

TO: MARY MULHOLLAND, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
FROM: DENIS MALONE, SENIOR PLANNER
SUBJECT: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF CASTLECOMER DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN

I refer to the requirement under article 14A(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations (Strategic Environmental Assessment) 2004 in relation to considering whether or not implementation of a local area plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

In accordance with the requirements of Article 14A, a 'screening' of the proposed Draft Castlecomer Local Area Plan was undertaken in respect of SEA. A letter setting out the Council's considerations with regard to the relevant criteria for determining whether the plan was likely to have significant impacts on the environment as set out in Schedule 2A of S.I. No. 436/2004 was submitted to the following environmental authorities:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- The Minister of the Housing, Planning and Local Government
- The Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht

None of the three authorities advised that a Strategic Environmental Assessment should be carried out.

The information contained in the response received from the EPA has been taken into account. The response from the Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that there is potential for significant archaeological effects in Castlecomer from developments arising from the LAP, and in particular also underwater Archaeology. Given that the Zone of Archaeological Potential in Castlecomer mainly encompasses the centre of the town and sites in close proximity to same, it is considered that the policies as included in the Draft LAP which require assessments for same will provide adequate protection.

Recommendation

I therefore recommend that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is **not required** for the proposed Draft Castlecomer Local Area Plan, as per the provisions of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2017.

The Environmental Authorities shall be informed of this decision, as per Article 14(A)(6)(b) of the 2001-2017 Regulations.



Denis Malone,
Senior Planner

Date: 25/9/2017