



Habitats Directive Assessment Determination Statement on Variation No.3 to the Tralee Town Development Plan 2009-2015

Habitats Directive Assessment Report (Stage I Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement)

In accordance with Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and on the basis of the objective information provided in the HDA dated June 2016 and September 2016, Kerry County Council as Competent Authority determines that the 3rd variation to the Tralee Town Development Plan 2009-2015 individually and in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 Site). An appropriate assessment, under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), is not required.

Reasons for determination

The proposed 3rd variation will see an overall reduction in lands available for residential development in line with the recently adopted county *Core Strategy*. The proposed material alterations will see two main amendments to the variation – 63ha of land to the west of Tralee town presently zoned *unformulated*, proposed to be zoned *agricultural* will revert back to *unformulated* and a small parcel of land (0.16ha) near the settlement of Blennerville will be zoned *residential* to reflect the existing use on the ground. These material alterations were not deemed likely to significantly affect Natura 2000 sites. As noted the existing water and wastewater infrastructure serving the town of Tralee are adequate to deal with the (reduced) population projection figures assigned by the amended county *Core Strategy*. Existing environmental protection policies and objectives in the Tralee TDP 2009-2015 and incorporated by previous variations will continue to ensure future development in Tralee town will not adversely affect Natura 2000 sites.

Signed: _____

Handwritten signature of Michael Scannell in black ink.

**Michael Scannell, Acting Director of Economic and Community
Development**

Date: _____

14/12/2016

