



### **Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination for the Draft Active Travel Strategy for Fingal**

Fingal County Council has prepared a Draft Active Travel Strategy for Fingal. As per the requirements of Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477) as amended, an Appropriate Assessment Screening report (the Active Travel Strategy for Fingal Appropriate Assessment Screening Report) has been prepared. The AA Screening report was written by MEC Ltd on behalf of Fingal County Council.

The AA Screening Report comprises an appraisal of the Draft Active Travel Strategy for Fingal and its potential to impact on European sites as well as an appraisal of whether the implementation of the Draft Active Travel Strategy for Fingal is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites.

Section 3 of the AA Screening Report describes the Draft Active Travel Strategy itself. The Draft Active Travel Strategy for Fingal study area and surrounding environment (the “zone of influence” of the Draft Plan) are described in Section 4. Section 5 appraises the potential impacts of the Draft Active Travel Strategy in the context of the European sites within the zone of influence of the Draft Active Travel Strategy area.

In addition, the AA Screening Report, in Section 5, examines the potential for other plans and/or projects to act in combination with the Draft Active Travel Strategy and to result in cumulative negative effects on European sites within the zone of influence of the Draft Active Travel Strategy.

The AA Screening Report concludes the following:

- The Screening of the Fingal Active Travel Strategy as set out above shows that the plan will not result in land use activities that have the potential to result in negative impacts to the qualifying features of interest of European Sites occurring within or surrounding the plan area and will not have the potential to compromise the achievement of the conservation objective of these European Sites.
- Given the strategic level of detail provided in the plan, and the Fingal County Development Plan objectives and policies in place for the protection of Natura 2000 sites, it is considered that further assessment of the Plan would not provide any further level of detail and that any appropriate assessment screening is best carried out at project stage.
- The examination of the plan has found that elements of the plan will have the potential to contribute to the conservation management of European Sites within and surrounding the plan area and will thus have positive implications for the conservation objectives of these European Sites.

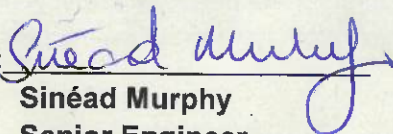




- In light of the findings of this report, it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by Fingal County Council that the Plan is not likely, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for the Draft Active Travel Strategy for Fingal". The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Regulation 42 of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that the Draft Strategy is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently, it is determined that a Stage Two AA (NIS) is not required.

Signatory:



**Sinéad Murphy**  
**Senior Engineer**

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023