**To: Tim Butler, Director of Services**

**From: Arlene O’ Connor, Senior Executive Planner**

**Proposal: Part VIII proposal – Vicar Street Improvement Scheme**

**Re: Environmental Impact Assessment – Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Planning Legislation:**

Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020, Schedule 5, Part 1 and 2

European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 Article 75 which amends Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001

Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2019

**Characteristics of Project**

Under this Part VIII proposal, Kilkenny County Council are proposing to carry out improvement works on Vicar Street in Kilkenny city, which will provide for:

* Improved facilities for pedestrians that allow for safe and comfortable use of Vicar Street by pedestrians and reduced conflict between pedestrians and residents of Vicar Street;
* Improved facilities for cyclists, to be segregated if possible;
* Improved junction at Vicar Street and Troys Gate / Green Street, making it safer for all road users;
* A reduction in the impact of Vicar Street on the Irishtown Junction and the resulting queuing that occurs on St. Canice’s Place;
* Maintainance of existing parking for residents on Vicar Street; and
* Management of the particular constraints imposed by Vicar Street’s location in the St. Canices Architectural Conservation Area and in the Zone of Noticification of Recorded Monuments in Kilkenny City.

**Location**

Vicar Street is a public thoroughfare which runs from Lower Dean Street to Troys Gate / Green Street in Kilkenny city centre.

**Type and characteristics of potential impact**

From assessing the documentation associated with the proposed improvement scheme on Vicar Street in the city, which include general improvements to pedestrian facilities including widening of footpaths, making the road a one way bound carriageway and provision of a contra flow cycle lane, it is considered that the proposed development works are significantly below sub threshold Part 2 activities and having regard to the environmental sensitivities of this area and the potential impacts based on the following environmental factors;

* Population and human health
* Biodiversity, with particular attention to special and habitats protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives
* Land, soil, water, air and the landscape
* Climate
* Interaction between above
* Expected effects from relevant major accidents and / or disasters

it is determined that no Environmental Impact Assessment Report is required.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening report was also carried out by the Planning Authority and also by Enviroguide Consulting on behalf of Kilkenny County Council, in relation to the proposed Part VIII works at Vicar Street in Kilkenny city and these concluded that significant impacts on any Natura 2000 site can be ruled out therefore it was determined that a Natura Impact Assessment was not required.

**Conclusion**

It is determined that based on the above preliminary examination, there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development works which are for the Vicar Street Improvement Scheme and therefore it is recommended that no Environmental Impact Assessment Report is required for this Part VIII proposal at Vicar Street, Kilkenny.

Signed: Arlene O’ Connor,

Senior Executive Planner,

Kilkenny County Council.

7/8/2020