




Habitats Directive Assessment Determination Statement on the proposed 4th Variation to the Tralee Town Development Plan 2009-2015

Habitats Directive Assessment Report (Stage 1 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 September 2016, Kerry County Council as Competent Authority determines that the proposed 4th 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 4th variation will see the plan varied so as to outline a continuous road from Cloonmore to Cloonbeg in lieu of 2 non linking service roads. This is a minor amendment to the plan from a nature conservation point of view. Given the nature, extent and location of the proposed roadway and in particular to distances from designated sites no significant impacts are likely. It is also noted that the proposed variation seeks to allow for consideration of road infrastructure proposals listed in Development Objective RDP03, notwithstanding land use zonings - subject to proper planning and sustainable development considerations. However it is also noted that any such works 'will be considered on their own merits on a case by case basis in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area' and that only indicative routes have been outlined in the plan. The protection of Natura 2000 sites forms part of sustainable development considerations as is clearly set out in S1.1 of the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. Therefore it is considered that significant impacts on Natura 2000 interests are unlikely to arise. 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:  _____

Michael Scannell, Acting Director of Economic and Community Development

Date: 14/12/2016

