



**Laois County Council
Comhairle Chontae Laoise
&
Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uibh Fhaili**

**ADDENDUM NO. 2 TO THE
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT
OF THE
PORTARLINGTON JOINT LOCAL AREA PLAN
2018 – 2024**

Schedule 2a Assessment

Criteria for determining whether the Material Amendments to the draft Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment

1. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to:

the degree to which the Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,

The material amendments, relate to the provisions of the draft LAP that in itself will provide the framework for landuse planning and projects in the plan area.
Two proposed material amendments are identified as requiring site specific mitigation measures in relation to avoidance of likely significant effects on the River Barrow and Nore SAC

the degree to which the Plan influence other plans, including those in a hierarchy,

The material amendments relate to the draft LAP which will operate as the landuse framework for the plan area once adopted. It sits within a hierarchy of landuse plans, of which the Laois County Development Plan (CDP) 2017 -2023 is the primary county plan. The LAP has been prepared having regard to the policies and objectives outlined within the CDP 2017-2023 and in turn higher tier plans

the relevance of the Plan in the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,

The existing draft LAP provides for a suite of environmental considerations and these measures contribute to the promotion of sustainable development in light of the LAP objectives

environmental problems relevant to the Plan,

The assessment in the material amendments report shows that conflicts with SEOs are identified for two material amendments, and therefore mitigation measures are recommended

the relevance of the Plan to the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection),

The Draft Plan provides a landuse framework for the plan area and has been subject to SEA to date. The SEA, and other environmental assessments including Appropriate Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment considered and integrated European Union legislation on the environment including those relating to topics such as Waste Management and Water protection.

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:

the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,

Subject to implementation of the mitigation measures as recommended, the proposed material amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects. As stated above, two material amendments are recommended to include mitigation measures to strengthen environmental protection and avoid likely significant effects

<i>the cumulative nature of the effects,</i>
The proposed material amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects
<i>the transboundary nature of the effects,</i>
The proposed material amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects in this regard
<i>the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),</i>
The proposed material amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects as detailed in the individual assessment of material alterations in the material amendment report
<i>the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),</i>
The proposed material amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects as detailed in the individual assessment of material alterations in the material amendment report
<i>the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</i>
(a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage: additional mitigation measures are included for two material amendments in particular relating to flood risk and the avoidance of significant effects to the River Barrow and Nore SAC
(b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values: It is anticipated that environmental quality standards will not be exceeded by the draft LAP nor the material alterations
(c) intensive land-use: One material amendment provides for a potential significant intensification of land use and mitigation measures are recommended to address this. No significant environmental effects are identified subject to implementation of same
(d) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status: The appropriate assessment has recommended mitigation measures in relation to two material amendments and subject to implementation of same, likely significant effects arise in relation to conservation management objectives of European Sites are not identified.