> <p>protecting views to and from the walls from obstruction and/or inappropriate intrusion by new buildings structures, plant and equipment, signs and other devices; and where opportunities arise to create additional views of the walls.</p> <p>To utilise the town walls circuit as an ordering device within the urban form, by protecting and preserving and maintaining the upstanding elements and by delineating the line of the defensive system where opportunities arise.</p> <p>To utilise the town walls circuit as an educational and tourism resource and to facilitate the publication and dissemination of interpretative material to the general public, and to facilitate public access to the walls.</p> <p>A signage strategy providing clear directional guidance to the circuit of the wall will be prepared during the course of the plan. This shall include provision for indication on the floor, road or pavement surface, of the location of the town wall circuit, where this is no longer extant above ground.</p> <p>Policy ED 14 To co-operate with Louth Local Authorities and Meath County Council in the preparation of a strategy for the protection, development and promotion of the Boyne Valley World Heritage Site and to support the designation of Monasterboice as a World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended)</p> <p>Policy CH1 Support the implementation of the County Heritage Plan which aims to coordinate the conservation, management and sympathetic development of the county's heritage and to encourage community pride in, and responsibility for, the implementation of the plan.</p> <p>Policy CH7 Safeguard the archaeological heritage of Dundalk and its environs by protecting designated archaeological sites, Local Archaeological Heritage Site, and Special Archaeological</p>

Environmental Component²⁰	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>Interest areas and requiring that applicants for planning permission for development in areas known to contain archaeological features, carry out an archaeological assessment of the site.</p> <p>Policy CH8 Encourage the appropriate reuse, renovation and rehabilitation of older buildings which are not listed, but have some architectural historical or heritage merit</p> <p>Policy CH9 Protect and safeguard structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest which are included in the Record of Protected Structure in volume 2 of this plan.</p> <p>Policy CH10 Protect designated Architectural Conservation Areas within the plan area and require that new development within such areas is sensitively designed so as not to detract from the character of the areas.</p>
Landscape /Amenities	<p>Measures from the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021</p> <p>HER 10 To afford protection to the landscapes and natural environments of the County, by permitting only those forms of development that are considered sustainable and do not unduly damage or take from the character of the landscape or natural environment.</p> <p>HER 11 To co-operate with adjoining local authorities, both north and south of the border, to ensure that the environment is maintained in a sustainable manner and to support the co-ordinated designation of sensitive landscapes and policy approaches with adjoining areas and on all aspects of environmental protection, particularly where transboundary environmental vulnerabilities are identified.</p> <p>HER 12 To consider the designation of Landscape Conservation Areas to protect specific important landscapes.</p> <p>Measures from the Drogheda Development Plan 2011-2017 (extended)</p> <p>Policy CH 7 Protect important natural and man-made features, landscape and strategic views within the Plan area and require that proposals take into consideration the protection of landscapes and views in the design of new developments.</p> <p>Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended)</p> <p>Policy CH4 Protect important natural and man-made features, landscape and strategic views within the plan area and require designers to submit a visual impact assessment to take into consideration the protection of landscapes and views in the design of new developments.</p>

2.3 Schedule 1

PART 1

1. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources*

The Noise Action Plan for County Louth will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. The Plan will be one relatively minor part of this extensive framework and provides for limited additionality with respect to existing provisions relating to noise avoidance and management.

The Noise Action Plan requires that all proposals for development/works under the Action Plan demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) such as the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021, the Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended) and the Drogheda Development plan 2011-2017 (extended).

Taking the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

2. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, influences other plans including those in a hierarchy*

The Noise Action Plan requires that all proposals for development/works under the Action Plan demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) such as the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021, the Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended) and the Drogheda Development plan 2011-2017 (extended).

Furthermore:

- Action 1 from the Noise Action Plan states that the County Development Plan will take cognisance of the Noise Action Plan. The analysis provided under Section 2.2 identifies that any Variation to the County Development Plan would have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes, as relevant.
- Action 2 from the Noise Action Plan sets out a timeframe for the Action Plan of 5 years, or sooner where a material change in environmental noise in the area occurs. The analysis provided under Section 2.2 identifies that reviewing and revising the Noise Action Plan would have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes, as relevant.
- Action 3 from the Noise Action Plan provides for a review of the landscape and characterisation process to identify quiet areas in the open country. The analysis provided under Section 2.2 identifies that such a proposal may have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes, if it involved a Variation to the County Development Plan including landscape provisions, for example.
- Actions 4 and 5 relate the preparation of a list of beneficial, achievable actions for noise mitigation and to the identification of a budget and the implementation of actions for noise mitigation. The analysis provided under Section 2.2 identifies that such a programme would have to be subject to its own environmental assessment/screening processes including if, for example, it involved a Variation to the County Development Plan or an amendment to the Action Plan.

- The Action Plan provides that county-wide guidance will be issued in the future on noise exposure levels for proposed development and identifies that other existing guidance shall apply in certain situations. Guidance will be implemented through existing planning and licensing processes.

Taking the above and the examination of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan influences other plans, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

3. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development*

By both protecting the future noise climate and improving the existing noise climate, where necessary, the Noise Action Plan will contribute towards the protection of human health and sustainable development. This protection is already contributed towards by the detailed framework of existing legislation and plans relating to noise, land use and transport (including those identified under Section 1.4). The Noise Action Plan will be one relatively minor part of this extensive framework and provides for limited additionality with respect to existing provisions relating to noise avoidance and management. Potential beneficial environmental effects arising are present already and would be further contributed towards.

Taking the above and the examination of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan is relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

4. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme*

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to protecting the future noise climate and improving the existing noise climate, the Plan contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse.

Taking the above and the examination of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to the Plan, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

5. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)*

The Noise Action Plan for County Louth has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006). These Regulations give effect to the European Union Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC, relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise.

Taking the above and the examination of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from the relevance of the Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

PART 2

1. 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 Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

c) intensive land-use.

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

Section 3 Conclusion

The Noise Action Plan for County Louth will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. As a result, SEA Screening must be undertaken on the Draft Noise Action Plan in order to establish whether the Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment and would necessitate full SEA.

This SEA Screening Report has examined the parts of the Draft Plan, including against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 *'Criteria for determining whether a Plan or Programme (or Modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the Environment'* of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended.

The conclusion that arises from the SEA screening analysis detailed in this report is that the Draft Noise Action Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

Appendix I SEA Screening Determination

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination under:

European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011)

for the:

Draft County Louth Noise Action Plan 2018-2023

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening determination has been made by Louth County Council regarding the County Louth Noise Action Plan 2018-2023.

The SEA Directive as transposed by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011), provide requirements in relation to SEA. The Noise Action Plan for County Louth will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. This framework includes existing legislation and plans relating to noise, land use and transport. As a result, SEA Screening must be undertaken on the Draft Noise Action Plan in order to establish whether the plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment and would necessitate full SEA. Such a determination is required to take account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 ('Criteria for determining whether a Plan or Programme (or Modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the Environment') of the Regulations and submissions or observations from relevant environmental authorities. This process is referred to as screening and the findings of the screening are presented in an SEA Screening Report that accompanies and has informed this determination.

The Noise Action Plan for County Louth will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. The Plan will be one relatively minor part of this extensive framework and provides for limited additionality with respect to existing provisions relating to noise avoidance and management.

The Noise Action Plan requires that all proposals for development/works under the Action Plan demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) such as the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021, the Dundalk and Environs Development plan 2009-2015 (extended) and the Drogheda Development plan 2011-2017 (extended).

Taking into account these issues, together with the detailed examination of the Plan provided in the Draft SEA Screening Report (that accompanies and has informed this determination), into account, it is determined that the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.