



Consultation:

DRAFT VARIATION (NO. 1) OF THE TRIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020

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Submission:

Draft Variation (NO. 1) of Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

Status: Submitted

Date Submitted: 19.07.2019 - 9:35am

Observations:

Theme: Submissions

Title: SCP181207.2 Var. No. 1 Trim DP 2014-2020

EPA Environmental Report Response

Documents Attached:

 MH-C17-11-327 - SCP181207.2 Var. No. 1 Trim DP 2014-2020.pdf

Boundaries Captured on Map: No

Draft Variation No. 1 Trim DP 2014-20
Planning Department
Meath County Council
Buvinda House
Dublin Road
Navan, Co Meath C15 Y291

19th July 2019

Our Ref: SCP181207.2

Re. Draft Variation No. 1 to the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 and SEA Environmental Report

Dear Sir/Madam,

We acknowledge your notice, dated 19th June 2019, in relation to the Draft Variation No. 1 to the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 and SEA Environmental Report (the 'Variation') and SEA Environmental Report.

The EPA is one of five statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.

As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document '*SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources*'.

This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority Land Use Plans. We suggest that you take this guidance document into account and incorporate the relevant recommendations, in finalising and implementing the Variation.

Content of the Environmental Report

The SEA Regulations set out the information to be contained in an Environmental Report.



Assessment of Environmental Effects

You should assess and document the full range of likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Variation, including the potential for cumulative effects in combination with other relevant Plans/ Programmes and Projects.

Mitigation Measures

Where you have identified the potential for likely significant effects, you should provide appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimise these. You should ensure that the Variation includes clear commitments to implement the mitigation measures.

Monitoring

The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities.

If the monitoring identifies adverse impacts during the implementation of the Variation, Meath County Council should ensure that suitable and effective remedial action is taken.

State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2016

In finalising the Variation and integrating the findings of the SEA into the Variation, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described in our most recent State of the Environment Report [Ireland’s Environment – An Assessment 2016 \(EPA, 2016\)](#) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate.

Future Amendments to the Variation

You should screen any future amendments to the Variation for likely significant effects, using the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Variation.

SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”

Once the Variation is adopted, you should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Variation;
- How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Variation;
- The reasons for choosing the Variation adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and,
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Variation.

You should send a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.

Environmental Authorities

Under the SEA Regulations, you should also consult with:

- The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government,
- The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears to you as the competent authority that the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment,
- The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht where it appears to you as the competent authority that the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, and
- any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.

If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Galvin'.

David Galvin
SEA Section
Office of Evidence and Assessment