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Mr Denis Malone
Senior Planner
Planning Department
County Hall
John Street
Kilkenny

7th December 2017

Our Ref: 171105.1

Re. SEA Screening of Abbey Quarter Draft Urban Design Code

Dear Ms Cullinan,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledges your notice, dated the 23rd November 2017, regarding the above and notes its contents.

SEA Determination

We note your determination that the requirements of the SEA Directive are not applicable for the preparation of this non-statutory Urban Design Code for the Abbey Quarter.

You should however ensure that no conflicts with the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan arise, in relation to specific objectives and policies related to the protection of the environment. The importance of landscape sensitivity, scenic views and landscape character areas (including streetscape, urbanscape, river scape etc.) should also be considered as appropriate.

The need to protect and enhance green infrastructure, energy and water use efficiency measures, should also be considered. Environmental sensitivities and vulnerabilities within the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan should be taken into consideration in preparing the Design Code also and any projects that may arise out of its implementation.

Future Modifications to the Plan

Where changes to the Variation are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in SEA Regulations Schedule 2A Criteria (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).

Environmental Authorities

Under the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011, notice should also be given to the following:

- The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources where it appears to the planning authority that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment
- where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- 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.

A copy of your decision regarding the determination, including, as appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, should be made available for public inspection at your offices, local authority website and should also be notified to any Environmental Authorities already consulted.

Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned. I would be grateful if an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission could be sent electronically to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

Yours sincerely,



Cian O'Mahony
Scientific Officer
SEA Section
Office of Evidence and Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
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Inniscarra, County Cork