



Senior Executive Officer,
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department,
Fingal County Council,
County Hall,
Main Street Swords,
Co. Dublin,
K67 X8Y2.

21 December 2022

RE: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029

Further to the notice given to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (the Department) of the publication of the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029, the following submission outlines its observations in respect of a number of specific policy areas for which the Department is responsible.

Climate Action

The Department acknowledges Proposed Amendment PA CH 5.1, which updates all references to the Climate Action Plan 2019 in the Draft Development Plan to the Climate Action Plan 2021. The Department notes the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan has been prepared, and will be updated annually, and the Council will be required to have regard to the policies expressed therein. As such, reference to amended/new climate action legislation is welcomed (Proposed Amendment PA CH 5.2). It is, however, recommended that the Local Authority inserts the following text after each amended reference to the Climate Action Plan: 'and any future iterations'.



District Heating

The Department highlights and supports the insertion of a new objective to 'identify suitable location(s) for the delivery of district heating within the plan area' (Proposed Amendment PA CH 5.9).

The Department also welcomes the new policy to promote Low Carbon Energy Development that includes 'location of housing along district heating hubs' (Proposed Amendment PA CH 11.15).

The Department supports the inclusion of objectives and policies to promote the use of district heating. The objectives and policies should be considered in the context of the National Planning Framework and Regional Policy, which envisions district heating as means to secure compact and sustainable growth.

This Department encourages further consultation on the roll out of District Heating proposals throughout the lifetime of the Development Plan.

Telecommunications

The Department welcomes the Local Authorities support for the following Government Strategies, in Proposed Amendments PA CH 11.19:

- 'Harnessing Digital – the Digital Ireland Framework (Feb 2022)'
- 'National Development Plan 2021-2023-National Strategic Outcome 6'

The Department acknowledges the County Councils reflection of the National Broadband Plan in Proposed Amendment PA CH 7.8, which is noted to be a positive inclusion.



Circular Economy

The additional references to the principles of circularity and the transition from a linear to a circular model to keep resources in use as long as possible are particularly noted and welcomed (Proposed Amendment PA CH 11.11).

The Department also supports the inclusion of the reference to the 'Whole of Government Circular Strategy (2021)' (Proposed Amendment PA CH 5.10).

In particular, Proposed Amendments Reference PA CH 5.10, PA CH 11.8 and PA CH 11.9 are noted and supported. The Council is commended for its approach to addressing the Circular Economy in the proposed material alterations.



Conclusion

This Department considers that the amendments referred to above strengthen the Draft Plan in the areas concerned and should be included in the final Plan. We would be grateful if Fingal County Council would take these observations under consideration in the finalisation of the Development Plan.

Department officials can make themselves available for a discussion on any matters raised in this submission or any other matters within the remit of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications relevant to the preparation of this plan.

Officials can provide additional support to the County Council in the following areas:

- Climate Action, Engagement and Adaptation
- The Circular Economy
- Energy Generation and Networks
- Energy Use / Demand in the Built Environment
- Communications
- Environmental Policy and Governance
- Natural Resources

Please direct any requests for further consultation to PlanningNotifications@DECC.gov.ie

Regards,

Planning Advisory Division

Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

Encl. Supplementary Submission from Geological Survey Ireland



Development Plan Team
Fingal County Council
County Hall
Main Street
Swords
Co. Dublin, K67 X8Y2

01 December 2022

Re: Material Alterations to the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029, November 2022

Your Ref: n/a

Our Ref: 22/477 [c.f. 22/55, 21/309, 21/81; CDP strategic issues paper]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your email received on the 21 November 2022, concerning the Material Alterations to the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029, November 2022, Geological Survey Ireland would like to make the following comments in addition to our previous responses.

Geoheritage and Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)

In Section 9.6.12, we are pleased to see the addition of the map showing the CGSs and Quarries of Fingal.

PA CH 9.16: Section 9.6.12 County Geological Sites, page 336

Include new Figure "Quarries and Geological Heritage Sites in Fingal" in Section 9.6.12.

The following text is also to be included directly preceding this map:

Figure 9.1 below shows the location of the county geological sites identified by the GSI as well as the locations of sites included on the Fingal Extractive Industries (Quarries) Register which was compiled in accordance with the requirements of Section 261 and 261A of the Planning and Development Act (as amended).

Thank you for considering our earlier comments and observations and for including this alteration to the plan. If we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville
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Geological Survey Ireland

Trish Smullen
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