

# Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023



## Natura Impact Report for the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

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February 2016



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This is the Natura Impact Report in support of the Appropriate Assessment of draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 (hereafter referred to as the draft Fingal DP). Fingal County Council is preparing a draft Fingal DP to replace the existing Fingal Development Plan, which expires in 2017. The draft Fingal DP comprising a written statement with maps and various appendices is being prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to develop and improve in a sustainable manner the environmental, social, economic and cultural assets of Fingal County. It provides a blueprint for the development of Fingal for the period 2017 to 2023, and it seeks to consolidate development within the county in a sustainable manner whilst protecting the identities of the settlements. The economic focus is to maximise the strategic location of the county within the Dublin Region through support of the main towns, the airport, and the Metro North Economic Corridor. It also seeks to protect, maintain and enhance the natural heritage of the county through strengthening and consolidating green belts and green infrastructure and support sustainable transport. This will be achieved through a series of agreed policies and objectives, the finalised Fingal DP will be underpinned by the principles of sustainable development, climate change adaptation, social inclusion and high quality design.

### 1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE FINGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND LEGAL REQUIREMENT

Pursuant to the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2014, a planning authority is legally obliged to prepare a County Development Plan (CDP) for its functional area every six years and, not later than four years after the preparation of this plan, a planning authority must give notice of its intent to review that plan and prepare a new plan. The draft Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 was adopted in 2011 and is now due for review.

The draft plan covers a geographical area of approximately 456km<sup>2</sup> and includes a county population of 274000 (CSO 2011). The county has undergone a rapid development over the recent past, a fact which is underlined by provisional 2012-2013 Central Statistics Office data, which records Fingal as the third most populous Local Authority area in the country. The plan which includes a written statement, appendices and accompanying maps sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has also been undertaken to assess the impacts of the draft Plan on a number of environmental considerations including biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these considerations, whenever applicable. More relevant to this document, an assessment of the draft plan under Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, the Habitats Directive, has also been undertaken. With a narrow focus aimed primarily at the protection, maintenance and/or restoration of European Sites defined within the aforementioned European legislation, the substance of this document in addition to its assessments will inform Fingal County Council as the Competent Authority on issues relevant to qualifying interests, conservation objectives and current integrity of designated sites.

## 1.2 METHODOLOGY OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT – A SUMMARY

The Appropriate Assessment has been informed by the legislative and guidance framework that has been fully documented in section 3.3 of the standalone screening for Appropriate Assessment of the draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. Briefly, it follows a hierarchical process consisting of four stages: Screening; Appropriate Assessment; Assessment of alternatives and Consideration of Imperative reasons of overriding public interest. If at any stage in the process it is determined that there will be no significant effect on the integrity of a European Site in view of the sites conservation objectives, the process is effectively completed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. The aim of stage 2 of the AA process is to identify any adverse impacts that the draft Fingal DP might have on the integrity of relevant European Sites. The scope of the assessment is confined to the effects upon habitats and species of European Sites. As part of the assessment, a key consideration is ‘in combination’ effects with other plans and projects. Where adverse impacts are identified, mitigation measures can be proposed that would avoid, reduce or remedy any such negative impacts and the plan or project should then be amended accordingly, thereby avoiding the need to progress to Stage 3 or 4 – the assessment of alternative solutions or the determination of Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI).

## 1.3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT AND THE DRAFT FINGAL DP

The Appropriate Assessment process must be fully integrated into the various stages of the development plan process in order to ensure that the ecological implications of the draft Fingal DP have no impact upon European Sites in view of the conservation objectives of the site. Both the AA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process have been managed by the RPS on behalf of Fingal County Council. The SEA process has been taken into account in the AA process - Interaction has been ongoing between RPS and the Fingal Planning Department since the early stages of the plan development.

The screening of the strategic objectives and thereafter the assessment of objectives in the context of mitigation measures and potential impacts upon European Sites is an iterative process throughout each stage of the plans development. This has enabled the importance of protection of the European Sites within Fingal and beyond (collectively known as the zone of influence) to be reinforced in the draft Fingal DP and to identify solutions to specific policies/objectives to avoid detrimental impacts upon these sites.

The draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 involved two phases. The first phase required the preparation of the Chief Executive’s draft Fingal Development Plan [4th December 2015] by Fingal’s Strategic Planning Unit. The Councillors then reviewed the Chief Executive’s draft Fingal Development Plan and submitted 528 motions for consideration at a series of Council meetings during January and February 2016. As a result of these meetings some changes were made which were then incorporated into the final draft Fingal Development Plan. Detailed minutes were undertaken at these Council meetings to note the outcome of each of the motions and Chief Executive’s amendments and to note any changes which were agreed. The Councillor motions and Chief Executive’s amendments were reviewed in light of the potential for significant environmental effects on European Sites arising from their inclusion in the draft Fingal DP 2017-2023.

Section 4 of this NIR provides a detailed assessment of the changes undertaken in light of the changes made on foot of the Council meetings. All of the motions were reviewed and a number of motions were further addressed as detailed in **Table 4.9**.

## 1.4 REPORT LAYOUT

In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and with reference to the guidance documents mentioned above, this report has been broadly structured as follows:

1. Part 1 – Summary of Screening for Appropriate Assessment
  - A Screening Report has been prepared under separate cover. However, for context, a summary of the screening process undertaken on the draft Fingal DP 2017-2023 is presented in this document.
2. Part 2 –Appropriate Assessment
  - Information gathering including identification of the conservation objectives of the European Sites and to identify those aspects of the plan or project (alone and in combination with other plans or projects) that will affect those objectives;
  - Description of potential significant impacts on the conservation feature of these sites likely to occur as a result of the implementation of the Plan;
  - Mitigation measures; and
  - Conclusions.

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT FINGAL DP

### 2.1 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

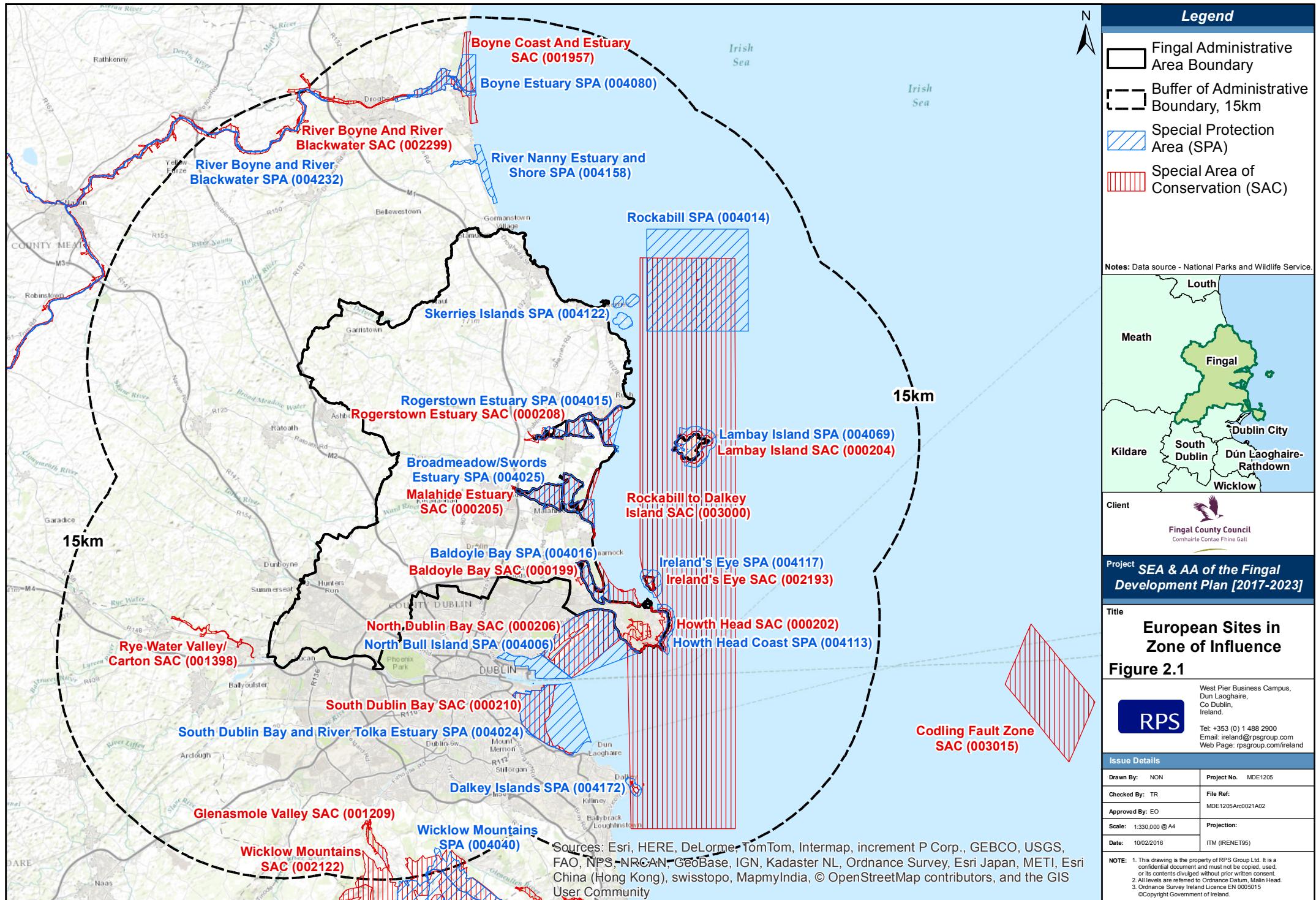
The administrative area of Fingal County is situated on the eastern seaboard of Ireland, in North County Dublin and covers an area of approximately 456km<sup>2</sup>. Bordered on the east by the Irish Sea, the north and west by Meath and on its south by the administrative areas of South Dublin and Dublin City. Its topography is largely characterised as low-lying ground though areas such as the Hill of Howth and areas south of Garristown and north-west of Naul can reach over 100metres elevation.

As previously identified in the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report, there are 13 European Sites (6 SAC and 7 SPAs) situated either within Fingal county boundary (Figure 2.1). These include:-

SAC	SPA
Baldoyle Bay SAC	Rogerstown Estuary SPA
Howth Head SAC	Baldoyle Bay SPA
Lambay Island SAC	Malahide Estuary (Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary) SPA
Malahide Estuary SAC	Lambay Island SPA
Rogerstown Estuary SAC	Howth Head Coast SPA
Ireland's Eye SAC	Ireland's Eye SPA
	Skerries Island SPA

In addition, a further 17 European Sites occur within 15km of the county boundary. This includes the Codling Fault Zone SAC, which was designated in early 2016 (Figure 2.1). These include:-

SAC	SPA
North Dublin Bay SAC	North Bull Island SPA
South Dublin Bay SAC	Rockabill SPA
Glenasmole Valley SAC	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	Wicklow Mountains SPA
Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	Boyne Estuary SPA
Wicklow Mountains SAC	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA
Boyne Coast And River Blackwater SAC	Dalkey Islands SPA
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA
Codling Fault Zone SAC	



Of the original list of thirty 30 European Sites that were identified as being within the Zone of Influence of the draft Fingal DP, twenty one (21) sites have been included for further assessment within Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

Despite the low-lying nature of Fingal, its territory extends from its impressive coastal boundary inland, and supports a considerable number of habitats, some of which are limited in extent, but nonetheless valuable. These include sand dune, saltmarsh and estuarine as well as woodlands – largely mature deciduous demesne woodlands, upland – heath, grassland and cliff, rural habitats including hedgerows, rivers and streams, remnant grasslands, as well as urban habitats including managed gardens, parks and amenity grasslands.

Within the same area, the county supports a considerable number of national designations as prescribed under the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended. Within the administrative area of the plan, 17 pNHAs and 1 NHA (Skerries Islands NHA) have been identified, some of which overlap in part with European Sites listed above.

Fingal is located within the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD). The main rivers within the administrative boundary include:- Mayne River, sections of the Tolka River, the Ward River, the Broadmeadow River and the Delvin River, along with the Corduff, Ballyboughal, Liffey, Santry and the Sluice. None of these rivers are subject to environmental designation however they all flow into designated estuaries and bays along the Fingal coast. In terms of water status, all rivers in Fingal are currently at moderate to poor status, particularly where they run through urban centres.

## 2.2 EXISITING THREATS AND PRESSURES

There is a mix of urban, suburban and rural communities across Fingal. The rapid expansion and subsequent development which Fingal has recently undergone is putting a considerable pressure on its environment and its natural resources, particularly its coastal areas.

Leisure activities and ongoing developments in close proximity to coastal areas, comprising four transitional waterbodies and five separate coastal water bodies, will likely continue and place increasing pressure on the ecology of these sensitive coastal areas. The coastal squeeze is further exacerbated by improved access, cycle routes, road developments and improvements/upgrades to existing infrastructure/housing which all further increase the pressures. They have the potential to impact upon coastal and marine European Sites in particular through habitat loss or change, fragmentation and disturbance , reduction in water quality and/or volume leading to loss of wetlands, species disturbance – in particular birds for which much of Fingal transitional and coastal territory has been designated and the introduction of alien and invasive species.

The entire county falls within the remit of the eastern river basin district. The water status of these 10 rivers (Mayne River, sections of the Tolka River, the Ward River, the Broadmeadow River and the Delvin River, along with the Corduff, Ballyboughal, Liffey, Santry and the Sluice) ranges from poor to moderate, often reflecting the change from rural to urban centres. The ongoing increases in population along with expanding commercial activities puts strain upon the existing water and wastewater infrastructure. It has been recognised that water supplies for the Greater Dublin Area which includes Fingal are at risk for continuity of supply. In addition, some wastewater treatment facilities which take wastewater from Fingal are operating at above design capacity – Swords and Ringsend, whilst other recent improvements such as at Portrane do not deal with problematical areas such as Rush where untreated waste is discharged into coastal waters.

The historical landfilling of waste, in hydrologically sensitive landscapes remains a key threat to the marine environment in Fingal. This has been recognised for a number of sites across the county, but in particular sites such as Baleally landfill in Rogerstown estuary which is designed for the protection of Annex I habitats and for internationally important number of wildfowl, many of which are Annex I Birds Directive species.

## 2.3 CONTENTS AND MAIN AIMS OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the draft Fingal DP is to set out Fingal Council's policies for the continuing sustainable development of the county for the period 2017- 2023. The Plan is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which requires a number of iterations and periods of consultation prior to the finalization and adoption of the plan for the period 2017-2023. The Act sets out the mandatory requirements which must be included in County Development Plans. These include the objectives and zoning of land, the provision of infrastructure, the conservation and protection of the environment, and the integration of planning and sustainable development with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population. It is also required that a Core Strategy is prepared, which, as far as is practicable, is consistent with the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines. The draft Fingal DP, which relates to the entire functional area of the Local Authority, will, when adopted, replace the current 2011-2017 County Development Plan.

The County Development Plan consists of:

- The Written Statement – the main policy document
- County Zoning Maps including specific local map based objectives. The maps included are:-

Sheet 1: County Strategy/ Index

Sheet 2: Fingal North

Sheet 3: Fingal Central

Sheet 4: Balbriggan

Sheet 5: Skerries

Sheet 6: Lush & Rush

Sheet 7: Donabate/Portrane

Sheet 8: Swords

Sheet 9: Malahide/Portmarnock

Sheet 10: Baldoyle/Howth

Sheet 11: South Fingal

Sheet 12: Blanchardstown North

Sheet 13: Blanchardstown South

Sheet 14: Green Infrastructure 1

Sheet 15: Green Infrastructure 2

Sheet 16: Green Infrastructure 3

- Appendices

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 introduces the requirement for an evidence-based “Core Strategy” to be incorporated as part of the County Development Plans. The primary focus of the Core Strategy is on residential development and in ensuring that there is an acceptable balance between the supply of zoned, serviced land for residential development and the projected demand for new housing, over the lifetime of the Plan. In this respect, two key datasets are examined:

- Housing Land Availability Study (supply of zoned land)

- Regional Planning Guidelines for the GDA (population targets)

The County Development Plan sets the scale, location and nature of new development areas but it is other mechanisms such as Local Area Plans, Strategic Development Zones and Masterplans that provide the crucial detail for creating sustainable neighbourhoods. The draft Fingal DP includes the provision for a range of statutory Local Area Plans and non-statutory masterplans as highlighted in the plan.

### 2.3.1 Content of the Draft Fingal DP

The draft Fingal DP contains the following information as outlined in **Table 2.1**.

**Table 2.1 – Content of draft Fingal DP**

Written Statement of Development Plan	Content
Chapter 1: Introduction & Strategic Context	Introduction to the draft Fingal DP and overview of the process along with key legislative requirements. It includes the strategic vision, main aims and strategic policy.
Chapter 2: Settlement & Core Strategy	Details on the core strategy which provides the details in relation to the amount of land required to meet the housing and population targets. Strategic overview of how the towns and villages will develop over the lifetime of the Final DP.
Chapter 3 Placemaking	Provides details on placemaking, which encompasses a multi-faceted approach to planning, design and management.
Chapter 4: Urban Fingal	Provides a description and development strategy with associated specific objectives for the individual settlements including large towns and urban areas that make up urban Fingal.
Chapter 5: Rural Fingal	Provides the Rural Settlement Strategy which guides and promotes the formation of the rural community by providing a strategic approach to villages and settlements.
Chapter 6: Economic Development	Outlines the economic vision for Fingal through policies across a range of business and industry sectors.
Chapter 7: Infrastructure & Movement	Outlines the transportation strategy for Fingal including roads, rail, (Metro) cycleways, walkways and the Dublin airport. It also outlines the strategy for water services, renewable energy, information and communication technologies and waste management.
Chapter 8: Green Infrastructure	Outlines the approach to green infrastructure within Fingal under five themes. It also identifies and maps the key elements of the County's strategic green infrastructure.
Chapter 9: Natural Heritage	Outlines how Fingal recognises the importance of its natural heritage and how it will be protected and enhanced.
Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	Outlines how Fingal recognises the importance of identifying, valuing and safeguarding the archaeological and architectural heritage for future generations.
Chapter 11: Land Use Zoning	Provides details on the land use zonings within Fingal.
Chapter 12: Development Management Standards	Outline of standards to be adhered through development practices in order to inter alia prevent pollution and contamination of water, soil or air.

### **2.3.2 Main Aims of the Development Plan**

The draft Fingal Development Plan 2017- 2023 aims to:

- Plan for and support the sustainable long-term development of Fingal as an integrated network of vibrant socially and economically successful urban settlements and rural communities, strategic green belts and open countryside, supporting and contributing to the economic development of the County and the Dublin City Region.
- Provide for the future well-being of the residents of the County by:
  - Supporting economic activity and increasing employment opportunities;
  - Protecting and improving the quality of the built and natural environments;
  - Ensuring the provision of adequate housing, necessary infrastructure and community facilities;
  - Promoting and improving quality of life and public health; and
  - Building on the progress made in the County following the conclusion of the previous development plan.
- Incorporate sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, social inclusion and high quality design and the principle of resilience as fundamental values, crossing and underpinning the draft Fingal DP.
- Promote an appropriate balance of development across the County, by developing a hierarchy of high quality, vibrant urban centres and clearly delineated areas of growth, and favouring expansion in areas nearest to existing or planned public transport nodes.
- Ensure an adequate supply of zoned lands to meet forecasted and anticipated economic and social needs, while avoiding an oversupply which would lead to fragmented development, dissipated infrastructural provision and urban sprawl.
- Foster the development of socially and economically balanced sustainable communities.
- Facilitate the actions and implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan, as appropriate.
- Facilitate the potential for growth in tourism by implementing the Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018, as appropriate.
- Continue to influence regional and national planning and development policies in the interest of the County.
- Co-operate with the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Local Authorities and other stakeholders in meeting the needs and development requirements of the County and the Greater Dublin Area in accordance with the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area and any successor policy documents.
- Provide and facilitate sustainable development proposals and encourage innovation, balanced against any potential negative impact on the environment and communities.

### **2.3.3 Strategic Policy**

The Strategic Policy will deliver on the main aims by seeking to:

- Promote sustainable development by providing for the integration of economic, environmental, social and cultural issues into the Development Plan policies and objectives,

utilising to that end the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes.

- Minimise the impact of the County's contribution to climate change, and adapt to the effects of climate change, with particular reference to the areas of land use, energy, transport, water resources, flooding, waste management and biodiversity, and maximising the provision of green infrastructure including the provision of trees and soft landscaping solutions.
- Contribute to the creation of a more socially inclusive, equal and culturally diverse society by providing for appropriate community infrastructure, quality public realm and improving access to information and resources. Seek new innovative ways of enhancing social inclusion and ensure the Plan can facilitate initiatives arising from the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), where appropriate.
- Add quality to the places where Fingal's people live, work and recreate by integrating high quality design into every aspect of the Plan promoting adaptable residential buildings and ensuring developments contribute to a positive sense of place and local distinctiveness of an area.
- Promote and facilitate the long-term consolidation and growth of the County town of Swords generally as provided for in the Swords Strategic Vision 2035.
- Consolidate the growth of the major centres of Blanchardstown and Balbriggan largely within their previously identified limits by encouraging infill rather than greenfield development and by intensification at appropriately identified locations.
- Consolidate the development and protect the unique identities of the settlement of Howth, Sutton, Baldoyle, Portmarnock, Malahide, Donabate, Lusk, Rush and Skerries.
- Develop a strategy to promote and deliver an enhanced identity and link with Fingal for the wider communities of Santry, Ballymun, Meakstown/Charlestown, Finglas and Lanesborough and define them beyond the existing named South Fingal Fringe Settlement.
- Promote the vibrancy of town centres by providing for a mix of uses within these areas, including cultural and community uses and upper floor residential, as appropriate.
- Safeguard the current and future operational, safety and technical requirements of Dublin Airport and provide for its ongoing development (incl. the second runway and potential commercial opportunities) within a sustainable development framework. The framework shall take account of any potential impact on local communities and shall have regard to any wider environmental issues.
- Promote enterprise and employment throughout the Country, including the Metro North Economic Corridor and Blanchardstown and work with the other Dublin Local Authorities to promote the Dublin City Region as an engine for economic growth for the Region and the County.
- Protect, maintain and enhance the natural and built heritage of the County.
- Safeguard the 'green agricultural' identity of North Fingal, promoting the rural character of the County and supporting the agricultural/horticultural production sector.
- Provide viable options for the rural community through the promotion of controlled growth of the rural villages and clusters balanced with careful restriction of residential development in the countryside, recognising the unique value of rural communities in Fingal.
- Strengthen and consolidate greenbelts around key settlements.
- Seek the development of a high quality public transport system throughout and adjoining the County, including the development of modern light rail systems integrated into the existing rail network like Metro North and Metro West, improvements to the railway infrastructure including the Dart Expansion Programme (DEP), the facilitation of Quality Bus

Corridors (QBCs) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems together with enhanced facilities for walking and cycling.

- Promote, improve and develop a well-connected modern national, regional and local roads and public transport infrastructure geared to meet the needs of the County and Region and providing for all road users, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport.
- Work with Irish Water to secure the timely provision of the water supply and drainage infrastructure necessary to facilitate the sustainable development of the County and the Region.
- Secure the timely provision of other infrastructure essential to the sustainable development of the County, in particular in areas of resource and waste management, energy supply, renewable energy generation and Information and Communications Technology (ICT).
- Ensure the timely provision of community infrastructure including schools, recreational and sports facilities, roads, waste water treatment facilities and emergency services, commensurate with the number of housing units proposed for construction on lands zoned for residential development.
- Ensure new developments have regard to the recommendations of the Flood Risk Assessment, generally avoiding development on areas liable to flooding or which would be liable to exacerbate flooding.
- Promote, drive and facilitate the transition in the future to an entirely renewable energy supply.
- Promote and maximise the benefits of quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaption and mitigation.
- Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaption.
- Develop, in consultation with stakeholders appropriate strategies and policies to facilitate a reduction in green house and carbon emissions and development of a sustainable energy and climate change action plan for the County.

### 3 STAGE 1 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1 THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT FOR SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The Screening Report (a separate document) comprised information in support of screening for an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the draft Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (hereafter referred to as the draft Fingal DP), in line with the requirements of: Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, as transposed into Irish law, principally through Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to land use planning; and also the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011- 2015 legislation.

The Screening for the Appropriate Assessment was undertaken by RPS on behalf of Fingal County Council.

#### 3.2 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF STAGE 1 SCREENING REPORT AND ITS FINDINGS

The purpose of the stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening was to identify the European Sites with the potential to be impacted by the Plan and to determine if there was sufficient information as to decide if a significant effect was likely. As a finalised suite of policies and objective had not yet been formulated, the screening document could only look at the overarching strategic policies identified by Fingal County Council. Each strategic policy in the plan was reviewed with respect to each identified European Site and a determination was made as to whether there was potential for any aspect of the objective, either alone or in combination with other related objectives, to impact on the integrity of the European Site.

A buffer of 15km was considered as the appropriate zone of influence (ZoI) extending beyond the reach of the footprint of the draft Fingal DP, as per best practice and having regard to guidance (DEHLG 2010). The actual extent of the ZoI depends on the pathway for potential impacts, as well as the specific nature of different habitats/species for which a European Site is protected; and for this reason must be scientifically defined based upon further information. In regard of the objectives and potential impacts arising from the implementation of the draft Fingal DP, the 15 km distance was considered to be acceptable to screen all likely significant effects that might arise as a result of the implementation of the plan. The Codling Fault Zone SAC has been newly designated during the preparation of this draft Fingal DP is situated 24.5km offshore. It is included by virtue of the fact of its potential sensitivity of its proposed qualifying interests.

The screening process identified 30 European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the draft Fingal DP. Results of AA Screening Study removed nine of these European Sites from further consideration:-

- 1) by virtue of their distance from the proposed works;
- 2) the lack of connectivity or disturbance between the designated sites and plan objectives; or

3) the nature of their qualifying interests and/or their occurrence within the study area.

In light of this, and based on the precautionary principle it could not be conclusively determined that the remainder of the European Sites occurring within the zone of influence would not be adversely affected by the implementation of the draft Plan. Therefore, 21 sites including 10 SACs and 11 SPAs were brought forward for stage II Appropriate Assessment. The Codling Fault Zone SAC was included for assessment, as it was designated in early 2016. This marine site which is outside the ZOI for the other sites selected for further assessment may have the potential to be influenced by objectives specified within the draft Fingal DP.

### **3.3 CONSULTATION AND REVIEW**

As part of the SEA process, and by association, consultation took place with a range of bodies including EPA, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (DAHG), Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and neighbouring local authorities. Responses received during the SEA scoping and subsequent consultation of the draft Fingal DP have informed the content and scope of the AA.

## 4 STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been produced to support the Appropriate Assessment of the draft Fingal DP 2017-2023 under Article 6(3) of the European Union Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive); the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended); and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.

The main objective of the stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is to determine whether the Plan would result in significant adverse impacts upon the integrity of those European Sites with respect to the Site's structure and function; range and its conservation objectives.

Following on from screening for Appropriate Assessment, this section sets out the elements of the draft Fingal DP that are considered to have the potential to give rise to significant effects on European Sites. The potential impacts were assessed in the absence of any mitigation measures, and taking account of the precautionary principle wherein the potential for effects cannot be ruled out, rather than the certainty of the effects occurring was applied.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. In the first instance, County Development Plans should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European Sites by identifying possible impacts early on in the plan-making, and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts.

### 4.2 CONFIRMATION OF SITES BROUGHT FORWARD FROM STAGE 1 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT FINGAL DP

The stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment identified a total of 21 European Sites (including the pcSAC Codling Fault Zone) as requiring further assessment (**Table 4.1.** and **Table 4.2**). The Codling Fault Zone SAC was advertised by NPWS on May 15th 2015 and is now afforded full protection having been designated in Q1 of 2016. As the site has been designated within the lifetime of the plan, it should be noted that any marine development could have the potential to disturb the site. For that reason, it is included in this assessment. It is noted that there are no conservation objectives currently prepared for this site; therefore objectives for similar designated sites should be borne in mind.

**Table 4.1 – European Sites Subject to Stage 2 AA within Fingal Administrative Boundary**

Estuarine	Bays	Islands	Other
Malahide Estuary SAC 000208	Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199	Lambay Island SAC 000204	Howth Head SAC 000202 &
Malahide Estuary SPA 4025	Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016	Lambay Island SPA 4069	Howth Head Coast SPA 004113
Rogerstown Estuary SAC 000208		Ireland's Eye SAC 002193	

Rogerstown Estuary SPA 004015		Ireland's Eye SPA 004117	
		Skerries Islands SPA 004122	

**Table 4.2 –European Sites Subject to Stage 2 AA outside of Fingal Administrative Boundary**

Estuarine	Bays	Islands	Other
River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA 004158	North County Dublin SAC 000206	Rockabill SPA 004014	Codling Fault Zone SAC 003015
	North Bull Island SPA 004006	Rockabill to Dalkey Islands SAC 003000	
	South Dublin Bay SAC 000210		
	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024		

### 4.3 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE EUROPEAN SITES

In providing a description of the sites, the information has been summarised from NPWS sources. **Tables 4.3 and 4.4** provide a summary recap of the characteristics of the European Sites identified as potentially being impacted by the implementation of the draft Fingal DP.

**Table 4.3 – Description of European Sites inside Fingal County Administrative Boundary**

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
Baldoyle Bay SAC	000199	Baldoyle Bay extends from just south of Portmarnock village to the west pier at Howth, Co. Dublin. It is a tidal estuarine bay that is protected from the open sea owing to the presence of a large sand dune system Portmarnock. Two small rivers (the Mayne and the Sluice) flow into the inner part of the estuary. The site is a tidal estuarine system that is afforded some shelter by the extensive Portmarnock sand spit. The boundary of the SAC which overlaps with the eponymously named SPA, but it covers considerably more territory, extending as it does into the seaward parts of the Baldoyle Bay towards Howth, and in the opposite direction to the seaward side of Portmarnock dunes. The site has been designated for four Annex I habitats that largely occur around the edges of the intertidal flats. They include: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330] & Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]. In addition, it supports at least two legally protected plant species and is also an important bird area, hence the designation of the inner bay as an SPA and a wetland of international importance as well as being a Statutory Nature Reserve.
Baldoyle Bay SPA	004016	Unlike the SAC boundary, Baldoyle Bay SPA is confined to the inner part of Baldoyle Bay only and does not include the open waters extending beyond the protective influence of Portmarnock sand spit. In terms of

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
		its avian ecology, Baldoyle Bay is considered to be of high conservation importance, as internationally important populations of Brent Geese and nationally important populations of a further seven species are regularly recorded. The features of interest for which the SPA is specifically designated for include: Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048]; Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]; Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]; Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]; Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] & Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]. The inner part of the bay has also been designated as a statutory nature reserve and is also a wetland if international importance under the RAMSAR Convention.
Howth Head SAC	000202	Howth Head is a distinctive rocky headland situated on the northern side of Dublin Bay. It displays a range of natural habitats, including two Annex I habitats, Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] & European dry heaths [4030]. There are mosaics of upland and maritime communities including transitions to acid grasslands, wet flushes and small patches of bog as well as scrub and woodland reflecting the management; land-use and underlying geological conditions. The SAC is also of scientific importance for invertebrates, lichens and populations of at least two legally protected plant species and several other scarce plants. In addition, there is a degree of overlap between the SAC with the seabird colonies that are afforded further protection as a result of the designation of the Howth Head coast SPA, whose boundary extended further seawards than the SAC.
Howth Head Coast SPA	004113	The site comprises all of the sea cliffs (which are often sheer and extend up to 100m above sea-level) around this rocky headland and ranges from just east of the Nose of Howth to the tip of the Bailey Lighthouse peninsula. The marine area extending seawards to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included within the boundaries of the SPA. The cliffs around Howth Head are widely regarded for the nationally important colonies of various breeding seabirds. However, the SPA has been designated on the basis of a single species, namely; Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188].
Lambay Island SAC	000204	Lambay Island is a privately owned island of approximately 250ha. that is situated about 4km off the North Dublin coast at Portrane. Underlying ground conditions vary owing to the geology. Relatively low-lying along its western perimeter, it slopes gently upwards, to its highest point of 127m. A considerable part of the Lambay Island occurs above the 50m contour line, with the result that cliffs are an inherent feature of the site. Lambay Island is characterised variously by the presence of a range of habitats including agricultural land, Woodland – broadleaved and coniferous, parkland, scrub, walled gardens and buildings and unmanaged pasture and maritime grasslands and cliff vegetation. Designated for two Annex I habitats namely: Reefs [1170] and Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]; and two Annex II species: Grey Seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ) [1364] & Common Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365]. The SAC overlaps with an SPA of the same name owing to the avian diversity for which this island is known.
Lambay Island SPA	004069	A privately-owned island of moderate size; with a range of habitats from rocky shore to agricultural to scrub and woodland. The island is also designated as an SAC, although the SPA boundary extends beyond the SAC boundary. Lambay Island is known as an important seabird colony and it supports internationally important populations for a number of breeding seabirds. The diversity of the site is recognised in the lengthy features of interest list for which the site is designated: Fulmar

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
		( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009]; Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017]; Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018]; Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]; Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183]; Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184]; Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]; Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199]; Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200] & Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204]. The site is also of conservation for the population of Grey Seal, a species that is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive and for which an overlapping SAC designation exists.
Malahide Estuary SAC	000205	Malahide Estuary is the tidal mouth of the River Broadmeadow. It is a large estuary that was separated into inner and outer sections as a result of the construction of a railway viaduct in the 1800's. It is considered as a fine example of an estuarine system in that all of the main habitats are represented. At low tide, the inner estuary is rarely drained except perhaps for parts of its upper stretches which are characterised by extensive saltmarsh vegetation. The outer part of the estuary is mostly cut off from the sea by "the island" a large sand spit, which is characterised at low tides by large expanses of exposed sand/mudflats. The SAC boundary around the "Island" and extends northwards along the seaward side of Malahide sand-spit incorporating an extensive sand dune system. In terms of its ecological significance, the qualifying interests for the SAC include: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]; <i>Spartina</i> swards ( <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> ) [1320]; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]; Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] & Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130], this last habitat is a priority Annex I habitat. Of note about the SAC is that it is one of the few sites for which the non-native <i>Spartinion</i> habitat has been designated for in Ireland.
Malahide Estuary SPA	004025	There is considerable overlap in the areas covered by both the SAC and the SPA. Similar to the SAC, the SPA encompasses the estuary, saltmarsh habitats and shallow subtidal areas at the mouth of the estuary. The most noticeable differences being the extension of the SAC northwards along the coast to incorporate the sand-dune system located toward the seaward side of Malahide sand spit, while the SPA extends a short distance seawards beyond the mouth of the estuary (and SAC seaward boundary). Malahide Estuary SPA is a fine example of an estuarine system, providing both feeding and roosting areas for a range of wintering waterfowl. The presence of the lagoon within the inner estuary is of particular value as it increases the diversity of birds which occur. The site is of high conservation importance, with internationally important populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit, and nationally important populations of a further 12 species. The features of interest for which the SPA is designated are as follows: Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005]; Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048]; Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054]; Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067]; Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069]; Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]; Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]; Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]; Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156]; Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]; Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] & Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].
North Dublin Bay	000206	North Dublin Bay SAC covers the inner part of North Dublin Bay, out to a

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
SAC		<p>distance of approximately 1.4 to 1.8km. North Bull Island is the obvious focus of the SAC. This long sand spit began developing in the 18<sup>th</sup> century after the building of the South and Bull Walls. Despite its popularity with visitors and its myriad recreational uses, the site is considered an excellent example of a coastal site which hosts all the main habitats. It has a dynamic sand dune system coupled saltmarsh in the back parts. As such the features of interest for which the site is designated namely: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]; Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]; Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]; Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] (a priority Annex I habitat) &amp; Humid dune slacks [2190]. In addition a single Annex II liverwort species, Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], is also listed as a qualifying interest for the site. The site contains a numbers of rare and scarce plants including some which are legally protected as well as some of the invertebrates are of national importance. Given the range of the suitable habitats present, there is considerable bird diversity. Several of the wintering bird species have populations of international importance, which is why the site has also been designated as an SPA. In terms of its overall ecology, the site has a number of additional designations pertaining to it including two separate Statutory Nature Reserves covering the intertidal mudflats and East of Bull Wall as well as a Wildfowl Sanctuary, a RAMSAR Convention site, a Biogenetic Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and a Special Area Amenity Order site.</p>
North Bull Island SPA	004006	<p>The North Bull Island SPA covers all of the inner part of north Dublin Bay, with the seaward boundary extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to Drumleck Point at Howth Head. Measuring approximately 5km long by 1 km wide, North Bull Island sand spit developed as a result of the construction of the South and Bull Walls in order to improve Dublin Port in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although part of the interior have long been converted to two private golf courses, The sand spit is characterised by a range of habitats including a well-developed dynamic dune system along with relatively sheltered saltmarsh and intertidal lagoons with its associated mudflats located to the landward side of the island. The importance of North Bull island in terms of its avian fauna is well documented. It is considered one of the top sites in Ireland for wintering waterfowl. It is not surprising then that two separate Statutory Nature Reserves cover much of the island east of the Bull Wall and the surrounding intertidal flats. It is also a Wildfowl Sanctuary, a RAMSAR Convention site, a Biogenetic Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and a Special Area Amenity Order site. The list of features for which the SPA is designated for includes: Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]; Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]; Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]; Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]; Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]; Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]; Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]; Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]; Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]; Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]; Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]; Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]; Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]; Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]; Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]; Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]; Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] &amp; Wetland and</p>

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
		Waterbirds [A999].
Rogerstown Estuary SAC	000208	Lying approximately 2 km north of Donabate, this narrow estuary has, for a long time been divided by a causeway constructed for the Dublin-Belfast Railway line. The estuary itself is afforded some shelter from the sea by a sand bar. The estuary receives the waters of the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers and as a result experiences a wide salinity range. The estuary drains almost completely at low tide and the intertidal flats of the outer estuary are characterised by sands, though elsewhere, soft mud does occur. Its qualifying interests comprise 7 coastal habitats comprising: Estuaries [1130]; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]; Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] & Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]. The last habitat is designated as a priority Annex I habitat. In light of the fact that the estuary is an important waterfowl site, it has also been designated as an SPA and a statutory Nature reserve.
Rogerstown Estuary SPA	004015	It is a relatively small, funnel shaped estuary that receives the waters of the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers, both of which flow through intensive agricultural catchments. The estuary is divided by a causeway and narrow bridge, built in the 1840s to carry the Dublin-Belfast railway line and is further separated from the sea by a sand and shingle peninsula. The estuary has a wide salinity range, from near full sea water to near full fresh water. There is considerable overlap in the extent of the SPA with the eponymously named SAC. The main difference being the extension of the SPA boundaries further seawards beyond the low water mark to include an area of shallow marine water. The site contains good examples of a number of estuarine and coastal habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive and as such has been designated as an SAC. Owing to the range of habitats present, it is not surprising that it supports an internationally important population of Brent Goose and a further 16 species have populations of national importance. The SPA has been specifically designated for the following species: Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]; Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048]; Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056]; Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]; Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]; Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]; Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156]; Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] & Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]. It is also designated as a statutory Nature Reserve.
Ireland's Eye SAC	002193	The uninhabited island is characterised in parts by well-developed maritime plant communities that occur over thin drift soils whilst the remainder of the island is dominated by outcropping rock. There is a range of plant communities ranging from bracken to dwarf coastal grassland sward to heath and cliff vegetation. Designated due to the presence of two Annex I habitats namely; Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] & Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]. Owing to the co-existence of nationally important seabird colonies, the Island has also been designated as an SPA.
Ireland's Eye SPA	004117	Ireland's Eye is an uninhabited island of approximately 24ha. Located 1.5 km offshore from Howth. The geological composition of the area gives rise to an island characterised in large parts by vertical cliffs and exposed

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
		stacks. A small shingle beach is the main entry point onto the island: there are areas of exposed bedrock or low-lying eroded bedrock. For the most part, however, the island quickly rises in elevation, reaching 69 metres at its highest point. Much of the cliffs surrounding the island are vertical. A total of 5 annex I Birds Directive have been listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA namely; Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A107]; Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184]; Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]; Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] & Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200]. The ecological importance of the island is boosted by the presence of a number of other birds.
Skerries Islands SPA	004122	Consisting of three small uninhabited islands lying approximately 0.5 to 1.5km offshore along the north Dublin coast. All are low-lying. One of the islands, Shenick's Island, is managed by Birdwatch Ireland as a Bird reserve. A nationally important breeding colony of Cormorant is known from the island, which is considered of international importance when the adjacent island SPAs of Lambay and Ireland's Eye are included. The diversity of wintering waterfowl including Brent Geese is impressive, in part owing to the isolation of these small islands. The features of interests for which the site is designated include: Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017]; Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018]; Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Purple Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> ) [A148]; Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169]; Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184].

**Table 4.4 – Description of European Sites outside Fingal County Administrative Boundary**

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	Extending from the South Wall to the west pier at Dun Laoghaire, this intertidal site is characterised by with extensive areas of sand and mudflats. Its landward perimeters are largely bounded by coastal constructions – seawalls etc. However a number of small sandy beaches occur at Poolbeg, Irishtown and Merrion/Booterstown. There is evidence of incipient dune formation in areas, notably the seaward side of Booterstown marsh, which is of recent origin. The site is designated for a single Qualifying Interest, namely: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]. South Dublin Bay is also part of a more extensive SPA supporting a number of internationally important birds.
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It far exceeds the boundaries of the preceding SAC. It includes the intertidal area between the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, and the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey, as well as Booterstown Marsh. A portion of the shallow marine waters of the bay is also included. The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, being an integral part of the wider Dublin Bay complex. The Special Conservation Interests for the site include 13 Annex I Bird Species and 1 Habitat, namely; Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]; Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]; Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]; Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]; Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]; Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]; Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] ; Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna</i>

European Site	Site Code	Brief Site Description
		<i>dougallii</i> ) [A192] ; Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]; Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194] & Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	003000	This is a long linear site within the Irish Sea, approximately 7km wide and 40km long runs from Rockabill southwards towards Frazer Bank. It encompasses inshore and coastal waters and includes the seabed, reefs, sandbanks and a small number of islands (Dalkey, Muglins and Rockabill Islands). Its Qualifying Interests are: Reefs [1170] and Harbour Porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ) [1351]. The NPWS note that Reefs are an uncommon feature along the Eastern seaboard. Conversely, the SAC is a key habitat for the Porpoise within the Irish Sea. As part of the wider Dublin Bay complex, the area is an important national and international resource for birds. In relation to terrestrial element of the SAC, Dalkey Island supports large number of terns (Arctic, Common and Roseate while other seabirds commonly seen include Kittiwake, Razorbill, Guillemot, Puffin, Fulmar, Shag, Cormorant, Manx Shearwater, Gannet and gulls.
Rockabill SPA	004014	Rockabill SPA consists of two small, uninhabited islands that are situated approximately 7 km off the coast. The two islands (Lighthouse Island and the Bill) are connected at low spring tides, are characterised by low-lying rocky ground that is largely vegetated by scrub vegetation. Rockabill is considered one of the most important tern colonies in Europe and its features of interest include: Purple Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> ) [A148]; Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192]; Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] & Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194].
River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	004158	The site in County Meath comprises the estuarine sections of the River Nanny (extending almost 2km inland) as well as a 3km section of the shoreline extending north and south of the estuary. The narrow estuarine channel is characterised by saltmarsh and freshwater marsh/wet grassland along its edges. The shoreline, which is approximately 500 m in width to the low tide mark, comprises beach and intertidal habitats. Along its exposed shoreline, some well-developed beaches occur, which are in places backed by clay cliffs. Despite its proximity to a relatively urbanised area and its popular beaches, the range of habitats present enhances the ornithological importance of the site. It supports at least five species of wintering waterbirds in numbers of national significance and two species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The features of interest for the site are listed as: Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]; Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]; Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]; Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184] & Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].
Codling Fault Zone SAC	003015	A marine site located around 24 km east of Howth Head, Co. Dublin within the Irish Sea. The length of the site is approximately 7 km and 5 km wide at the greatest extent. The water depth at the site ranges from about 80 to 100 m. The newly designated site supports the Annex I habitat <i>Submarine structures made by leaking gases</i> [1180]. It has a restricted distribution throughout Europe (Ireland, UK and Denmark). In the UK, a number of areas have been designated for this habitat within their national maritime territory including in the Irish sea adjacent to the area where the Codling fault zone has been identified.

### 4.3.1 Other Natural Heritage

Although much of Fingal's biodiversity interest is located along the coastal boundary of the county, it also contains a range of habitats as previously described in section 2.1 (Receiving Environment). The AA process specifically addresses European Sites (both SAC and SPA), however some recognition of other natural heritage areas is required as they overlap with or provide supporting features to the conservation objectives to restore or maintain favourable conservation status of the European Sites.

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated owing to the national conservation value for ecological heritage. There are currently no sites listed for geological/geomorphological heritage although a draft list has apparently been in existence for some time. In many cases the NHA boundary overlaps with the SAC and /or SPA boundary or extends beyond it forming a buffer to the European Site boundary. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, flora and fauna species or a diversity of the attributes. NHA's are designated under the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000. Skerries Islands is the only Natural Heritage Area within the administrative boundary of Fingal County. Proposed NHAs, although not formally designated as yet, but nonetheless important, in the plan area include:-

**Table 4.5 – Natural Heritage Areas in Fingal**

pNHA/NHA	pNHA/NHA
Liffey Valley pNHA000128	Rogerstown Estuary pNHA000208*
Santry Demesne pNHA000178	Knock Lake pNHA001203
Baldoyle Bay pNHA000199*	Knock Lake pNHA001203
Howth Head pNHA000202 *	Feltrim Hill pNHA001208
Ireland's Eye pNHA000203*	Portrane Shore pNHA001215
Lambay Island pNHA000204*	Sluice River Marsh pNHA001763
Lambay Island pNHA000204*	Loughshinny Coast pNHA002000
Malahide Estuary pNHA000205 *	Royal Canal pNHA002103
North Dublin Bay pNHA000206*	
Rockabill Island pNHA000207 *	Skerries Islands NHA001218

## 4.4 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive requires the focus, at this stage of the assessment to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives/Special Conservation Interests of the qualifying features of the SACs and SPAs as set out in **Tables 4.3 and 4.4**.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as SACs and SPAs. The NPWS, as the responsible agency on behalf of the Government, are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these European Sites. The NPWS are also obliged to prepare management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation that should, among other things, define specific objectives for the conservation of features of interest within each site. Such detailed site specific conservation objectives have been prepared for some European Sites that are subject to this assessment.

Conservation Objectives, where available, were downloaded from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) in September 2015. The Conservation Objectives and their date of issue for the sites that have been brought forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment are shown in **Table 4.6**.

Site-specific conservation objectives aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying interests – Annex I habitat and Annex II species, as applicable. The conservation objectives are presented as a list of attributes against which targets have been set. All of the attributes in relation to each relevant feature has been considered in relation to the potential impacts associated with the draft Fingal DP.

The maintenance of favourable condition of these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at national level.

- Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: “its natural range, and the area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable”.
- Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: “population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long term basis”.

Where a conservation management plan has yet to be prepared and its conservation objectives set, have not been set, a set of generic conservation objectives has been produced by NPWS.

Generic Conservation Objectives for SACs are as follows:

- To maintain Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation condition.

Generic Conservation Objectives for SPAs are as follows:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA.

**Table 4.6 – Conservation Objectives for European Sites**

European Site	Site Code	Conservation Objectives	Version Number & Date of Issue
Baldoyle Bay SAC	000199	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitats for which the SAC has been selected, namely: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330] & Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410].	Site specific version 1.0 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2012
Howth Head SAC	000202	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitats for which the SAC has been selected.	Generic version 4.0 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
Lambay Island SAC	000204	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitats and Annex II Species for which the SAC has been selected. It is designated for two Annex I habitats, namely: Reefs [1170] and Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]; and two Annex II species: Grey Seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ) [1364] & Common Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365].	Site specific version 1.0 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2013
Malahide Estuary SAC	000205	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following Annex I Habitats, namely: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; & Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ).  To restore the Favourable conservation condition of the following Annex I Habitats, namely: Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ); Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); and Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes).  A conservation objective has not been prepared for this <i>Spartina</i> swards ( <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> ), as it is now considered to be an alien species (in Ireland). The NPWS have stated that it will therefore not be necessary to assess the likely effects of plans or projects against this Annex I habitat.	Site specific version 1.0 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
North Dublin Bay SAC	000206	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following Annex I Habitats, namely: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ); and Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> );  To restore the Favourable conservation condition	Site specific version 1.0 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2013

European Site	Site Code	Conservation Objectives	Version Number & Date of Issue
		<p>of the following Annex I Habitats, namely: Annual vegetation of drift lines; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); and Humid dune slacks.</p> <p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex II Species, namely of Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>).</p>	
Rogerstown Estuary SAC	000208	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following Annex I Habitats, namely: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; and Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimii</i>).</p> <p>To restore the Favourable conservation condition of the following Annex I Habitats, namely: Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>); Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes'); and Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')</p>	Site specific version 1.0 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2013
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitat for which the SAC has been selected., namely: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140].	Site specific version 1.0 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2013
Ireland's Eye SAC	002193	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitat(s) and/or the Annex II Species for which the SAC has been selected.	Generic version 4.0 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
Rockabill to Dalkey SAC	003000	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitat and Annex II Species for which the SAC has been selected. Its Qualifying Interests are: Reefs [1170] and Harbour Porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ) [1351].	Site specific version 1.0 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
Codling Fault zone SAC	003015	CO will likely be " <i>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I Habitat for which this site will be designated</i> ".	Generic version 4.0 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
North Bull Island SPA	004006	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of all SCI's for which the SPA has been selected.</p> <p>The list of features for which the SPA is designated includes: Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]; Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]; Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]; Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]; Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]; Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]; Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]; Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis</i></p>	Site specific version 1.0 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2015

European Site	Site Code	Conservation Objectives	Version Number & Date of Issue
		<i>squatarola</i> ) [A141]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]; Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]; Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156]; Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]; Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160]; Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]; Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169]; & Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179].	
Rockabill SPA	004014	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of all SCI's for which the SPA has been selected. Its features of interest include: Purple Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> ) [A148]; Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192]; Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] & Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisea</i> ) [A194].	Site specific version. 1.0 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
Rogerstown Estuary SPA	004015	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of all SCI's for which the SPA has been selected. The SPA has been designated for the following species: Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]; Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048]; Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056]; Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]; Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]; Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]; Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156]; & Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162].	Site specific version. 1.0 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
Baldoyle Bay SPA	004016	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of all SCI's for which the SPA has been selected. Features of interest are: Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048]; Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]; Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]; Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]; and Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157].	Site specific version 1.0 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2013
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA	004024	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of all SCI's (with the exception of Grey Plover) for which the SPA has been selected.  The grey plover is proposed for removal from the list of Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. As a result, a site-specific conservation objective has not been set for this species.  The Special Conservation Interests for the site include 13 Annex I Bird Species and 1 Habitat, namely; Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]; Ringed Plover	Site specific version. 1.0 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2015

European Site	Site Code	Conservation Objectives	Version Number & Date of Issue
		( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]; Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]; Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]; Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]; Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]; Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] ; Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192] ; Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]; & Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194].	
Malahide Estuary SPA	004025	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of all SCI's for which the SPA has been selected. The features of interest for which the SPA is designated are as follows: Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005]; Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]; Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048]; Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054]; Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067]; Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069]; Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]; Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]; Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]; Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156]; Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]; & Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162].	Site specific version 1.0 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2013
Lambay Island SPA	004069	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Generic version 4.0 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
Howth Head Coast SPA	004113	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Generic version 4.0 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
Ireland's Eye SPA	004117	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Generic version 4.0 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
Skerries Islands SPA	004122	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Generic version 4.0 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	004158	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of all SCI's for which the SPA has been selected, namely: Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]; Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]; Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]; Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]; Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]; & Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184].	Site specific version 1.0 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2012

Full Details of the Conservation Objectives/Special Conservation Interests are available on the NPWS website at [www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites](http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites).

## 4.5 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

As outlined in the EU document “Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC” and the national guidance document “Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities”, impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the draft Fingal DP can be categorised under a number of headings:

- Loss/reduction of habitat areas – (e.g. owing to the development of new projects such as transport or recreational facilities)
- Habitat or species fragmentation – (e.g. from developments such as communications infrastructure or waste water improvement schemes).
- Disturbance to key species – (e.g. from increased recreational pressures leading to works associated with improving public access to protected sites).
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value such as decrease in water quality and/or quantity – (e.g. through inadequate wastewater treatment; runoff of pollutants during the construction and operational phases of development; or agricultural runoff).

The draft Fingal DP is a high level plan that provides the framework for sustainable development within Fingal County. Whilst some new projects are given geographical context, such as new road developments or specific zonings, the plan does not prescribe the particular locations for developments or the specific nature of developments. Overall the draft Fingal DP underpins the sustainable development of housing, communities and urban centres with supporting infrastructure such as transport, water, waste, energy and communications infrastructure within the County that is appropriate to proper planning.

### 4.5.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

Direct habitat loss is caused where there is complete removal of a habitat type. Habitat loss can also occur through the reduction of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions. It can arise from the introduction of invasive species, toxic contamination or physical alteration. Indirectly, it can be caused by hydrological disturbance of groundwater dependant sites resulting in loss of habitat function and integrity. Coastal SACs within Fingal County are vulnerable in this regard, given the high proportion of sites that are designated for habitats sensitive to changes in groundwater flow or surface water run-off.

There is a potential that any designated site within the functional area of the draft Fingal DP may be either directly or indirectly adversely affected in this manner through the implementation of the Plan and its strategic objectives. Development either in isolation or in combination with other similar developments can potentially lead to significant adverse impacts on the environment with long term consequences. Construction of and improvement to water and waste-water infrastructure, development of coastal amenities or the installation of communications infrastructure could lead to loss of habitats if inappropriately located within the boundaries of a designated site or if removing supporting landscape features which are required to secure the integrity of a European Site e.g. linear hedgerows and rivers. Installation of linear infrastructure

such as roads and other transportation links or water and wastewater pipelines can have a negative impact over a wide distance where such infrastructure crosses designated sites.

Indirectly, habitat loss may also occur through draining of development lands adjacent to or hydrologically linked to designated sites that support water based habitats (and by inference the species that inhabit them) such as the transitional and coastal waters.

A review of the zoning maps included in the draft Fingal DP indicates that, for the most part there are no European Sites or parts of designated sites subject to zoning that would lead to direct habitat loss – open space zoning provides for the protection of the environment with the objective ‘to preserve, provide and improve recreational open space and to allow for green links and biodiversity conservation’. However, the draft Fingal DP does allow for additional landbanks to be zoned for development, at Lissenhall. In the case of Lissenhall, its eastern boundary is hydrologically linked to Rogerstown SAC and SPA via the Broadmeadow River. This could lead to habitat loss where developments do not take adequate precautions to prevent impacts on groundwaters or surface waters. Whilst direct habitat loss through inappropriate development is unlikely it cannot be ruled out. A second strategic landbank has been discussed for Dunsink, but presently it has not been developed and so is not further considered.

Furthermore, the draft Fingal DP plan does however, support the development under certain circumstances of otherwise unzoned agricultural land for the development of infrastructural projects that may lead to loss of habitat within designated sites. Those European Sites that could potentially be affected by habitat loss includes those sites listed in **Tables 4.3 and 4.4** that are designated for terrestrial habitats and species.

#### **4.5.2 Habitat and Species Fragmentation**

Habitat and species fragmentation can occur through the breaking up, or loss of habitats resulting in interference with existing ecological units. Fragmentation can also result from impediments to the natural movement of species. This is relevant where important corridors for movement or migration are likely to be disrupted such as along river corridors such as when construction introduces a barrier to the unimpeded movement of species from one habitat or area to another.

The installation of linear infrastructure e.g. roads and other transportation links including bridges, water and wastewater pipelines or electricity transmission lines can have a negative impact over a wider distance where such infrastructure crosses European Sites. Impacts can include habitat or species fragmentation where for example newly installed bridges interrupt flight paths of bats. Disturbance impacts to birds can also lead to fragmentation of bird populations. The qualifying features of SPAs along Fingal’s coastline are vulnerable to disturbance and potential fragmentation of populations as a result of developments that aim to improve recreational access.

#### **4.5.3 Disturbance to Key Species**

Disturbance to key species supported with a European Site is likely to increase as a result of increasing recreational activities or improved access or from developments within or adjacent to designated areas. Sources of disturbance are varied and can include: noise, vibration, light, construction and operation activities or others arising from the inappropriate timing of works or proximity to settlements. The draft Fingal DP supports the infrastructural development and promotion of tourism and recreation. It is likely that some of these projects have the potential to

cause disturbance impacts to key species if located within or in close proximity to relevant European Sites, particularly in coastal areas. Birds are especially vulnerable to disturbance from tourism and recreation. Such activities are linked to new or improved visitor access and/or facilities which can significantly increase the risk of habitat loss and disturbance and species disturbance. Other developments including housing, coastal defences and cycleways also add to the pressure in coastal areas.

#### 4.5.4 Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value

The key indicators of conservation value for the majority of European Sites in Fingal County relate to surface- and groundwater quality and quantity. Impacts on European Sites may occur where there are hydrological connections between the sites and development areas, even where a development is geographically separated from the European Site. The implementation of the draft Fingal DP may result in alterations to the hydrological regime or physical environment of the sites through abstraction (limited issue), run off or similar. Coastal European Sites in particular are vulnerable to changes in surface and ground water quality.

### 4.6 OVERVIEW OF ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN LIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITES

Plan Chapters containing policies that are considered to have potential for significant negative impacts on European Sites are shown in **Table 4.7**. An assessment of the relevant policies and objectives is presented in **Section 4.7**.

### 4.7 ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT FINGAL DP OBJECTIVES AND MAPS

It was not possible to guarantee that there would not be negative impacts on a number of European Sites which warranted progression to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the draft Fingal DP. During this iteration of the development of the draft Fingal DP each of the policies in the plan were reviewed and mitigation in the form of text changes and additional policies were recommended to ensure the protection of European Sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network. This integrated approach to policy / objective development was seen as a positive approach to addressing potential adverse effects arising from the draft Fingal DP through avoidance in the first instance. The approach resulted in termination of the AA process at Stage 2.

It is noted that in many cases, the objectives and policies of the draft Fingal DP are supporting policies which have no specific potential for impacts. In these cases, the integration of the extensive protection policies recommended at the outset of the process and presented in **Table 4.8** of this report, are considered an important positive effect of the AA process as they frame these supporting policies in the context of the importance of protecting the Natura 2000 network. In addition to these more general policies and objectives, there are a number of specific policies with potential for impact.

## 4.7.1 Policies with Potential for Impact

### 4.7.1.1 Infrastructure

The council recognise that in promoting the county to a wider audience and in facilitating inward investment, there is a requirement for infrastructure to meet the demands of its existing population and also for potential newcomers/users. The development of linear infrastructure is intimately linked with many of the objectives that are included in other chapters, notably Infrastructure and Development, Economic Development, and Urban Fingal. The absence of suitable infrastructure will undermine those objectives.

The Metro Corridor and other road corridors identified within the draft Fingal DP have the potential to result in significant land take and cause deterioration of habitats and dislocation of species. All such projects, however, are covered by specific objectives with the plan, which are governed by Development Management Standards and include environmental considerations and will require Screening for AA at project level. Many of the projects within the county are covered by LAPs and masterplans for which Fingal is committed to undertaking the Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

The Airport represents a significant infrastructural land use within Fingal and its ongoing development and future requirements including the identified need for a second runway. The development of the airport is under the remit of DAA, however, Fingal County Council is responsible for preparing a new LAP for the airport (current LAP is expired) which will provide an opportunity to reinforce environmental considerations.

Other elements of infrastructure to which the Council recognise the need for improvement is in the field of Broadband and Communications. While a number of area have been identified in the plan, Fingal largely commit to working with and facilitating the appropriate agencies to develop or improve these networks. As per Development Management Standards, all such project will projects be subject to Appropriate Assessment.

**Table 4.7 – Policy Areas in each Chapter with Potential for Significant Impacts.** (Numbering corresponds with chapter names shown in Table 2.1).

Policy Area within Chapter against European Sites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Baldoyle Bay SAC	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
Howth Head SAC	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
Lambay Island SAC	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malahide Estuary SAC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
North Dublin Bay SAC	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Rogerstown Estuary SAC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	-
South Dublin Bay SAC	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland's Eye SAC	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rockabill to Dalkey SAC	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Codling Fault zone SAC	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
North Bull Island SPA	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Rockabill SPA	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogerstown Estuary SPA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	-
Baldoyle Bay SPA	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
Malahide Estuary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
Lambay Island SPA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Howth Head Coast	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
Ireland's Eye SPA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skerries Islands SPA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-

**X** indicates a potential significant impact; - indicates that no significant impact is anticipated

#### **4.7.1.2 Leisure and Recreational Facilities**

Leisure activities in close proximity to coastal areas will continue, given the density of people and development that is projected along coastal areas. The “coastal squeeze” is unlikely to dissipate given the requirements and potential of the area and the objectives that have been developed which aim to provide for the sustainable development. Any development in close proximity to coastal areas has the potential to impact on coastal and marine European Sites in particular habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance, reduction in water quality negatively impacting wetlands and transitional waters, species disturbance and in particular birds for which much of Fingal’s coast has been designated will be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

It is council policy that the development of new, or the improvement of existing facilities be facilitated within its territory. This is particularly true of the sensitive coastal areas which for considerable parts have been designated as European Sites on the basis of Annex I habitats and or Annex II species (not including bird species) and Birds Directive Annex I Birds. The pressure from encouraging the recreational use of and potential increase to these sensitive sites would put a considerable pressure on the integrity of the sites and the national requirement to improve upon the status of the habitats as defined by their conservation objectives.

A key policy of the Council is to reduce the reliance on cars where practical and encourage sustainable modes of transport throughout the county. This includes the development of a network of dedicated cycleways and greenways in keeping with National policy. Sections of the proposed cycleways would inevitably tie-in with existing or planned routes in neighbouring Council administrative areas. However, some of the proposals have potential to directly impact upon European Sites as well as secondary or cumulative impacts for which Screening for AA would be required. In view of this Fingal have committed to a number of positive actions to mitigate against potential impacts namely:-

*ED57: “Promote and facilitate opportunities to create an integrated pedestrian and cycle network linking key tourist destinations in the County advancing the proposed Fingal Coastal Way, through carrying out a route evaluation study within two years of the adoption of this Plan ensuring a balance is achieved between nature conservation and public use and through identifying public rights of way in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and by exploiting former rail networks for use as potential new tourist and recreational walking routes”.*

and

*GI29 “Develop a Cycle/Pedestrian Network Strategy for Fingal that encompasses the Fingal Way and other proposed routes which will be Screened for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment”.*

#### **4.7.2 Marina**

The promotion and potential expansion of the maritime recreational pursuits and facilities within Fingal has been a target of preceding Development Plans. Given the ecological sensitivity of considerable parts of its coastal area, Fingal have committed to examining the viability of such a proposal and an objective has been incorporated within Chapter 6 - Economic Development. The agreed objective ED 72 (Chapter 6) reads thus:- *“Undertake a feasibility study of Fingal coastline to identify potential sites to accommodate marina development relevant to recreational*

*pursuits/requirements which will be screened for Appropriate Assessment".* The results of this study should highlight the legal obligations and requirements of the Conservation Objectives as they apply to the various European Sites along the Fingal Coast and provide the Council with considerable information that will enable it to refocus upon potentially considering new marina developments in environmentally suitable locations.

Earlier editions of the County Development Plan have included, as a result of councillors amendments, the objective of developing a new marina. The draft Fingal DP includes an objective committing the Council to undertaking a feasibility study-into the suitability of Rogerstown Estuary for the location of a marina. Any such study would need to fully address the ecological sensitivities of the area and be mindful of the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive which apply to large parts of the Estuary. The amended objective RUSH13 (Chapter 6: Economic Development) includes the following text:- *"Examine the feasibility of developing a marina and auxiliary and associated facilities at the Ramparts, Rogerstown, Rush designed and built in accordance with sustainable ecological standards and avoiding significant adverse impacts on European Sites and Species. Such consideration shall take cognisance of a wider study into marina development along Fingal coastline".*

#### 4.7.3 Tourism

In implementing the findings of the recently published Tourism Strategy, the council has committed to supporting and promoting Fingal's varied tourism potential. The overall aims include optimising and expanding the visitor experience, adopt a new marketing strategy to encourage the growth and develop new partnerships with interested stakeholders. A significant number of objectives, 152 in total, have been identified. Fingal County Council have confirmed that an AA Screening was undertaken on the Fingal Tourism Strategy in 2015. In light of the sensitivity of the coastal area and the potential for negative impacts associated with visitor pressure, particularly with regards to birds, it is considered essential that this AA Screening is revisited once a number of feasibility studies and other allied studies on the coastal areas have been completed. Included in the draft Fingal DP are commitments to carry out a number of studies or develop masterplans.

In summary the key studies which have a particular importance for European Sites are as follows. Within the lifetime of the plan, there is a commitment to undertake necessary ecological surveys and complete habitat mapping for the County, prioritising sensitive coastal areas. In addition they council will develop ecological masterplans for Rogerstown, Malahide and Baldoyle Estuaries focusing on their ecological protection and that of their surrounding buffer zones. There is also a commitment to carry out Erosion risk management studies and to develop a coastal erosion policy for the county, which will have regard to national climate change legislation, mitigation and adaptation policies, and the need to protect the environment. In addition there are a number of other localised studies that have been committed to that cumulatively will enable a better understanding of the pressures on European Sites (taking into consideration the dynamic nature of coastal processes and the predicted impacts of climate change) and which could be exacerbated by tourism related projects. These include a study of the North Beach to take into account the dynamic nature of coastlines as well as a comprehensive habitat characterisation study of the South Shore area of Rush.

#### **4.7.4 Land Use Zoning and Local Objectives**

Although it is not intended to zone extensive additional lands in Fingal as part of the draft Fingal DP, it is proposed to re-zone in a number of areas. Within the Metropolitan Area key zoning changes have been undertaken to ensure alignment with the RPG 85:15 ratio.

It is the Council objective to develop and implement a hierarchical framework for planning based on four separate “zonings” namely:-Local Area Plan; Masterplan; Strategic Urban Design Zone and Public Realm Plans. Each of these four plan types is more specific and provides more detail for a smaller area.

All plans and projects are automatically required to be screened for Appropriate Assessment and Fingal have enshrined this as a strategic objective in Chapter 1. However, specific projects or developments that could arise out of the LAP and Masterplans could themselves have an impact upon the integrity of European Sites and would need to be separately assessed.

The Council has also reviewed its requirement for additional land so satisfy projected demand and identified one landbank, namely Lissenhall, whilst a second strategic landbank at Dunsink is not at this time being considered. The indicative areas of these lands brings Lissenhall into direct conflict with Rogerstown Estuary SAC and SPA.

Objective Swords 23 – *“Prepare a Local Area Plan for lands at Lissenhall (refer to Map sheet No. 8 LAP 8.1) to provide for the longer term strategic development of the area as a planned sustainable mixed used urban district, physically and functionally integrated with Swords”.*

All LAPs are statutory documents and as such are required to be subject to SEA and AA to assess the impacts on the immediate hydrological environment and the connection to adjacent European Sites. From the outset, the council recognise that parts of this landbank are at risk from flooding and have commissioned a flood risk assessment. In the case of Lissenhall, it is likely that parts of the land to be zoned immediate west of Rogerstown Estuary SPA and SAC is prone to and indeed reliant upon flooding for the integrity of some of its Qualifying Interests. In preparing the LAP for the area, Fingal are cognisant of the hydrological character of the area and want to sustainably incorporate the area into the strategic landbank. Fingal have committed to the inclusive LAP so that the potential flood lands do not become deteriorated as a result of their omission from the LAP. Notwithstanding this fact, the LAP must comprehensively address the issue in such a manner as a SFRA may recommend whilst retaining the ecological and hydrological value of the flooded lands and the hydrological connection that exists between those lands and the European Sites located downstream.

In relation to the indicative strategic lands that were identified at Dunsink, a hydrological connection to the River Liffey exists which could impact upon the European Sites in Dublin Bay. However, as this area has not now been included in the draft Fingal DP, it is not further assessed and no mitigation is presented.

#### **Local Area Map Based Objectives**

In addition to the strategic landbank, there are a number of smaller zonings, identified on the land use zoning maps (Maps 2-13). Most are connected with subtle changes within urban/metropolitan areas to encourage infill development in preference to expanding beyond set boundaries and the development of specific recreational/development requirements.

The Local Area Map Based Objectives have been reviewed for potential impacts arising from the nature or location of the proposals. A considerable number of local objectives have been removed from those previously identified in the 2011-2017 Development Plan as a policy of the Planning Department. In many cases, the objectives on the maps reflect the application of the objectives already assessed during the course of the AA mitigation process. The following section provides an overview of the key significant land use zoning changes and local objectives and the key issues identified.

Sheet 2 Fingal North: To the west of Naul, the rural (RU) and rural village (RV) zoning has been altered to open space (OS). This will have positive impacts on the environment by increasing the quantity of land zoned to open space. Also to the east of the M1 and south of Balbriggan, the existing zoning for a food park has changed from rural business (RB) to food park (FP). No significant negative impacts anticipated. There are two local objectives identified in relation to rural tourism and restrict development from flooding.

Sheet 3 Fingal Central: To the north of Rowlestown there is a slight expansion of the RV. No negative impacts are anticipated. New OS has been zoned in the village of Rivermeade providing a positive impact for population and biodiversity. There are four local objectives for the lands that provide protection for biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Sheet 4 Balbriggan: To the north of Balbriggan, the zoning residential (RS) has been changed to residential area (RA). In the centre of Balbriggan town RS has been changed to OS and to the west RA has been changed in a small section close to the town to Community Infrastructure (CI). In addition some General Employment (GE) zoning has been changed to CI. To the south east of Balbriggan a large portion of RA has been re-zoned RS and adjacent to this there has been a small reduction in the OS zoning to RA. Loss of open space will have a negative impact on population and biodiversity. There are six local objectives for protection and promotion of local amenity and linkages. These objectives are not anticipated to have significant negative impacts on the environment.

Sheet 5 Skerries: To the north-western corner of Skerries there has been an increase in OS and minor loss of high amenity (HA) and RA. Some of the zoning in this same area has changed from RA to RS. At Baltrasna the existing area was zoned HA and is now rural cluster (RC). Within Skerries town there is a minor loss of OS to town and district centre (TC). There are six local objectives including preservation of cultural heritage, provision of recreational strategy, facilitation of a southern relief road and requirement for a masterplan for Holmpatrick lands.

Objective 104 “*prepare a masterplan for the “Holmpatrick” Lands to provide for a new sensitively designed and sited hotel, gymnasium and swimming pool with public access, public open space and integrated coastal walkway within the lands zoned OS (Open Space), a maximum of 24 residential units on lands zoned RS (Residential, existing) and associated infrastructure. The phasing of the development shall ensure that the hotel, gymnasium and swimming pool are provided within the first phase of the development of the site. The Masterplan shall consider issues such as access, deliverability and phasing as well as architectural design and the visual and ecological sensitivity of the area.*” Objective DSM02, the application of Appropriate Assessment applies to all Local Authority Projects and Fingal have given a commitment that all Masterplans although not statutory documents will be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The cumulative impacts of such projects on the Special Conservation Interests of Skerries SPA, in particular, must be addressed.

Sheet 6a Lusk: All of the RA zoning in Lusk has been changed to RS to reflect the established settlement. There are no significant impacts anticipated from these changes. The two local objectives will have positive impacts for population and human health from the provision of pedestrian and cycle links.

Sheet 6b Rush: To the north of Rush there is an increase in OS and loss of RU having a positive impact for population and biodiversity. There is also a change of RU to CI providing the opportunity for community infrastructure provision to the north of the town. In the centre of the town there is a change of a number of zonings from RA to RS. The three local objectives are aiming to protect cultural heritage, biodiversity and human health.

Local Objective 212 "*Ensure that any new residential development in the South Shore, indicated on the map by a boundary line is in compliance with the specific housing policy relevant to the south Shore*". The sensitivity of the coastal parts of this area has been recognised and a specific objective has been agreed to inform upon the full extent of the ecological sensitivity of areas underlain by sandy soils. It encompasses all dune areas with the south shore and extends northwards to take into account the full extent of the sand dunes habitats within the northern parts of Rogerstown Estuary:- Objective RF15 "*Undertake a Habitat characterisation study, within one year of the making of this Development Plan, of lands in Rush located south of South Shore Road from Rogerstown Pier to the shoreline immediately south of Old Barrack Road, and implement its recommendations to ensure that planning policy in Rush fulfils the Council's legal obligation to protect European sites and takes into consideration the dynamic nature of coastal processes and the predicted impacts of climate change in the proper planning and sustainable development of the town and its environs.*"

Sheet 7 Donabate-Portrane: In Donabate there has been a significant zoning change to the west of the town from OS to HA and to the south of the town there is a small change from RA to HA. There are no significant impacts anticipated from these changes. There are twelve local objectives aiming to achieve the following positive impact on biodiversity and population: remediation of the Baleally landfill, specific requirements for wastewater treatment, a management strategy for Rogerstown Estuary and facilitate housing requirements. These are all considered positive in terms of the long-term conservation objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SAC and SPA

One objective SLO235 "*Provide for well-designed detached housing at maximum densities of 10 houses per hectare (4 per acre) in the Burrow*", if unmitigated has the potential for negatively impacting on European Sites. The Burrow, on the southern side of Rogerstown Estuary and given its proximity to the Rogerstown Estuary SAC and SPA is very sensitive. Any proposed development will be within lands currently designated for residential purposes but any projects will be subject to DSM01, a requirement to undertake AA. Any such project must demonstrate no adverse impacts to the Burrow and wider Rogerstown estuary qualifying features.

Sheet 8: To the north of Swords a significant amount of RU has been re-zoned to Metro Economic corridor (ME). This area is named as Lissenhall, a land bank that has been proposed to facilitate future housing requirements for Fingal. The land bank to the north will subject to a Local Area Plan (LAP) and to the south will be subject to a Masterplan, both will be screened for SEA and AA. Lissenhall is located close to the main population centre of Swords, in proximity to the Broadmeadow River and Malahide Estuary, which is an important site for wintering birds and has an internationally important population of Brent Geese (designated SAC and SPA). This is a sensitive site due to hydrological connections to European Sites. Lissenhall will also be within a relatively short distance of the Rogerstown Estuary to the north, which is a designated SPA and SAC. Due to the sensitive nature of the site and the location of highly developed areas upstream, is will be

important to ensure adequate infrastructure is in place to meet demands for wastewater treatment which will mitigate for negative impacts to biodiversity, flora and fauna and water quality. Landscape in the area has been designated as both Highly Sensitive and a High Amenity Zone which will need to be accounted for in the LAPs.

All LAPs are required to be Screened for AA, particularly in light of the hydrological connection and ecological requirements of both habitats and species. The cumulative impacts of all projects associated with the landbank need to be assessed, particularly the potential necessity to build flood relief defences as identified in any subsequent Flood study.

South of Lissenhall, a small stretch of land has been changed from OS to CI; loss of open space will have a negative impact on population and biodiversity. Immediately south of these lands the area has been rezoned from GE to ME; and an area of land at Barryspark adjacent to the M1 on the southern side of Swords has changed from major town centre (MC) to ME. At Hilltown, some RA has changed to RS, the slight expansion of which has led to a minor loss of OS. However, there are no significant impacts anticipated from these changes.

There are two local objectives for sheet 8, relating to provision of bus link and the development of a regional park. No negative impacts are expected from the implementation of these local objectives. There will be positive impacts for population, human health and biodiversity.

Sheet 9 Malahide-Portmarnock: In Malahide to the east of the mainline railway, a small stretch of land has changed from RA to RS, with some RA also changing to OS. The addition of OS will lead to positive impacts to biodiversity and population. A patch of land on the northern edge of Portmarnock has changed from green belt (GB) to CI. In north Kinsealy, some RS land has been rezoned to RV, and a strip of OS has been rezoned to RV also. The loss of both GB and OS in these areas will lead to negative impacts to biodiversity and population. In south Kinsealy, the RB zoning has been merged with RV. At Balgriffin, a minor patch of local centre (LC) has changed to RA and a small area of RA has changed to RS. There are no significant impacts anticipated from these changes. There are ten local objectives, which relate to the protection of trees, the provision of pedestrian linkages, an extension to the cemetery, arrangements for vehicular access, protection of Kinsale house and development of walkway/ cycleway. There is potential for both negative and positive impacts from these local objectives.

Objective 410 “*Develop an estuary walkway and cycleways from Mayne Bridge, Baldoyle Road to Strad Road, Portmarnock together with an adequate system of public lighting for the entire route from Baldoyle to Portmarnock.*” Feeding into the largely positive strategic plan of the Greater Dublin Authority Cycling Strategy, the impacts of linear routes along the coast as well as the in-combination impacts of other routes could result in increased pressures and hence impacts on European sites along Fingal’s coastline. The threat of adverse impacts in terms of individual projects let alone interconnecting projects, not matter how distant from European Sites needs to be addressed through in the first instance through a considered approach involving route selection and environmental assessment of all projects.

In light of this, Fingal have committed to Objectives ED57 and GI29 to evaluate all potential routes and subject them to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

Sheet 10 Baldoyle: Just to the east of the mainline railway at Donaghmeade/Baldoyle, some of the RA zoning has changed to RS; there are no significant impacts anticipated from these changes. There

are seventeen local objectives which are largely positive in terms of impacts on the environment. A number of specific objectives although positive have the potential to impact upon European Sites by virtue of their proximity to or their occurrence within the site Boundaries of the European Sites.

541 “*Formulate and implement an integrated plan for amenity lands in council ownership at Redrock, Kilrock and New Carrickbrack Road. Provide for the signposting and maintenance of rights of way and inter alia, for parking, landscape interpretation and other environmental information.*” This first local objective whilst occurring within the Howth Head Coast SPA and possibly Howth Head SAC, is specifically aimed at existing amenity land and its management. Any new project would be subject to the requirement for AA as per objective DSM 02.

It is the intention of the Fingal Council as per local objective, SL0585 to “Facilitate current maritime activities whilst ensuring that the visual and environmental amenity of the area is protected and to encourage use of the beach, including better signage, with no loss of public access to the beach”. The objective is aimed towards maintaining the status quo at discrete access points into at Sutton, a coastal area intimately linked to North Dublin Bay SAC and North Bull Island SPA. As such no impact is expected given the existing land uses, but any change in the status with potential adverse impact on the European Sites would need to be Screened for Appropriate Assessment as per DMS01 or DMS02 in the case of the local Authority.

Sheet 11 South Fingal: At Clonshaugh, an area of OS has changed to high technology (HT) zoning; the loss of OS will lead to negative impacts to biodiversity and population. In the south of Fingal and adjacent to the M50 between Junctions 4 and 5, a large stretch of land has been changed from RU and warehousing and distribution (WD) zoning to GE; there are no significant impacts anticipated from these changes. There are seven local objectives which include the provision of a second major east west runway, a masterplan for HT uses and the undertaking of a Land Use and Transportation Study. There is potential for both negative and positive impacts on the environment from these local objectives, in particular SLO 419 which reads “*Facilitate the RPA’s development of a well –designed depot to Serve Mero West. The depot shall be sites, designed, landscaped, constructed, operated and maintained into the future to ensure that any potential noise, air and/or light pollution as well as visual impacts of this development in the landscape are minimised. The depot shall be screened on all sides*”. As a project that is to be managed by another agency, nonetheless, an Appropriate Assessment as per DSM01 will apply to this strategic infrastructure.

Sheet 12 Blanchardstown North: At Yellow Walls, to the west of the N2, numerous small tracts of land have been rezoned from RV to RS. An area of land on the south-west side of and adjacent to the N2 (before Junction 2) has been rezoned from GE to heavy industry (HI); a small sliver of RB land in this area has also been rezoned to HI. Further south around Huntstown, land has also been rezoned from GE to HI. Some land to the south-east of Ballycoolin has changed from RU to HT; the land around Ballycoolin and directly to the south has been changed from GE to HT also. On the northern edge of Corduff town, a stretch of land has from HT to CI. A stretch of land along the northern part of Tyrrelstown has been rezoned from GE to CI which will be of benefit to population. The southern part of Tyrrelstown has been rezoned from GE and a significant portion of OS to RS. The loss of OS will have a negative impact on biodiversity and population. There are nineteen local objectives in relation to infrastructure and access provision, waste management, protection and enhancement of public and woodland amenity, and to restrict development from flooding. There is potential for both negative and positive impacts on the environment from these local objectives.

A single local objective SLO 461 “*Provide for the development of a linear park along the Tolka River Valley*”. Currently, a linear park exists, future unspecified development could have an a number of

impacts including hydrological impairment of this salmonid Tolka River, Impacts upon the downstream European Sites, impacts and disturbance of existing ecological features. The criteria of chapter 12 Development Management Standards would be applicable to the realisation of this specific objective.

Sheet 13 Blanchardstown South: Some RA land has been rezoned to RS to the east and adjacent to the M50 at Cappagh and just to the north of Castleknock along the N2. There has been a loss of OS to CI zoning to the north of Ashtown and the north of Dunsink. In addition the Urban Chapter in the Written Statement promotes the lands at Dunsink for future mixed use development and a study area is outlined in Sheet 13. Development at Dunsink would be located within the Metropolitan Area of Blanchardstown, and adjacent to the M50 motorway which increases connectivity for the site. It is also in proximity of the Tolka River, which increases flood risk. The development will be adjacent to the existing Dunsink landfill site. Wastewater treatment capacity will also need to be established prior to development as Blanchardstown is currently served by Ringsend WWTP which is operating above its design capacity. However the provision of a regional WWTP, which will be operational by 2022, will alleviate pressure on the system. Dunsink forms an upstream connection to North and South Dublin Bay SACs, North Bull Island SPA and the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA via the Tolka River. The Dunsink site is also located in proximity to both a High Amenity Area and Highly Sensitive landscape area. In addition, the agricultural land in the general area ranges from good to excellent. Thirty-eight local objectives have been identified within Sheet 13, with the potential for both negative and positive impacts on the environment.

Local Objective 578 “*Provide a pedestrian/cyclist link between the Tolka River and Royal Canal*”. Like other proposed cycleways, this objective arises out of the strategic GDA Cycle Network Plan. Currently, Fingal Council have some routes identified which follow on from the strategic GDA Cycle network Plan which was itself screened for Appropriate Assessment. However, the strategy recognised the importance and sensitivity of many of the routes outlined and identified that specific projects would require to themselves be Screened for AA, albeit that this is a legislative requirement. They have committed to including an objective ED 57 and GI 29 that will evaluate route options, consult with stakeholders and subject the proposals to Screening for Appropriate Assessment being cognisant of the cumulative impacts of individual projects whose development may be phased owing to economic constraints.

Like Local Objective 461 of Sheet 12, Local objective 638 is a continuation of the proposed pedestrian routing linking the Royal Canal and the River Liffey. There is potential to result in impacts depending on design, siting and construction methodology upon the watercourse integrity and downstream upon European Sites in Dublin Bay. However, any such plan would be subject to the requirements of the Development Management Standards Chapter 12, particularly DMS01 and DMS02.

## 4.8 CUMULATIVE AND IN-COMBINATION IMPACTS

This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination or cumulative effects/impacts of the proposed draft Fingal DP with other plans and projects on the European Sites. It is recognised that while some objectives identified in section 4.7.1 of this strategic level plan relate to specific or named projects, that others will by their very nature result in as yet unspecified development projects. Other Plans and projects specific to the relevant European Site include the following:-

- Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017;
- South Dublin Development Plan 2010-2016;
- Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019;
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2010-2016;
- Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018;
- Greater Dublin Area Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;
- National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020;
- Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy, 2011 – 2030;
- Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future, A new Transport policy for Ireland, 2009 – 2020;
- Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, 2002-2031;
- Greater Dublin Water Supply Strategic Study, 1996-2016;
- Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy. 2011 – 2030 Vision, NTA, June 2011;
- Eastern RBD Management Plan 2009-2015;
- IPC Programme;
- Groundwater Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Surface Water Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study;
- Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans; and
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Coastal Defence Strategy Study, Final Report, Malachy Walsh and Partners, 2010.

## 4.9 MITIGATION MEASURES

### 4.9.1 Pre-draft Measures

All of the objectives of the draft Fingal DP were screened for their potential impact upon any of the European Sites identified within the 15km Zone of Influence. The draft objectives that had been developed by Fingal were reviewed for their potential to create significant adverse impacts on European Sites. The potential impacts have been assessed in the absence of mitigation measures and the precautionary principle that potential effects could not be ruled out, rather than the certainty of them occurring has been applied. The reasons for screening-in of objectives is based on the potential of individual objectives to result in:-

- Potential reduction of Annexed Habitat areas
- Potential habitat or species fragmentation; or
- Potential for disturbance of key species;
- Potential for negative changes in key indicators of conservation value e.g. water quality); or
- Potential negative influence on Climate Change.

The protective policies as originally drafted accounted for a considerable degree of positive protection in relation to the integrity of European Sites. Notwithstanding this fact and that they may in themselves be in keeping with the guiding principle of environmental sustainability, a number of objectives that are included in the plan have the potential to result in significant adverse effects

on the integrity of European Sites within the Plan area. Over the course of the plan formulation, however, suggested amendments were presented to the plan team to ensure that individual policies were in compliance with both EU and national legislation. The policies, as now included, in this draft of the plan reflect this review process and their status is shown in **Table 4.8**.

#### 4.9.2 Key Areas

##### Tourism Strategy:

The existing Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018 includes a considerable number of objectives and potential projects that may be entered into either by the Council itself or in conjunction with other interested parties. At this time, the specific details of some of the projects arising out of the objectives is unknown, although a Screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken on the strategy. In light of the sensitivity of the coastal area and the potential for negative impacts associated with visitor pressure, particularly birds, it is considered essential that this AA Screening is revisited once a number of feasibility studies and other allied studies on the coastal areas have been completed.

##### Coastal Plan:

Fingal did not agree with the recommendation to carry out an integrated coastal management plan and prepare a baseline monitoring programme that would capture changes in sediment supply and potential changes in habitat extent. In the continued absence of National Policy and guidance let alone funding that would be required for such an onerous project, Fingal have developed a number of objectives within the various chapter, but in particular Chapter (Natural Heritage). A number of policies have been developed with a new objective NH03 which reads

*“Undertake necessary ecological surveys and complete habitat mapping for the County during the lifetime of the Plan, prioritising sensitive coastal areas.”*

#### 4.9.3 Amendments due to Chief Executives Report on Public Consultation and Councillor Motions

Over the course of the plan development, additional policy objectives may be developed in response to the Chief Executives report which will encapsulate comments received during the public consultation phase of the draft Fingal DP and any other suggestions that might be required by Councillors. These will be subject to Appropriate Assessment only after submission of the Chief Executive's report. All further amendments arising from this review, once supplied will be subject to Appropriate Assessment and recommendations provided as necessary prior to adoption of the draft Fingal DP.

Any subsequent recommendations arising from this evaluation will be incorporated into an Appendix to this document.

**Table 4.8 – Suggested policy Amendments for inclusion into draft Fingal DP**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Policy/ Objective</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Alteration Agreed/Disagreed – Final Objective including any new wording</b>
2	SS14	Manage the development and growth of Malahide and Donabate in a planned manner linked to the capacity of local infrastructure to support new development.	Suggest insert text:- of the area “ and taking account of the ecological sensitivity of qualifying features of proximal European Sites.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Manage the development and growth of Malahide and Donabate in a planned manner linked to the capacity of local infrastructure to support new development of the area and taking account of the ecological sensitivity of qualifying features of nearby European sites.
2	SS15	Ensure development in Portrane is sensitively designed and respects the unique character and visual amenities of the area.	Suggest insert text:- sensitively designed “taking account of the ecological sensitivity of overlapping European Site surrounding of “the Burrow” at Portrane”.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure development in Portrane is sensitively designed and respects the unique character and visual amenities of the area, taking account of the ecological sensitivity of European Sites surrounding The Burrow at Portrane.
4	SWRD06	Develop a Regional Park [of circa 65 ha] immediately west of Oldtown, and adjoining and ultimately extending into the Broadmeadow River Valley Linear Park, to serve Swords and its hinterland, and to comprise active recreational and passive activities, commensurate with the Council’s vision for the emerging city of Swords.	Insert suggested text:- of Swords “subjecting the proposal to Screening for AA, in particular the cumulative impacts of increased access into European Sites”.	Agreed. Objective amended to read as follows: Develop a Regional Park [of circa 65 ha] immediately west of Oldtown, and adjoining and ultimately extending into the Broadmeadow River Valley Linear Park, to serve Swords and its hinterland, and to comprise active recreational and passive activities, commensurate with the Council’s vision for the emerging city of Swords, subjecting the proposal to Screening for AA, in particular the cumulative impacts of increased access to European Sites.
4	SWRD15	Develop an appropriate entrance to the Ward River Valley from the town of Swords so that access to the amenities of the valley is freely and conveniently available to the people of Swords.	Insert suggested text:- of Swords “subjecting the proposal to Screening for AA, in particular the cumulative impacts of increased access into European Sites”.	Agreed and still be included in Fingal Development Plan. Objective amended to read as follows: Develop an appropriate entrance to the Ward River Valley from the town of Swords so that access to the

Chapter	Ref.	Policy/ Objective	Amendments	Alteration Agreed/Disagreed – Final Objective including any new wording
				amenities of the valley is freely and conveniently available to the people of Swords, subjecting the proposal to Screening for AA, in particular the cumulative impacts of increased access to European Sites.
4	Malahide Dev. Strategy	Promote the planned and sustainable consolidation of the existing urban form and the sensitive promotion of amenities. The need to upgrade and support the development of the core as a town centre will be balanced with the need to conserve its appearance as an attractive, historic village settlement and to retain the existing amenities of the area.	Insert suggested text:- of amenities “being cognisant of the proximity to ecologically sensitive coast and concomitant European Union Conservation Designations”.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Promote the planned and sustainable consolidation of the existing urban form and the sensitive promotion of amenities. The need to upgrade and support the development of the core as a town centre will be balanced with the need to conserve its appearance as an attractive, historic village settlement and to retain the existing amenities of the area being cognisant of its proximity to an ecologically sensitive coastline including European Sites.
4	MALA6	Facilitate the development of a pedestrian and cycle link between Malahide and the Donabate peninsula as part of the Fingal Coastal Way.	Insert suggested text:- peninsula, whilst avoiding any routing along northern boundary of Malahide inner estuary by virtue of its ecological sensitivity.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Facilitate the development of a pedestrian and cycle link between Malahide and the Donabate peninsula as part of the Fingal Coastal Way, whilst avoiding any routing along northern boundary of Malahide inner estuary by virtue of its ecological sensitivity.
4	Howth Dev. Strategy	Develop the village in a manner that will protect its character, and strengthen and promote the provision and range of facilities, especially the retention and promotion of retail convenience shopping and community services to support the existing population and tourists. Future development will be strictly related to the indicated use zones including the infilling of existing developed	Insert suggested text:- Area Order “being cognisant of the potential increasing pressures that could arise as a result of the implementation of a Fingal Tourist Strategy”.	Agreed. Strategy to read as follows: Develop the village in a manner that will protect its character, and strengthen and promote the provision and range of facilities, especially the retention and promotion of retail convenience shopping and community services to support the existing population and tourists. Future development will be strictly related to the indicated use zones

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		areas rather than further extension of these areas. Development will be encouraged which utilises the recreational and educational potential of the area and other nearby natural environments of high quality. The strategy for Howth Peninsula is to ensure the conservation and preservation of its sensitive and scenic area, in particular through the implementation of the Howth Special Amenity Area Order.		including the infilling of existing developed areas rather than further extension of these areas. Development will be encouraged which utilises the recreational and educational potential of the area and other nearby natural environments of high quality. The strategy for Howth Peninsula is to ensure the conservation and preservation of its sensitive and scenic area, in particular through the implementation of the Howth Special Amenity Area Order, being cognisant of the potential increasing pressures that could arise as a result of the implementation of the Fingal Tourism Strategy.
4	Balgriffin & Belcamp Dev. Strategy	Consolidate the new and existing areas of Balgriffin and Belcamp to create vibrant residential communities with appropriate local services and community facilities to serve the new population. Ensure that the necessary infrastructure is delivered in tandem with development and that the new built form respects the rich built and natural heritage of the surrounding environment.	Insert suggested text:- surrounding environment “recognises the ecological sensitivity and hydrological connection with adjacent European Sites”.	Agreed. Strategy to read as follows: Consolidate the new and existing areas of Balgriffin and Belcamp to create vibrant residential communities with appropriate local services and community facilities to serve the new population. Ensure that the necessary infrastructure is delivered in tandem with development and that the new built form respects the rich built and natural heritage of the surrounding environment and recognises the ecological sensitivity and hydrological connection with adjacent European Sites.
4	PORT2	Provide recreational facilities for the expanding population on the peninsula.	Insert suggested text:- peninsula “being mindful of the ecological sensitivities of the designated coastal site”.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Provide recreational facilities for the expanding population on the Peninsula being mindful of the ecological sensitivities of the coast including European Sites.
4	PORT5	Ensure the sensitive coastal estuarine area of The Burrow is adequately protected and that any proposed development is subject to HDA	Suggest text inclusion for PORT5 “subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment”.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure the sensitive coastal estuarine area of The Burrow is

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		screening.		adequately protected and that any proposed development is subject to environmental assessment including Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
4	PORT6	The replacement of chalets/holiday huts by permanent dwellings, which can be resided in on an all year basis within 'HA' zoned land at The Burrow, will be considered in the context of flood risk, site size, EPA standards for waste water disposal, access and other appropriate standards.	Potential impacts on European sites and additional text to be included.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: The replacement of chalets/holiday huts by permanent dwellings, which can be resided in on an all year basis within 'HA' zoned land at The Burrow, will be considered in the context of flood risk, site size, EPA standards for waste water disposal, access, impact on Habitats Directive Annex I habitats including priority fixed dune habitats and for protected species and other appropriate standards.
4	PORT7	Provide for pedestrian and cycle routes between Portrane and Donabate.	Insert suggested text:- Donabate "being mindful of the impacts upon the ecological diversity around Portrane Demense".	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Provide for pedestrian and cycle routes between Portrane and Donabate being mindful of the impacts upon the ecological diversity around Portrane Demense.
4	BALB6	Prepare a Regeneration Strategy for Balbriggan harbour in consultation with local fishermen, businesses and community groups having regard to its historic character.	Insert suggested text:- harbour "subject to Screening for AA".	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Prepare a Regeneration Strategy for Balbriggan Harbour in consultation with local fishermen, businesses and community groups having regard to its historic character subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
4	RUSH09	Prepare and Implement the Rogerstown Estuary Management Plan and subject the Management Plan to Habitats Directive Assessment prior to its adoption	The management plan will need to be Screened for Appropriate Assessment.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Prepare and implement the Management Plan for the Outer Rogerstown Estuary Plan and subject the plan to Screening for Appropriate Assessment prior to its adoption.

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4	RUSH 13	Prepare a Masterplan for the development of marina and water sports facilities at Rush Sailing Club with improved access and off street parking to serve the local community subject to an Appropriate Assessment.	Clarify that subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment. The development of a marina may require a feasibility study to address other coastal location possibilities.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Examine the feasibility of developing a marina and auxiliary and associated facilities at the Ramparts, Rogerstown, Rush, designed and built in accordance with sustainable ecological standards and avoiding significant adverse impacts on European Sites and species. Such consideration shall take cognisance of a wider study into marina development along the Fingal coastline (Objective ED71, Chapter 6: Economic Development refers.
4	RUSH14	New policy proposed.		Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Undertake a study, within one year of the making of this Development Plan, of lands in Rush located at North Beach, and implement its recommendations to ensure that planning policy in Rush takes into consideration the dynamic nature of coastal processes and the predicted impacts of climate change in the proper planning and sustainable development of the town and its environs.
4	RUSH15	New policy proposed.	Suggest new text insert; Undertake a "Habitat Characterisation" study,	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Undertake a Habitat Characterisation study, within one year of the making of this Development Plan, of lands in Rush located south of South Shore Road from Rogerstown Pier to the shoreline immediately south of Old Barrack Road, and implement its recommendations to ensure that planning policy in Rush fulfils the Council's legal obligation to protect European sites and takes into consideration the dynamic nature of coastal

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				processes and the predicted impacts of climate change in the proper planning and sustainable development of the town and its environs.
4	LOUG3	Provide for and facilitate mixed-used development including restaurants, cafes, art and cultural uses within the harbour area.	Insert suggested text:- area “ being mindful of the ecological sensitivities of the proximal European Sites”	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Provide for and facilitate mixed-used development including restaurants, cafes, art and cultural uses within the harbour area being mindful of the ecological sensitivities of the nearby European Sites.
5	RF43	Require that an applicant demonstrates that the impact of any proposed house will not adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the ecological integrity of any Natura 2000 site.	Suggest text inclusion “ecological integrity of any European site	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Require that an applicant demonstrates that the impact of any proposed house will not adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the ecological integrity of any European site
5	RF82	Prohibit mineral extraction and land reclamation along the coast, particularly in proximity to estuaries, except where it can be demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment, visual amenity, heritage or the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 Sites.	Potential impacts on European sites  Suggest text alteration “European sites ”.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Prohibit mineral extraction and land reclamation along the coast, particularly in proximity to estuaries, except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment, visual amenity, heritage or the conservation objectives of European Sites.
5	RF83	Ensure that any future proposals for extraction of aggregates and land reclamation proposals include an assessment of the impact(s) on the natural and cultural heritage, and on the coastal processes of erosion, deposition accretion and flooding. Any such proposals may need to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement and/or screening for assessment under the Habitats Directive.	Suggest text alteration for last bullet point “subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment”.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure that any future proposals for extraction of aggregates and land reclamation proposals include an assessment of the impact(s) on the natural and cultural heritage, and on the coastal processes of erosion, deposition accretion and flooding. Any such proposals may need to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement and/or Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

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5	RF86	Preserve and protect wetlands, coastal habitats, and estuarine marsh lands in the coastal zone from inappropriate development, including land reclamation. Any proposals for land reclamation in the coastal zone shall be subject to screening for assessment under the Habitats Directive and to an assessment of impacts on any such wetlands, coastal habitats, and estuarine marsh lands and its impacts on coastal processes including erosion, deposition accretion and flooding.	Suggest text alteration for last bullet point "subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment".  Suggest text alteration for last bullet point "flooding and potential impacts from climate change".	Agreed.  Objective to read as follows: Preserve and protect coastal wetlands, coastal habitats, and estuarine marsh lands in coastal areas from inappropriate development, including land reclamation. Any proposals for land reclamation in coastal areas shall be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment and to an assessment of impacts on any such wetlands, coastal habitats, and estuarine marsh lands and its impacts on coastal processes including erosion, deposition, accretion and flooding particularly in light of climate change.
5	RF100	Support recreational pursuits which promote the use of natural landscape features in a way which does not detract or cause undue damage to the features upon which any such proposed initiatives rely. Where the proposed pursuit involves land use changes either within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites, proposals will be subject to screening for assessment under the Habitats Directive.	Suggest text alteration "European sites instead of Natura 2000 sites". Proposals will be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment".	Agreed.  Objective to read as follows: Support recreational pursuits which promote the use of natural landscape features in a way which does not detract or cause undue damage to the features upon which any such proposed initiatives rely. Where the proposed pursuit involves land use changes either within or adjacent to European sites, proposals will be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment
5	RF102	Support the provision of proposed long distance walking trails that provide access to scenic coastal and river features, subject to screening for assessment under the Habitat's Directive.	Suggest text inclusion "subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment".	Agreed.  Objective to read as follows: Support the provision of proposed long distance walking trails that provide access to scenic uplands, riverine and coastal features, subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
5	RF103	Facilitate the creation of golf courses, pitch and putt courses, and driving ranges in the Greenbelt where such development does not contravene the vision and zoning objective for the Greenbelt or impact on any historic	Suggest text alteration "subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment".	Agreed.  Objective to read as follows: Facilitate the creation of golf courses, pitch and putt courses, and driving ranges in the Greenbelt where such development does not contravene the vision and

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		designed landscapes, and subject to screening under the Habitats Directive.		zoning objective for the Greenbelt or impact on any historic designed landscapes, and subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
5	RF104	Require that all applications for planning permission for golf courses are accompanied by Impact Statements, including proposed mitigation measures, which assess; The visual impact, The cumulative effect of the proposed additional golf course upon the landscape, The impact of the proposed golf course on the existing biodiversity, archaeological and architectural heritage, The impact on drainage, water usage, and waste water treatment in the area, and proposed mitigation of these impacts, and; Screening for assessment under the Habitats Directive of the potential for impacts on Natura 2000 Sites.	Suggest Insert text:-  Any landscaping plans submitted should not prescribe planting/screening with inappropriate non-native or alien species e.g. Hippophae rhamnoides (Sea Buckthorn) as a boundary treatment particularly in proximity of sensitive coastal habitats.  Suggest text alteration for last bullet point “subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment”.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Require that all applications for planning permission for golf courses are accompanied by Impact Statements, including proposed mitigation measures, which assess The visual impact, The cumulative effect of the proposed additional golf course upon the landscape, The impact of the proposed golf course on the existing biodiversity, archaeological and architectural heritage, The impact on drainage, water usage, and waste water treatment in the area, and proposed mitigation of these impacts, Any landscaping plans should not prescribe planting/screening with inappropriate non-native or alien species e.g. Hippophae rhamnoides (Sea Buckthorn) as a boundary treatment particularly in proximity of sensitive coastal habitats, and Subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
6	ED57	New objective Develop a Cycle/ Pedestrian Network Strategy for Fingal that encompasses the Fingal Way and other proposed routes which will be Screened for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.		Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Promote and facilitate opportunities to create an integrated pedestrian and cycle network linking key tourist destinations in the County, by advancing the proposed Fingal Coastal Way, through carrying out a route evaluation study within two years of the adoption of this Plan, ensuring a balance is achieved between nature conservation and public use and through identifying public rights of

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				way in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and by exploiting former rail networks for use as potential new tourist and recreational walking routes.
6	ED71	Promote opportunities for enterprise and employment creation in marine tourism where it can be demonstrated that the resultant development will not have a negative impact on the receiving marine environment.	Suggest insert text:- marine environment “nor any of the qualifying features of European Sites”.	Agreed and will be included in Fingal Development Plan. Objective to read as follows: Promote opportunities for enterprise and employment creation in marine tourism where it can be demonstrated that the resultant development will not have a negative impact on the receiving marine environment including any of the qualifying features of European Sites.
6	ED72	Proposed New Objective	Undertake a feasibility study of Fingal coastline to identify potential sites to accommodate marina development relevant to recreational pursuits/requirements which will be screened for AA.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Undertake a feasibility study of the Fingal coastline to identify potential sites to accommodate marina development relevant to recreational pursuits and requirements. As part of the study the impact on the receiving marine environment, including the coastline, will be assessed and Screening for Appropriate Assessment undertaken.
7	WQ04	Protect existing riverine wetland and coastal habitats and where possible create new habitats to maintain naturally functioning ecosystems whilst ensuring they do not impact negatively on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 sites.	Suggest text is altered to refer to European sites and not Natura 2000 sites.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Protect existing riverine wetland and coastal habitats and where possible create new habitats to maintain naturally functioning ecosystems whilst ensuring they do not impact negatively on the conservation objectives of any European Sites.
7	WQ05	Establish riparian corridors free from new development along all significant watercourses in the County. Ensure a 10 to 15 metre wide riparian buffer strip measured	Suggest Insert text:- metres wide “as a minimum”.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Establish riparian corridors free from new development along all significant watercourses in the County. Ensure a

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		from top of bank either side of all watercourses, except in respect of the Liffey, Tolka, Pinkeen, Mayne, Sluice, Ward, Broadmeadow, Corduff, Matt and Delvin where a 30m wide riparian buffer strip from top of bank to either side of all watercourses outside urban centres is required.		10 to 15 metre wide riparian buffer strip measured from top of bank either side of all watercourses, except in respect of the Liffey, Tolka, Pinkeen, Mayne, Sluice, Ward, Broadmeadow, Corduff, Matt and Delvin where a 30m wide riparian buffer strip from top of bank to either side of all watercourses outside urban centres is required as a minimum.
7	EN10	Support Ireland's renewable energy commitments outlined in national policy by facilitating the exploitation of wind power where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment, landscape or local amenities.	Suggest insert text:- surrounding environment " including offshore sites that will likely be designated under the Birds and Habitats directive in the lifetime of the plan"	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Support Ireland's renewable energy commitments outlined in national policy by facilitating the exploitation of wind power where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment, landscape or local amenities including offshore sites that may be designated under the Birds and Habitats Directive in the lifetime of this Plan.
8	GI02	Develop the green infrastructure network to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including the protection of Natura 2000 sites, the provision of accessible parks, open spaces and recreational facilities, the sustainable management of water, the maintenance of landscape character including historic landscape character and the protection and enhancement of the architectural and archaeological heritage.	Suggest adjusting text to refer to European sites as opposed to Natura 2000 sites.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Develop the green infrastructure network to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including the protection of European Sites, the provision of accessible parks, open spaces and recreational facilities (including allotments and community yards), the sustainable management of water, the maintenance of landscape character including historic landscape character and the protection and enhancement of the architectural and archaeological heritage.
8	GI09	Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Fingal in partnership with key stakeholders and the public.	Suggest Insert text:- strategy for Fingal "as a priority"	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Fingal in partnership with key stakeholders and

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				the public as a priority.
8	GI14	Ensure the protection of Fingal's Natura 2000 sites is central to Fingal County Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Suggest adjusting text to refer to European sites as opposed to Natura 2000 sites.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure the protection of Fingal's European sites is central to Fingal County Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy.
9	NH05	Ensure that the management of the Council's open spaces and parks is pollinator-friendly and provides more opportunities for biodiversity.	Suggest new text:- for biodiversity, "taking cognisance of to ensure no spread of alien invasive species"	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure that the management of the Council's open spaces and parks is pollinator-friendly, provides more opportunities for biodiversity, and does not introduce or lead to the spread of invasive species.
9	NH07	Ensure that the Council takes full account of the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives, as they apply both within and without Natura 2000 sites in the performance of its functions.	Suggest reference in objective to European sites.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure that the Council takes full account of the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives, as they apply both within and without European sites in the performance of its functions.
9	NH08	Ensure that the Council, in the performance of its functions, takes full account of the objectives and management practices proposed in any management plans for Natura 2000 sites in and adjacent to Fingal published by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	Suggest changing altering text, Natura 2000 sites to European sites.	Agreed Objective to read as follows: Ensure that the Council, in the performance of its functions, takes full account of the objectives and management practices proposed in any management or related plans for European Sites in and adjacent to Fingal published by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
9	NH14	Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Habitat Directive Annex I sites , and on rare and threatened species including those protected by law and	Suggest new text added:- Annex I sites " and Annex II species contained therein"	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Habitat Directive Annex I sites and Annex II

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		their habitats.		species contained therein, and on rare and threatened species including those protected by law and their habitats.
9	NH58	Plan and develop the Fingal Coastal Way from north of Balbriggan to Howth taking full account of the need to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites, other protected areas and species protected by law.	Suggest text inclusion to refer to European sites and requirement for Screening for Appropriate Assessment.	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Plan and develop the Fingal Coastal Way from north of Balbriggan to Howth taking full account of the need to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on European Sites, other protected areas and species protected by law.
9	NH59	Ensure that there is appropriate public access to the coast including the provision of coastal walkways and cycleways, while taking full account of the need to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites and species protected by law, and examine the designation of traditional walking routes thereto as public rights of way.	Suggest text inclusion to refer to European sites and requirement for Screening for Appropriate Assessment.	Agreed Objective to read as follows: Ensure that there is appropriate public access to the coast including the provision of coastal walkways and cycleways, while taking full account of the need to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on European sites and species protected by law, through Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and examine the designation of traditional walking routes thereto as public rights of way.
12	DMS 01	Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in-combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening.	Amend Wording – 1)Natura 2000 to read European Sites 2) AA Screening to read Screening for Appropriate Assessment	Agreed Objective to read as follows: Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in-combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a European site or sites will be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
12	DMS 45	Ensure that any planning application for a house within an area which has a Greenbelt or High Amenity zoning objective is accompanied by a comprehensive Visual	Insert suggested text:- “and a Screening for Appropriate Assessment, as necessary”	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure that any planning application for a house within an area which has a Greenbelt or High Amenity zoning

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		Impact Statement.		objective is accompanied by a comprehensive Visual Impact Statement and Screening for Appropriate Assessment, as necessary.
12	DMS 51	Integrate and provide links through adjoining open spaces to create permeable and accessible areas.	Insert suggested text:- provide links “subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment, as necessary”	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Integrate and provide links through adjoining open spaces to create permeable and accessible areas, subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment as necessary.
12	DMS 95	Facilitate the provision of a crematorium within the life of the Draft Plan, subject to environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening as appropriate.	Amend text :- replace Appropriate Assessment Screening with “Screening for Appropriate Assessment”	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Facilitate the provision of a crematorium within the life of the Draft Plan, subject to environmental assessment and Screening for Appropriate Assessment as appropriate.
12	DMS 99	Retail development should be in accordance with the fundamental objective to support the vitality and viability of the retail centre and must demonstrate compliance with the sequential approach. Proposals to amalgamate retail units will be carefully considered. Major retail proposals (exceeding 1,000 sq.metres) are required to provide a detailed Retail Impact Assessment (RIA) and a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA).	Insert Amended text:- “and Screening for Appropriate Assessment”	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Retail development should be in accordance with the fundamental objective to support the vitality and viability of the retail centre and must demonstrate compliance with the sequential approach. Proposals to amalgamate retail units will be carefully considered. Major retail proposals (exceeding 1,000 sq.metres) are required to provide a detailed Retail Impact Assessment (RIA), a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) and Screening for Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate.
12	DMS155	Ensure Appropriate Assessment Screening and, where required, full Appropriate Assessment is carried out for all plans and project in the County which, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant direct or indirect	Amend Text from Appropriate Assessment Screening to “Screening for Appropriate Assessment” Also Natura 2000 sites to “European Sites”	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure Screening for Appropriate Assessment and, where required, full Appropriate Assessment is carried out for all plans and projects in the County which, individually, or in combination with other plans

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		impact on any Natura 2000 site or sites.		and projects, are likely to have a significant direct or indirect impact on any European site or sites.
12	DMS 158	Ensure planning applications for proposed developments likely to have significant direct or indirect impacts on any Natura 2000 site or sites are accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement 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, 2009).	Amend Text from Natura 2000 site to "European Site"	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure planning applications for proposed developments likely to have significant direct or indirect impacts on any European Site or sites are accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement 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, 2009)
12	DMS 160		New Objective Include an additional objective specifying that as a result of potential negative impacts owing to development or upgrade or improved access to sites/buildings of cultural heritage, that cognisance is taken for the potential presence of ecological features particularly bats but also birds and that an ecological assessment by a suitability qualified person is made in the appropriate season to determine the presence of same. Where confirmed and depending on the location, a Screening for AA may be required and mitigation measures recommended in advance of any works	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure that proposals for developments involving works to upstanding archaeological sites and features or works to the historic building stock include an assessment of the presence of bats in any such sites or structures and, where appropriate, ensure that suitable avoidance and/ or mitigation measures are proposed to protect bats in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
12	DMS163	Ensure that no development, including clearance and storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 10m – 15m measured from each bank of any river,	Insert suggested text:- 10-15m “as a minimum”	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Ensure that no development, including clearance and storage of materials, takes place within 10m – 15m as a

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		stream or watercourse in the County.		minimum, measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse in the County.
12	DMS164	Require that development along rivers set aside land for pedestrian routes that could be linked to the broader area and any established settlements in their vicinity, subject to ecological impact assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening as appropriate.	Amend Text from Appropriate Assessment Screening to "Screening for Appropriate Assessment" as appropriate	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Require that development along rivers set aside land for pedestrian routes that could be linked to the broader area and any established settlements in their vicinity, subject to ecological impact assessment and Screening for Appropriate Assessment as appropriate.
12	DMS 168	Where extractive development may significantly effect the environment or a European site or sites, regard shall be had to EIA guidelines and Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009 and the requirements of this Development Plan.	Amend Text from Natura 2000 site to "European Site"	Agreed. Objective to read as follows: Proposals for such development shall have regard to the following: Section 261 and Section 261A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2013 The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Quarries and Ancillary Facilities Guidelines 2004. The EPA Guidelines for Environmental Management in the Extractive Sector 2006. Where extractive developments may impact on archaeological or architectural heritage, regard shall be had to the DoEHLG Architectural Conservation Guidelines 2004 and the Archaeological Code of Practice 2002 in the assessment of planning applications and the requirements of this Development Plan. Where extractive development may significantly effect the environment or a European site or sites, regard shall be had to EIA guidelines and Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009 and the requirements of this Development Plan. Reference should also be made to the Geological

Chapter	Ref.	Policy/ Objective	Amendments	Alteration Agreed/Disagreed – Final Objective including any new wording
				<p>Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry 2008.</p> <p>The visual impact of the development, a detailed landscape and visual assessment shall be submitted.</p> <p>A scheme of rehabilitation and after care for the site upon abandonment / exhaustion of resource shall be submitted. Details to be submitted should include a report with plans and section drawings, detailing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anticipated finished landform and surface/landscape treatments (both of each phase and the whole excavation),</li> <li>Quality and condition of topsoil and overburden,</li> <li>Rehabilitation works proposed,</li> <li>Type and location of any vegetation proposed,</li> <li>Proposed method of funding and delivery of restoration/reinstatement works etc.</li> </ul> <p>In addition a bond will be required to ensure the adequate restoration of the site. This bond shall be index linked.</p>

#### **4.9.4 List of Mitigatory objectives for the protection of European Sites and the Environment**

From the outset, Fingal County Council is committed to the protection of the environment, biodiversity and protected species and habitats. They all feature as important criteria in the development of the plan making process. Through the overarching Strategic policies, Fingal intends to deliver upon the main aims of the draft Fingal DP by seeking to:

- Promote sustainable development by providing for the integration of economic, environmental, social and cultural issues into Development Plan policies and objectives, utilising to that end the **Strategic Environmental Assessment** (SEA) and **Appropriate Assessment** (AA) processes
- Strengthen and consolidate **greenbelts** around key settlements.
- Work with Irish Water to secure the timely provision of **water supply and drainage infrastructure** necessary to facilitate the sustainable development of the County and the Region.
- Secure the timely provision of infrastructure essential to the sustainable development of the County, in particular in areas of **resource and waste management, energy supply, renewable energy generation and ICT**.
- Ensure new developments have regard to the requirements of the **Flood Risk Guidelines**.
- Promote, drive and facilitate the transition in the future to an entirely **renewable energy supply**.
- Minimise the County's contribution to **climate change**, and adapt to the effects of climate change, with particular reference to the areas of land use, energy, transport, water resources, flooding, waste management and biodiversity, and maximising the provision of green infrastructure including the provision of trees and soft landscaping solutions.
- Promote and maximise the benefits of quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies **promoting climate change adaption and mitigation**.
- Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that **support climate change mitigation and adaption**.
- Prepare a **Sustainable Energy Strategy for the County** in consultation with relevant stakeholders and interest groups setting out strategies, policies and actions to facilitate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and the harvesting of renewable energy resources most appropriate to the County.

A number of specific objectives have as their focus the protection of the Environment, Water and European Sites. Some of the key policies/objectives are listed below and are the basis of the mitigation in relation to those elements of the plan which are likely to give rise to impacts on European Sites.

##### Appropriate Assessment

Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive there is a requirement to establish whether, in relation to plans and projects, if Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required. If, following screening, it is considered that AA is required, the proponent of the plan or project must prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:

- The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European Site(s) (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or
- The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site(s) (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest – including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of European Sites; or
- The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site(s) (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest - restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of European Site(s).

Within Chapter 12, two objectives have been developed.

- DMS01 – “*Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in-combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on European Site or sites will be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.*”
- Furthermore, It is a requirement of DMS02 that the Local Authority” *Ensure local authority development proposals are subject to environmental assessment as appropriate including Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment.*”

This is further reinforced through the inclusion of the following objectives namely:-

- Objective DMS155 “*Ensure Screening for Appropriate Assessment and, where required, full Appropriate Assessment is carried out for all plans and projects in the County which, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, are likely to have a significant direct or indirect impact on any European site or sites*”.
- Objective DMS156 “*Ensure that sufficient information is provided as part of development proposals to enable Screening for Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken and to enable a fully informed assessment of impacts on biodiversity to be made*”.

Elsewhere, the need for Appropriate Assessment has been included in specific projects or even was part of the objectives, reinforcing the importance of maintain the integrity of European Sites and their qualifying features.

#### Protective Policies for Designated Sites and or Species

In the first instance, a specific objective has been included which confirms the Councils commitment to the conservation of all of the individual European Sites within the draft County Development Plan area including the as yet undesignated proposed candidate SAC Codling Fault Zone :-

- Objective NH12 categorically seeks to “*Strictly protect areas designated or proposed to be designated as Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special*

*Protection Areas (SPAs); also known as European sites) including any areas that may be proposed for designation or designated during the period of this Plan”.*

In recognition of the importance of the national and local conservation designation, two objectives have been included the draft Fingal DP namely:-

Objective NH13 “*Protect the ecological integrity of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, and Habitat Directive Annex I sites.”*

Objective NH14 “*Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Habitat Directive Annex I sites and Annex II species contained therein, and on rare and threatened species including those protected by law and their habitats.”*

#### *Ecological Buffer Zones*

Previously, the Council has identified lands around Malahide/Broadmeadow, Rogerstown and Bald Doyle estuaries and around Sluice River Marsh and the Bog of the Ring as ecological buffer zones. These buffer zones protect the ecological integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites by providing suitable habitat for key species such as birds, by providing for compatible land-uses around the designated sites, and in the case of the freshwater wetland areas, by ensuring a steady supply of clean groundwater and surface water. Around the estuaries the buffer zones can also provide for recreational uses and are also important for coastal flood protection and for climate change adaptation. Ecological buffer zones are areas where agricultural uses may be combined with nature conservation and low-intensity recreational use such as walking and cycling. The Council will normally only grant permission where it is clearly demonstrated that a proposal will have no significant adverse impact on the habitats and species of interest in the buffer zone and its ecological functions. Proposals for development in these areas will require Appropriate Assessment because of their close proximity to European Sites. In support of this two objectives recognise the intrinsic value of these connecting buffers. They include:-

- Objective NH15 “*Protect the functions of the ecological buffer zones and ensure proposals for development have no significant adverse impact on the habitats and species of interest located therein”.*
- Objective NH16 “*Develop Ecological Masterplans for the Rogerstown, Malahide and Bald Doyle Estuaries focusing on their ecological protection and that of their surrounding buffer zones”.*

#### *Nature Development Areas*

Fingal has developed another subset of ecological protection to combat declining biodiversity. The “nature development areas” (NDAs) have been proposed in response to the fact that some typical plant and/or animal species in the wider countryside are declining as a result of the loss of wildlife friendly features including hedgerows, flower-rich grasslands, uncultivated margins of arable fields and wetland areas. Woodlands in Fingal are generally small and scattered throughout the County or as fragments of once greater demesne planting. The Council has identified a number of areas and land-uses in the County with potential for biodiversity enhancement which are shown variously on the Green Infrastructure maps Sheet 14-16).

Typical areas in which NDA's have been identified include:- farmland, Demesne's and Parkland, Waterbodies, Golf-courses, Quarries and areas suitable for new woodland. These are areas where the combination of existing land use or management with nature conservation is possible and can act as reservoirs from where biodiversity can effectively spread into the wider environment including European Sites.

Three objectives, derived from the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan have been included in the draft Fingal DP, which aim to demonstrate and incentivise landowners as to the ecological benefits of this scheme. The objectives are as follows:-

- Objective NH17 "*Maintain and/or enhance the biodiversity of the nature development areas indicated on the Green Infrastructure maps*".
- Objective NH18 "*Develop a demonstration site for each nature development area*".
- Objective NH19 "*Explore the development of a small grants scheme to assist landowners with the management of their lands within the ecological network for nature conservation purposes*".

#### *Ecological Corridors and Stepping Stones Including Trees and Hedgerows*

Ecological corridors are defined as linear landscape features such as rivers, hedgerows and road verges that enhance the movement of wildlife throughout the landscape. Separately, stepping stones comprise a series of smaller landscape features, spatially separated yet proximally located. They can include small woodlands, areas of scrub, wet grassland and marshes.

Five separate objectives have been included the draft Fingal DP aimed at protecting the ecological corridors and stepping stones. These include:-

- Objective NH20 "*Protect the ecological functions and integrity of the corridors indicated on the Development Plan Green Infrastructure maps*".
- Objective NH21 "*Protect rivers, streams and other watercourses and maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitat for fauna and flora, including fish*".
- Objective NH22 "*Provide for public understanding of and public access to rivers, waterway corridors and wetlands, where feasible and appropriate, in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders, while maintaining them free from inappropriate development and subject to ecological impact assessment and Screening for Appropriate Assessment as appropriate*".
- Objective NH23 "*Protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management*".
- Objective NH24 "*Consider the use of Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands*".

#### *Landscape*

The Conservation objectives of the various sites, of which considerable portion of Fingal's Coastline has been designated for, support a diverse range of coastal habitats and the presence of internationally important numbers of wildfowl. From the outset, Fingal have recognised that coastal squeeze is a pronounced in the county which can conflict with European Sites. To this end they have included a number of positive objectives which recognise the ecological sensitivity of its coastal areas. Seven objectives relating to issue specifically limiting inappropriate development, favouring

soft coastal measures over hard protection which would have an impact on sediment supply both within the coastal areas inside the county boundary and in other coastal area further afield.

The objectives are listed below:-

- Objective NH47 "*Ensure the County's natural coastal defences, such as beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands, are protected and are not compromised by inappropriate works or development*".
- Objective NH48 "*Where coastal erosion is considered a threat to existing properties, explore the technical and economical feasibility of coastal adaption and coastal retreat management options*".
- Objective NH49 "*Employ soft engineering techniques as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever possible*".
- Objective NH50 "*Identify, prioritise and implement necessary coastal protection works subject to the availability of resources, whilst ensuring a high level of protection for natural habitats and features, and ensure due regard is paid to visual and other environmental considerations in the design of any such coastal protection works*".
- Objective NH51 "*Undertake erosion risk management studies for high risk areas so that the long-term erosion risks to property can be clearly identified long before the risk may be expected to occur*".
- Objective NH52 "*Develop a coastal erosion policy for Fingal based on best international practice to outline how the Council will deal with existing properties at risk of erosion and how future coastal erosion problems will be managed having regard to national climate change legislation, mitigation and adaptation policies, and the need to protect the environment*".

#### *Biodiversity in Fingal*

Fingal have developed a considerable number of objectives which enhance the overall biodiversity of the county and by corollary positively impact upon the European Sites in terms of supporting their integrity and the species that make use of them as well as the maintenance of hydrological conditions that might influence them.

- Objective DMS154 requires that Fingal "*Ensure all development proposals measures to protect and enhance biodiversity*".

The most important nature conservation sites make up the core biodiversity conservation areas. These include internationally and nationally designated sites hosting habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive and sites hosting rare and protected species and their habitats. A number of objectives have been proposed that ensure the biodiversity of these European Sites:

- Objective DMS161 "*Implement planning guidelines for nature development areas and corridors as outlined in the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan*".

At a national and by corollary local level, the draft Fingal DP recognises the value of nature conservation outside of European Sites. Thus additional objectives have been developed including:-

- Objective DMS129 “*Permit renewable energy developments where the development and any ancillary facilities or buildings, considered both individually and with regard to their incremental effect, would not create a hazard or nuisance, including risks of land stability and would take cognisance of the following:*
  - i. *Residential amenity and human health,*
  - ii. *The character or appearance of the surrounding area,*
  - iii. *The openness and visual amenity of the countryside,*
  - iv. *Public access to the countryside and, in particular, public rights of way and walking routes,*
  - v. *Sites and landscapes designated for their nature conservation or amenity value,*
  - vi. *The biodiversity of the County,*
  - vii. *Sites or buildings of architectural, historical, cultural, or archaeological interest, and*
  - viii. *Ground and surface water quality and air quality.”*

#### *Natural Heritage – Local*

The overarching focus of the Natural Heritage chapter is unsurprisingly positive and aims to conserve and enhance the county’s biodiversity. In particular it recognises the sensitivity of the coastline and its natural resources. A key objective in this regard is:

- Objective NH01 “*Implement the natural heritage actions included in the Fingal Heritage Plan and any revisions thereof*”.

#### *Green Infrastructure*

With regards Green Infrastructure, Fingal’s Policy Statement enshrines a commitment to “*Ensure that areas and networks of green infrastructure are identified, protected, enhanced, managed and created to provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to communities.*”

To this end, a number of objectives have been included, the key ones being:-

- Objective GI09 “*Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Fingal in partnership with key stakeholders and the public as a priority.*”
- Objective GI10 “*Ensure the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Fingal protects existing green infrastructure resources and plans for future green infrastructure provision which addresses the five main themes identified in this Plan*”.

#### *Article 10 of the Habitats Directive*

Local Authorities are required to develop and implement wider countryside measures in their land-use planning and development policies that support the coherence of the Natura 2000 network pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and Article 3 of the Birds Directive. At national level biodiversity policy is set out in the National Biodiversity Plan (NBP) which identifies habitat degradation and loss as the main factor eroding biodiversity in Ireland today. The spread of invasive species is also a growing problem and prohibitions are in place in relation to the introduction or dispersal of certain invasive species as set out in the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011). Many of the policy provisions of the NBP are given effect through the legislative framework provided by the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000 and through the implementation of the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive and the Water Framework Directive. Among other things, the NBP calls on local authorities to prepare and implement local biodiversity plans to provide for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at local level.

The requirements of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive are not specifically considered under the Appropriate Assessment (except in so far as they support a qualifying feature).

- Objective NH02 “Implement the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 and any revisions thereof in partnership with all relevant stakeholders”.
- Objective NH03 “Undertake necessary ecological surveys and complete habitat mapping for the County during the lifetime of the Plan, prioritising sensitive coastal areas”.
- Objective NH04 “Raise awareness in relation to biodiversity across the community”.

#### *Invasive Species*

Invasive non-native plant and animal species (Invasive Alien Species) can represent a major threat to national, regional and local biodiversity, including the integrity of European Sites. To this end an EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species has recently been introduced (Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 22 October 2014) on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. The Council is committed to ensuring as far as is possible that the potential for spread of invasive species is examined a part of any plan or project application and to raise awareness of and promote best practice in the control of invasive species. A number of policies are identified:-

- Objective NH05 “Ensure that the management of the Council’s open spaces and parks are pollinator-friendly, provides more opportunities for biodiversity, and does not introduce or lead to the spread of invasive species”.
- Objective NH09 “Undertake field studies and map invasive species throughout the county and initiate control programs with all relevant stakeholders and landowners to control the key invasive species”.
- Objective NH10 “Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicants will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011).”

#### *Water Quality Objectives*

Fingal are cognisant of all objectives established under various regulations whilst maintaining or improving upon the quality of the hydrological environment and status. They have acknowledged that there is a statutory obligation to promote compliance with environmental standards such as the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 and objectives contained within the Eastern River Basin District Management Plan.

With regards the presence of a considerable number of European Sites that are potentially impacted by deteriorations in water quality, the maintenance of or improvement upon the ecological condition of European Sites and of qualifying features dependent upon the good quality hydrological conditions is important of the targets set for various conservation objectives are to be met. Fingal

have included a number of objectives which have as their focus the maintenance of water quality resulting in decreasing threats and pressures upon water dependent qualifying features in European Sites.

Specifically the objectives are included across a number of chapters but all focus on maintaining water quality. Within the Chapter 5 Rural Fingal, specific objectives include

- Objective RF62: “Ensure that the requirements set out for on-site treatment systems are strictly complied with, or with the requirements as may be amended by future national legislation, guidance, or Codes of Practice”.
- Objective RF63: “Implement the recommendations of the Ground Water Protection Scheme”.
- Objective RF71: “Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution”.

A single protective objective is included in Chapter 6 Economic development namely:-

- Objective ED20: “Require that proposals for economic development are served by quality supporting infrastructure with sufficient capacity. A sequential approach may be used for assessing economic developments to ensure their appropriate and sustainable delivery”.

A considerable number of objectives aimed at ensuring sustainable water use and quality and providing a considerable degree of protection is contained in Chapter 7 Infrastructure and Movement. These specifically relate to the infrastructural requirements and outstanding problems that should over time be rectified, in conjunction with other agencies, and provide for better protection of the hydrological resource within Fingal. They include

- Objective DA19: “Ensure that every development proposal in the environs of the Airport takes into account the impact on water quality, water based-habitats and flooding of local streams and rivers and to provide mitigation of any negative impacts through avoidance or design and ensure compliance with the Eastern River Basin District Management Plan”.
- Objective WT03: “Facilitate the provision of appropriately sized and located waste water treatment plants, including a new Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and the implementation of other recommendations of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and services providers, to facilitate development in the County and Region and to protect the water quality of Fingal’s coastal and inland waters through the provision of adequate treatment of wastewater”.
- Objective EN16: “To ensure any proposal for geothermal technologies or any other subsurface exploration does not impact on groundwater quality”.
- Objective WQ01: “Strive to achieve ‘good status’ in all waterbodies in compliance with the Water Framework Directive, the Eastern River Basin District Management Plan 2009-2015

and the associated Programme of Measures (1st cycle) and to cooperate with the development and implementation of the 2nd cycle national River Basin Management Plan 2017-2021”.

- Objective WQ02: “Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and control development in a manner consistent with the proper management of these resources in conformity with the Eastern River River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and the 2nd cycle national River Basin Management Plan 2017-2021 and any subsequent plan and the Groundwater Protection Scheme”.
- Objective WQ03: “Implement the recommendations of the Groundwater Protection Scheme”.
- Objective WQ04: “Protect existing riverine wetland and coastal habitats and where possible create new habitats to maintain naturally functioning ecosystems whilst ensuring they do not impact negatively on the conservation objectives of any European Sites”.

With regards Chapter 9, Natural Heritage, there are a number of objectives which have been designed to further increase the protection of specific features that are reliant upon the condition of hydrological environment

- Objective NH62: “Protect bathing waters, including those listed in the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas for the Eastern River Basin District, at Sutton, Portmarnock, Malahide, Donabate, Portrane, Rush, Loughshinny, Skerries and Balbriggan in order that they meet the required bathing water standards and implement the findings and recommendations of the Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland reports as published”.
- Objective NH63: “Protect the quality of designated shellfish waters off the Fingal coast”.
- Objective NH64: “Ensure that the Council, in the performance of its functions, complies with the requirements of the Shellfish Directive (2006/113/EC), statutory regulations pursuant to the Shellfish Directive and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government’s Pollution Reduction Programmes for the Balbriggan/Skerries Shellfish Area and the Malahide Shellfish Area”.

Finally, the guiding principles with regards the planning and development of all projects is governed by Chapter 12 Development Management Standards. Objective DMS50 commits Fingal to “Implement the recommendations of the Ground Water Protection Scheme”. A number of other objectives within the chapter specify planning criteria that must be assessed regards to sustainability, compatibility with existing and proposed surface water drainage infrastructure and compliance with the requirements for surface water and groundwater quality and flood protection amongst other issues. Once a development has been approved, the Council ensures that the construction complies with satisfactory design and construction standards prior to being ‘taken-in-charge’. Once completed, records of the new development must be submitted to the Council in a format which can be satisfactorily managed.

Applicants should work with the Council on issues relating to water services by ensuring that they engage in pre-planning meetings and respond constructively to the advice provided. In addition

applicants are advised to consult with Irish Water regarding water supply and wastewater arrangements. This will reduce the need for post planning compliance issues and ensure a more efficient and timely delivery of infrastructure. A key objective is to ensure development is carried out in a sustainable manner. Issues considered include:

- Water Supply;
- Drainage;
- Water Conservation;
- Surface Water and Flooding; and
- Water Quality.

## **4.10 ASSESSMENT OF MITIGATION MEASURES – IMPLEMENTATION, TIMESCALE AND EFFECTIVENESS**

### **4.10.1 Implementation**

The provisions of the draft Fingal DP are effective from the date of adoption, namely six years running in the period 2017-2023. The majority of the mitigation measures will be implemented as development proposals/projects arise within the area of the draft Fingal DP. Any plan or project including development proposal, either public or private, will be required to demonstrate how they will meet these standards and comply with provisions of the draft Fingal DP, through the development management process. The conditions attached to the grant of permission are valid both during the construction of any development and thereafter over the courses of its approved life. As part of the planning process, applications will normally be referred for comment to the relevant prescribed authorities for comment/review, including but not limited to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### **4.10.2 Quantifying the Effectiveness of the Mitigation Measures to Safeguard the Integrity of European Sites**

The draft Fingal DP promotes the strategic importance of Appropriate Assessment process through its prominent position in Chapter 1 as well as through the preparation of strategic goals and plan policies/objectives including specific objectives for the protection of European Sites in other chapters. The overall approach to the protection of the wider environment serves indirectly to maintain the integrity and conservation status of European Sites through the preservation and extension of the green infrastructure network which support species that depend on the Annexed European habitats and also for the protection and improvement of water quality in the county, which underpins the integrity of all of the European Sites. Its efficacy should contribute towards and be recorded in the 6 yearly national reporting requirement that each State is obliged to prepare for the EU commission as part of the Habitats Directive.

## 4.11 CHANGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN THROUGH COUNCILLOR MOTIONS & CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S AMENDMENTS

As previously outlined, the draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 involved two phases. The first phase required the preparation of the Chief Executive's draft Fingal Development Plan [4th December 2015] by Fingal's Strategic Planning Unit. The Councillors then reviewed the Chief Executive's draft Fingal Development Plan and submitted 528 motions for consideration at a series of Council meetings during January and February 2016. As a result of these meetings some changes were made which were then incorporated into the final draft Fingal Development Plan. Detailed minutes were undertaken at these Council meetings to note the outcome of each of the motions and Chief Executive's amendments and to note any changes which were agreed. RPS reviewed all of the motions and Chief Executive's amendments submitted, in light of the potential for significant environmental effects arising from their inclusion in the draft Fingal Development Plan (DP) 2017-2023. Of those reviewed a number were further assessed as outlined in **Table 4.9**.

**Table 4.9 – Changes to the draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023**

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
	<b>WRITTEN STATEMENT</b>			
20762	That the Council, in recognition of the overall level of demand for new dwellings in the county, the preference for existing settlements to accommodate such development and the need to facilitate the provision of sustainable rural centres, increases the strategic housing allocation for the village of Naul from sixty-six units, under the current County Development Plan, to two hundred and forty dwellings.	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA.  Additional units outside the Metropolitan may not be in line with the core strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines. In addition, additional units could lead to loss of greenfield lands.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20812	To undertake a study to plan for the increasing impact of storm surges on Fingal estuaries and flood impact upstream on rivers feeding into such estuaries with particular regard to towns and villages potentially impacted. Noting that sea level rise of 40cm by 2095 are projected to lead to annual occurrence of previously 1 in a hundred year events	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA.  However may already be covered by Eastern CFRAMS and FEM FRAMS studies. Provision has been identified for Objective SW13 point 3 "Early Flood Warning System".	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21002	Ensure the residential developments, business developments and the sensitive coastal estuarine area of the Burrow is adequately protected and that any proposed development is subject to environmental assessment.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b>  The motion undermines the original meaning of the objective which was specifically aimed at recognising the ecological sensitivity and its conservation requirements. Due cognisance of same was to be taken and appropriate assessments were to be made in light of any developments in the area was to be taken.  In seeking to change the objective, it refocuses the intent of the objective away from nature conservation to providing protection for residential and business as well as the sensitive coastal area.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		<p>Possibly Objective SW01 and SW02 coastal protection applies for any new development that might be planned.</p> <p>With regard the protection of existing properties, it could be argued that it is covered objective under NH48 "<i>where coastal erosion is considered a threat to existing properties, explore the technical and economical feasibility of coastal adaption and coastal retreat management options</i>".</p>		
21003	Provide for pedestrian and cycle routes, and seek to provide a public bike station between Portrane and Donabate being mindful of the impacts upon the ecological diversity around Portrane Demesne.	<p>No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA.</p> <p>As this is a relatively small amendment in terms of the infrastructural requirement to an existing objective, there is no AA issue as long as all appropriate environmental assessments as per DSM02 etc. are made of any proposal. In the wider context, Objective ED57 is in place to "<i>Promote and facilitate opportunities to create an integrated pedestrian and cycle network linking key tourist destinations in the County, by advancing the proposed Fingal Coastal Way, through carrying out a route evaluation study within two years of the adoption of this Plan, ensuring a balance is achieved between nature conservation and public use and through identifying public rights of way in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and by exploiting former rail networks for use as potential new tourist and recreational walking routes</i></p> .	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21028	Prioritise the section between Baldoyle and Portmarnock where the current road design is particularly hostile to pedestrians and cyclists.	<p>No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA.</p> <p>The amendment itself is not an AA issue, subject to all appropriate feasibility studies and environmental</p>	Motion Passed. Objective ED61: Promote and facilitate the development of the Fingal	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		and Appropriate Assessments having been carried out as per ED57. The amendment merely tries to favour a particular stretch of the Fingal Coastal Way. There may be planning issues associated with the motion.	Coastal Way from north of Balbriggan to Howth taking full account of the need to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on European sites and species protected by law and ensure the integration of the Fingal Coastal Way with other strategic trails within Dublin City and adjoining counties. <i>Prioritise the section between Baldoyle and Portmarnock where the current road design is particularly hostile to pedestrians and cyclists.</i>	
21289	Establish, within one year of the making of this development plan, a coastal monitoring programme to provide information on coastal erosion on an ongoing basis.	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21151	Promote the provision of a marine slipway for community recreational use at a suitable location along the coast-line at Portrane, for the use of sailing boats and row-boats only.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Motion is considered: 1) premature in advance of findings from study arising out of Objective ED72 – “Undertake a feasibility study of the Fingal coastline to identify potential sites to accommodate marina development relevant to recreational pursuits and requirements. As part of the study the impact on the receiving marine environment, including the	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		<p><i>coastline, will be assessed and Screening for Appropriate Assessment undertaken".</i></p> <p>2) Given the ecological sensitivity of the area and the overlapping nature conservation designations and their qualifying features including potential negative impacts.</p> <p>3) Although the location for the new objective is only broadly identified, the general proximity to or location within European Sites and potentially within some of the European Sites should not be allowed.</p> <p>4) The development of a marina could likely lead to increase and potentially uncontrolled disturbance on the designated sites and their qualifying interests.</p> <p>5) Despite the provision of byelaws regarding jet-skis etc., the presence of a public marina could not guarantee that the marina would not be used for the launch of jet-skis and mechanised boats.</p>		
21177	<p>Amend objective 4 to the following – To add in linking coastal link of cycleway and footpath from Donabate to Portrane and Portrane to Rush".</p> <p><b>Objective RUSH 4</b></p> <p>Preserve and improve the coastal amenities of Rush including the creation of a coastal walkway from Rogerstown Estuary to Rush Harbour to Balleally as part of the Fingal Coastal Way subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.</p>	<p><b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b></p> <p>Motion aimed at locating specific areas is considered premature in advance of outcome of route evaluation study required of Objective ED57 <i>"Promote and facilitate opportunities to create an integrated pedestrian and cycle network linking key tourist destinations in the County, by advancing the proposed Fingal Coastal Way, through carrying out a route evaluation study within two years of the adoption of this Plan, ensuring a balance is achieved between nature conservation and public use and through identifying public rights of way in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and by</i></p>	<p>Motion passed with the following changes made to DONABATE Objective 4:</p> <p><i>Develop a continuous network of signed pathways and cycleways as appropriate, around Donabate Peninsula linking Portrane and Donabate to Malahide and Rush via the Rogerstown and Malahide Estuaries whilst ensuring the protection of designated</i></p>	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		<p><i>exploiting former rail networks for use as potential new tourist and recreational walking routes".</i></p> <p>However without prioritising the areas asked for, the existing objective as written is already supplemented under a number of additional Objectives, namely:-</p> <p>NH59 "<i>Ensure that there is appropriate public access to the coast including the provision of coastal walkways and cycleways, while taking full account of the need to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on European Sites and species protected by law, through Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and examine the designation of traditional walking routes thereto as public rights of way</i>" and RF102 "<i>Support the provision of proposed long distance walking trails that provide access to scenic uplands, riverine and coastal features, subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment</i>".</p>	<p><i>sites, and avoiding any routing along the northern boundary of Malahide Inner Estuary by virtue of its ecological sensitivity.</i></p>	
21210	<p>Undertake a study, within one year of the making of this development plan, to consider the various land use zonings in the townland of the Burrow, Portrane, with a view to ascertaining appropriate land use zoning which ensures that planning policy in the Burrow takes into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dynamic nature of coastal processes and the predicted impacts of climate change in the proper planning and sustainable development of this sensitive coastal estuarine area;</li> <li>• The desire of local people born and reared in the Burrow who wish to be able to afford to live, and</li> </ul>	<p>No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA.</p> <p>From a planning perspective, some of the points seem more appropriate for rural areas rather than urban e.g. desire to ensure locals can remain in an areas as families grow up. The further expansion of serviced sites and one off housing within the poorly understood and ecologically sensitive area should not be considered.</p> <p>The findings of the study if accepted might potentially result in some lands being considered inappropriately zoned. It should be noted that</p>	<p>Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.</p>	<p>No significant negative impacts</p>

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
	<p>bring up their own families, in the local area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The possibility of designating appropriate locations for serviced sites in the wider locality which will serve to meet local people's needs for house sites on which they can develop affordable individual "one-off houses", and for which the council can facilitate land-swops;</li> <li>• The various important Fingal Ecological Network designations on and adjacent to the Burrow, namely: Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, proposed Natural Heritage Area, Ramsar, Statutory Nature Reserve, Annex 1 habitat, Flora protection order (1999) site, Fingal rare flora site, ecological buffer zone;</li> </ul> <p>And that the report's recommendations be implemented.</p>	<p>correction is required in relation to Flora Protection Order (1999), as it should read Flora Protection Order 2015.</p>		
21249	To provide for coastal walkway/cycleway connecting Rush via Rogerstown to Portrane and Donabate.	<p><b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b></p> <p>Premature to identify specific locations in advance of outcome of route evaluation study required of Objective ED57 "<i>Promote and facilitate opportunities to create an integrated pedestrian and cycle network linking key tourist destinations in the County, by advancing the proposed Fingal Coastal Way, through carrying out a route evaluation study within two years of the adoption of this Plan, ensuring a balance is achieved between nature conservation and public use and through identifying public rights of way in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and by exploiting former rail networks for use as potential new tourist and recreational walking routes</i>". However without prioritising the areas asked for, the objective as</p>	<p>Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.</p>	<p>No significant negative impacts</p>

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		written is already supplemented under a number of additional Objectives ,namely:- <i>NH59 "Ensure that there is appropriate public access to the coast including the provision of coastal walkways and cycleways, while taking full account of the need to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on European Sites and species protected by law, through Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and examine the designation of traditional walking routes thereto as public rights of way" and RF102 "Support the provision of proposed long distance walking trails that provide access to scenic uplands, riverine and coastal features, subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment".</i>		
21266	To provide for Coastal walkway/cycleway connecting Portrane to Donabate and Rush via Rogerstown.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Premature to identify specific locations in advance of outcome of route evaluation study required of Objective ED57 " <i>Promote and facilitate opportunities to create an integrated pedestrian and cycle network linking key tourist destinations in the County, by advancing the proposed Fingal Coastal Way, through carrying out a route evaluation study within two years of the adoption of this Plan, ensuring a balance is achieved between nature conservation and public use and through identifying public rights of way in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and by exploiting former rail networks for use as potential new tourist and recreational walking routes</i> ". However without prioritising the areas asked for,	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		<p>the objective as written is already supplemented under a number of additional Objectives, namely:- NH59 “Ensure that there is appropriate public access to the coast including the provision of coastal walkways and cycleways, while taking full account of the need to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on European Sites and species protected by law, through Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and examine the designation of traditional walking routes thereto as public rights of way” and RF102 “Support the provision of proposed long distance walking trails that provide access to scenic uplands, riverine and coastal features, subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment”.</p>		
21270	To promote the provision of a marine slipway for community recreational use at a suitable location along Portrane shore, for the use of sailing boats and row-boats only.	<p><b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b>            Motion is considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) premature in advance of findings from study arising out of Objective ED72 – “Undertake a feasibility study of the Fingal coastline to identify potential sites to accommodate marina development relevant to recreational pursuits and requirements. As part of the study the impact on the receiving marine environment, including the coastline, will be assessed and Screening for Appropriate Assessment undertaken”.</li> <li>2) Given the ecological sensitivity of the area and the overlapping nature conservation designations and their qualifying features including potential negative impacts.</li> <li>3) Although the location for the new objective is</li> </ol>	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		<p>only broadly identified, the proximity of the area to European Sites and potentially within some of the European Sites should not be allowed.</p> <p>4) The development of a marine slipway could lead to increased and potentially uncontrolled disturbance on the designated sites and their qualifying interests.</p> <p>5) Despite the provision of byelaws regarding jet-skis etc., the presence of a public marina could not guarantee that the marina would not be used for the launch of jet-skis and mechanised boats.</p>		
21272	To facilitate mains sewage infrastructure on the eastern side of the peninsula including the three local golf clubs, hotel and residential areas.	<p><b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b></p> <p>The extent of the proposal along the eastern side of the peninsula (which is for a considerable part occupied by golf courses) has not been defined. It is considered that any development would likely be located adjacent to if not within the Malahide Estuary SAC. The potential disturbance to Annex I habitats including the priority Annex Fixed Dunes would be inappropriate in light of the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p>	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21283	Development at South Beach and North Beach of beach infrastructure to include road access, car parking, lighting and seating, picnic facilities.	<p><b>SEA and AA state that motion needs to be revised to be acceptable.</b></p> <p>The extent of any development will be subject to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Adherence to normal planning procedure - DMS02 "Ensure Local Authority development proposals are subject to environmental assessment, as appropriate, including Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment."</li> <li>2) Clarification that any proposed facilities be planned around existing facilities (carpark or</li> </ol>	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		<p>amenity grasslands) exist rather than undeveloped or dune habitats. The extent of any such developments should not be excessive, bearing in mind that undue disturbance could negatively impact upon parts of the site that are designated for conservation purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Should not allow for Additional lighting save for Health &amp; Safety requirements.</li> <li>4) Clarification that no on-beach parking be provided.</li> <li>5) Clarification that no coastal protection works be planned for at north beach in areas identified by.</li> </ul>		
21291	To promote and encourage a marina facility to service the town of Rush in order to enhance both the visitor experience and amenities in this area.	<p><b>AA and SEA recommends rejection.</b>  The proposed motion is less onerous than current objective in CE Written Statement in terms of carrying out feasibility study and for the fact that it completely overlooks the potential adverse impacts upon European Sites.  It is premature in light objective ED72 "<i>Undertake a feasibility study of the Fingal coastline to identify potential sites to accommodate marina development relevant to recreational pursuits and requirements. As part of the study the impact on the receiving marine environment, including the coastline, will be assessed and Screening for Appropriate Assessment undertaken.</i>"  N.B. In Chief Executives draft Written Statement, existing RUSH 13 needs to be amended to read ".....the Fingal coastline (Objective ED72)".</p>	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
20667	New Objective added to page 265 at the end of	No significant negative impacts anticipated in	Managers Recommendation	

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
	section River Valley Canal Character Type - That the Council in co-operation with Waterways Ireland seek to develop the Clonsilla stretch of the Royal Canal for recreational Tourism use whilst protecting the ecology and biodiversity of the area.	respect of SEA. No issues for AA.	Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	
20668	New Objective NH57A – “Prioritise the redevelopment of our harbours to include the facilitation of Water sports, the use of small craft enhance the local Tourism potential of these areas.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Harbour development is already covered by objective ED68 “Support the existing diverse nature of the marine sector in Fingal, and identify and promote sustainable growth opportunities, while protecting European sites. This shall be achieved through engagement and partnership with the relevant agencies, sectoral representatives and local communities”, and Objective ED69 “Develop a strategy for the future development of harbours in Fingal to service the seafood industry with key stakeholders and all interested parties. The Strategy will be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment and SEA”.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
20930	Add to Tourism Section (6.9) the following new headed paragraph. "To facilitate and support the wider plan to develop a greenway along the length of the Royal Canal from Dublin City to the Shannon and later to Galway.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> For a significant section of greenway development a feasibility study would be required to ensure necessary environmental impacts are quantified and in-combination issues are addressed.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
20941	Add new Objective ED63 - “Promote and facilitate the development of the Royal Canal Greenway from the boundary with Dublin City Council at Ashtown to the boundary with Kildare County Council taking full account of the need to protect environmentally sensitive areas along this stretch such as the ‘Deep Sinking’ and to avoid significant adverse impacts on European site and species	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> For a significant section of greenway development a feasibility study would be required to ensure necessary environmental impacts are quantified and in-combination issues are addressed.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
	protected by law and ensure the integration of the Royal Canal Greenway with other strategic trails in Fingal and in adjoining local authorities".			
21040	P. 218 Delete Objective WT04 – “Investigate the potential for the provision of temporary wastewater treatment facilities for new developments where a permanent solution has been identified but not yet implemented and where the provision of such a facility is environmentally sustainable, meets the requirements of the Habitats Directive, and is in accordance with the recommendations of the EPA and where adequate provision has been made for its maintenance.”	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
21041	P.218 Amend - Objective WT04 – “Investigate the potential for the provision of temporary wastewater treatment facilities for new developments where a permanent solution has been identified but not yet implemented and where the provision of such a facility is environmentally sustainable, meets the requirements of the Habitats Directive, and is in accordance with the recommendations of the EPA and where adequate provision has been made for its maintenance.” to Objective WT04 – “Investigate the potential for the provision of temporary wastewater treatment facilities where a permanent solution has been identified but not yet implemented and where the provision of such a facility is environmentally sustainable, meets the requirements of the	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The deletion of reference ‘for new developments’, increases unsustainable infrastructural development. See 21040 which has no significant SEA or AA issue with removal of the objective.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
	Habitats Directive, and is in accordance with the recommendations of the EPA and where adequate provision has been made for its maintenance.”			
21099	That this Council recommends as it is recognised that technological development in terms of energy and solar technologies are advancing at a rapid pace. In addition the climate changes that are taking place require a new and renewed focus to addressing the challenges that are posted by climate change. It is recommended that solar technologies as a renewable energy source be included as a permitted use for Green Belt zoning within the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 in line with Government targets that have been mapped out in the White Paper on energy.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The development of solar technologies will be facilitated by objective EN02 to “Undertake a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy” and EN03 “Encourage and facilitate the development of renewable energy sources, optimising opportunities for the incorporation of renewable energy in large scale commercial and residential development”.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21216	Insert New Objective (Rush) – “To ensure a continuation of the Greenway walk and cycle path from Sutton through Donabate to Ballyleally Public Park on to Rogerstown, Rush via The Ramparts, Rush”.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> There are existing objectives, ED57, NH59 and DMS02 to facilitate coastal routes which aim to identify and facilitate such infrastructure.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21235	Insert a New Objective (Rush) – “To provide for picnic facilities in the Rogertown Park area to enhance the amenity facilities in the area”.	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA. Any proposal for Rogerstown Park will be subject to DSM02.	Managers Recommendation Accepted that a new Objective for RUSH be inserted into the draft Fingal DP to state “ <i>Prepare a landscape plan to restore, enhance and maximise the amenity potential of Rogerstown Park</i> ”.	No significant negative impacts
21253	New Objective-Implement and progress the Public Realm strategy for Donabate Beach in order to enhance both the visitor experience and amenities	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Due to the location of Donabate beach within a European site a public realm strategy could have a	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
	in this area.	significant impact on the SAC and SPA.	Fingal DP.	
	<b>Map Zoning Motions</b>			
20525	Fingal County Council resolves that the lands at Rathbeale, Swords, Co. Dublin as outlined in red on the attached map and signed by proposer for identification purposes be zoned Objective 'RA' - Residential Area. 'Provide for new residential communities subject to the provision of the necessary social and physical infrastructure.' in the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> There would be a loss of greenfield lands and as the site is some distance from the town commuting would potentially not facilitate sustainable transport.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20901	This Council resolves that the site outlined in red on the attached map have the objective for a Local area Plan (LAP) removed and replaced by an objective to make the site subject to a masterplan.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The LAP provides the appropriate statutory framework for proper planning of the area and would be subject to SEA and AA Screening. In addition, the SFRA has identified flooding on these lands.	Managers Recommendation Accepted (Delete LAP symbol and replace with Masterplan symbol. Also change written statement accordingly on page 105 & 106.)	No significant negative impacts
20917	To Insert a new map based Local Objective at Ballykea to provide for a railway station. See attached map.	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA. The development of a railway at this location would not facilitate sustainable communities.	Managers Recommendation Accepted. New Local Objective added "New LO: Facilitate, in consultation with Iarnród Éireann, the provision of a railway station at Ballykea".	No significant negative impacts
21098	Request for re-zoning of lands outlined in red in the map attached from 'HA' to "RS"	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The loss of high amenity lands would have a negative impact on the environment. In addition the lands are adjacent to a soft coastline and would be susceptible to coastal erosion.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
21105	Request for re-zoning of lands outlined in red in	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b>	Motion withdrawn.	No significant

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
	the map attached from "HA" to RS	The loss of high amenity lands would have a negative impact on the environment. In addition the lands are adjacent to a soft coastline and would be susceptible to coastal erosion.		negative impacts
20886	This council resolves that the land outlined in red on the attached map be zoned RV (Rural Village) in the interest of sustainable development of the area.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Altering the zoning from rural cluster (RC) to rural village (RV) would increase the population within the village and could lead to pressure on services and infrastructure in the rural hinterland.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20646	That the lands outlined in red on the accompanying map be zoned RV from RU to create a sustainable and viable village at Ballymadun. The area within the red line comprises of an area of 7.63 Ha.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Altering the zoning from rural cluster (RC) to rural village (RV) would increase the population within the village and could lead to pressure on services and infrastructure in the rural hinterland.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20547	This council resolves that the land outlined in red on the attached map, be zoned RS and subject to a subsequent Master Plan.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> There is already an existing LAP for Rivermeade and all zoning should be in line with this LAP which outlines residential development at this location.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20700	That the lands outlined in red on the accompanying map be zoned 'RV' to create a sustainable and viable village at Ballymadun.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Altering the zoning from rural cluster (RC) to rural village (RV) would increase the population within the village and could lead to pressure on services and infrastructure in the rural hinterland.	Motion fell.	No significant negative impacts
20469	That the lands outlined in red be included in the Foodpark zoning for this existing foodpark complex.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> There would be a loss of greenfields lands and there is current capacity within the existing foodpark zoning.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20410	That the lands outlined in red be zoned GE to provide small enterprise units at this metropolitan village location serviced by good public transport and services.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The change of zoning to RS would incur a loss of greenfield lands.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
20401	That the foodpark zoning be extended to the lands outlined in red to allow for the further development of this existing food park facility.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> There would be a loss of greenfields lands and there is current capacity within the existing foodpark zoning.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20464	That the Foodpark zoning be extended to the lands outlined in red to allow for the further development and efficient and safe layout of this existing food park facility that currently is employing over 400 staff.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> There would be a loss of greenfield lands and there is current capacity within the existing foodpark zoning.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20468	To extend foodpark zoning to include the site outlined in red.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> There would be a loss of greenfield lands and there is current capacity within the existing foodpark zoning.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20412	That the site outlined in red be zoned GE.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The change of zoning to RS would incur a loss of greenfield lands.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20640	Change lands at Kinsealy Lane, Malahide, Co Dublin to be zoned Objective RS - Provide for residential development and protect and improve residential in the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The change of zoning to RS would incur a loss of greenfield lands and in addition there would be an increase in the population within village.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20655	That the lands zoned RC and outlined in red on the accompanying map be zoned RV.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Altering the zoning from rural cluster (RC) to rural village (RV) would increase the population within the village and could lead to pressure on services and infrastructure in the rural hinterland.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20742	That the lands outlined in red on the attached map be rezoned from Objective OS to Objective CI – provide for and protect civic, religious, community, education, health care and social infrastructure.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> A change of lands to CI would incur loss of greenfield lands for the area.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
20887	This council resolves that the land outlined in red on the attached map be zoned RV (Rural Village) in the interest of sustainable development of the area.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Altering the zoning from rural cluster (RC) to rural village (RV) would increase the population within the village and could lead to pressure on services and infrastructure in the rural hinterland.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20891	That the lands outlined in red on the attached map be zoned RV for inclusion in the Coolquay village.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The SFRA indicates that the proposed lands are within an area liable to flooding and therefore a justification test would be required for these lands.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
21069	Amend the zoned lands at Flemington, Balbriggan, Co Dublin as outlined in the attached map to provide for residential development at a density of 10 units per acre (25 units per hectare).	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA. The motion would allow for higher density development at the site and as the site is already zoned there is a current loss of greenfield lands.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20985	That the lands located at Lusk, circa 15.2ha, outlined in red on the accompanying map be zoned RS.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Changing the lands to RS would incur loss of greenfield land. In addition, Lusk lies within the hinterland and additional residential development would not be in line with the RPG split.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
20526	Fingal County Council resolves that the lands at Mountgorry, Malahide Road, Swords, Co. Dublin as outlined in blue on the attached map be zoned Objective 'RA' - Residential Area: 'provide for new residential communities subject to the provision of the necessary social and physical infrastructure'. in the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The zoning of RA would incur loss of greenfield lands which are currently greenbelt lands and have a higher protection in relation to what development can occur. The lands are in proximity to Malahide Estuary SAC and SPA which could put additional pressure on the European Site.	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts
21278	Add New Objective Donabate – "To designate the outlined area on the Portrane Road as Green Belt to facilitate the rural community on this part of the Peninsula".	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> The altering of the zoning from HA to GB would facilitate development which would lead to loss of greenfield lands. In addition, the lands are in	Motion withdrawn.	No significant negative impacts

Fingal ID for Councillor Motion	Summary of Council Motion	SEA and AA Response	Council Meeting Outcome	AA Response
		proximity to Rogerstown Estuary which is an SAC and SPA.		
20751	Insert the following map based local objective: "Undertake a study which will examine and provide for the potential future tourism and recreational uses of the Abbeville Demesne, with the nature and extent of the uses to be determined primarily by the need to conserve the house and its surroundings, which are of major architectural importance, and the special landscape character and heritage features of the demesne."	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21060	Reinstate objective 396 – “Create a riverside walkway in Portmarnock from the estuary to the Sluice marsh area and extend westwards to Old Portmarnock and northwards to Portmarnock”	No significant negative impacts anticipated in respect of SEA. No issues for AA. Screening for AA would be required for a riverside walkway.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21285	Preserve and improve the coastal amenities of Rush including *(both) the creation of a coastal walkway.....Screening for Appropriate Assessment. *(and the development at the South beach and North beach of beach infrastructure to include road access, car parking, lighting, seating and picnic facilities.)	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> There are existing objectives, ED57, NH59 and DMS02 to facilitate coastal amenities.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts
21292	Objective RUSH 13 – “That the development of a marina in Rush should be examined in other locations if the Rogerstown location is deemed infeasible”.	<b>SEA and AA recommends rejection.</b> Motion is already covered by the feasibility study to examine potential sites along the Fingal coastline under objective ED72.	Managers Recommendation Accepted and no changes were made to the draft Fingal DP.	No significant negative impacts

## 4.12 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

The assessment has been carried out by RPS on behalf of Fingal County Council Planning Department on the draft Fingal DP 2017-2023. The Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment report (under separate cover) identified that the implementation of the draft Fingal DP had the potential to result in negative impacts upon European Sites. Subsequently, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the same plan was been carried out, the findings of which are included in this Natura Impact Report.

The risks to safeguarding the integrity of the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the European Sites has been addressed through the inclusion of mitigation measures that will in the first instance prioritise the avoidance of impacts; and mitigate impacts where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the draft Fingal DP will themselves by subject to Appropriate Assessment when details of location and design become known.

As a result of the assessment process, it is concluded that mitigatory measures identified in stage 2 Appropriate Assessment are adequate to ensure the integrity of the European Sites will not be significantly affected as a result of the potential impacts of the objectives contained with the draft Fingal DP. As a result, it is concluded that a stage III- assessment of alternative solutions and Stage IV – where no alternatives exist, an assessment of compensatory measures are not required.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **National Conservation Status of Qualifying Interests of European Sites**

Habitat Name*	Code	Conservation Status 2007	Conservation Status 2013 (and Trend)
Estuary	1130	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is likely improvement in habitat condition in the future.
Mudflats and Sandflats no covered by seawater at low tide	1140	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is likely improvement in habitat condition in the future.
Reefs	1170	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Bad.</b> Declining as there is no indication that current pressures will reduce in the future.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	1210	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Declining owing to loss of area and impairment of structure & functions.
Perennial vegetation of drift lines	1220	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is stable (e.g. no change)
Vegetated seacliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	1230	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is estimated as stable though potential impacts of climate change may pose a more serious threat.
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	1310	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is estimated as declining owing to on-going spread of common cordgrass.
<i>Spartina</i> Swards (Spartinion)	1320	Bad	No Assessment given owing to the non-native nature of this habitat (in Ireland).
Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	1330	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is stable though grazing levels may impact habitat condition.
Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	1410	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is stable though grazing levels may impact habitat condition.
Embryonic shifting dunes	2110	Inadequate	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is Stable (negligible national loss of Area).
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	2120	Bad	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Trend is stable (no real change, owing to differing assessment methodology).
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	2130	Bad	<b>Unfavourable-Bad.</b> Trend is stable (no change in recreational pressures and grazing levels including undergrazing).
Humid dune slacks	2190	Bad	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate.</b> Declining in view of the ongoing pressures and threats.
European dry heaths	4030	Inadequate	<b>Bad.</b> Trend is declining owing to differing assessment methodology and greater information.

Submarine structures made by leaking gases	1180	N/A	<b>Natura 2000 dataform suggests Good</b>
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\*No additional Annex I habitats outside of Fingal Administrative Boundary

Species Name	Code	Conservation Status 2007	Conservation Status 2013 (and Trend)
Harbour porpoise ( <i>Phocena phocena</i> )	1351	Favourable	<b>Favourable</b> Trend is stable.
Grey Seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> )	1364	Favourable	<b>Favourable</b> Trend is stable (owing to improved knowledge).
Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	1395	Favourable	<b>Favourable</b> Trend is stable.
<b>Additional species outside of Fingal Administrative Boundary</b>			
Common Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	1365	Favourable	<b>Favourable</b> Trend is stable (owing to improved knowledge).

Bird**	Code	BoCCI 2007-2013	BoCCI 2014-2019 Status*
Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> )	A005	Amber (breeding/wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding/wintering)
Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> )	A009	Green (breeding)	<b>Green</b> (breeding)
Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> )	A017	Amber (breeding/wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding/wintering)
Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> )	A018	Amber (breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> )	A043	Amber (wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (wintering)
Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicola hrota</i> )	A046	Amber (wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (wintering)
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )	A048	Amber (breeding/wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding/wintering)
Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	A052	Amber (breeding/wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding/wintering)
Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )	A054	Red (wintering)	<b>Red</b> (wintering)
Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> )	A056	Red (wintering)	<b>Red</b> (wintering)
Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> )	A067	Amber (wintering)	<b>Red</b> (wintering)
Red Breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> )	A069	Green (breeding/wintering)	<b>Green</b> (breeding/wintering)
Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )	A130	Amber (breeding/wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding/wintering)
Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> )	A137	Amber (wintering)	<b>Green</b> (wintering)
Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )	A140	Red (breeding/wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (wintering)
Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis</i> )	A141	Amber(wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (wintering)

<i>squatarola)</i>			
Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )	A143	Red (wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (wintering)
Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )	A144	Green (wintering)	<b>Green</b> (wintering)
Purple Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> )	A148	Green (wintering)	<b>Green</b> (wintering)
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )	A149	Amber (breeding/wintering)	<b>Red</b> (wintering)
Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> )	A156	Amber (wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (wintering)
Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> )	A157	Amber (wintering)	<b>Amber</b> (wintering)
Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )	A160	Red (breeding/wintering)	<b>Red</b> (wintering)
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> )	A162	Red (breeding/wintering)	<b>Red</b> (wintering)
(Ruddy) Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )	A169	Green (wintering)	<b>Green</b> (wintering)
Black Headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> )	A179	Red (breeding)	<b>Red</b> (breeding)
Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> )	A183	Amber (Breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	A184	Red (breeding)	<b>Red</b> (breeding)
Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> )	A188	Amber (Breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> )	A192	Amber (breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> )	A193	Amber (breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> )	A194	Amber (breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> )	A199	Amber (breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> )	A200	Amber (breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> )	A204	Amber (breeding)	<b>Amber</b> (breeding)
Wetland & Waterbirds	A999	---	---

\*\*There is no information in the form of an Article 17 Conservation Status report for Waterbirds or their respective SPAs. Birdwatch Ireland and the RSPB NI have agreed a list of priority bird species for conservation action on the Island of Ireland during the period 2014-2019. These birds of conservation concern, following the status (Red, Amber & Green) are defined in a list known as the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland or BoCCI list (Lynas *et. al.* 2007, Colhoun and Cummins, 2014.