

Forward Planning
Kilkenny County Council
Johns Street
Kilkenny

2nd March 2018

Our Ref: 161202.2

Re. SEA Screening of Material Alterations to the Castlecomer Draft LAP 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledges your notice, dated the 31st January 2018, regarding the above and notes its contents.

SEA Determination

We note your position with regards to the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Material Alterations to the Castlecomer Local Area Plan 2018 (the Alterations).

Future Modifications to the Draft Plan

Where changes to the Plan 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, Climate Action and Environment, 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, 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.

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
Regional Inspectorate
Inniscarra,
County Cork