

**Proposed Amendment  
of the  
Skibbereen Electoral Area  
Local Area Plan 2011**

**Amendment No. 2:  
Business Development in Skibbereen Town  
(Expansion of the existing B-02 Business  
Zoning)**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Letter  
Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report  
Habitats Directive Assessment Report**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area  
Local Area Plan 2011

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Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area  
Local Area Plan 2011

Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area  
Local Area Plan, 2011

Amendment No. 2: Business Development in  
Skibbereen Town (Expansion of the existing B-02  
Business Zoning)

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Letter**

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015**

Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area  
Local Area Plan 2011

**Tadhg O'Mahony,**  
**Senior Scientific Officer,**  
**SEA Section,**  
**Office of Environmental Assessment,**  
**EPA Regional Inspectorate,**  
**Inniscarra,**  
**Co.Cork.**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015**

Dear Sirs,

**Planning & Development Acts, as amended**  
**Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 as amended**

**Proposed Amendments to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cork County Council to give notice under Article 14A (4) (b) of the Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 that the County Council proposes to make an amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan under Section 20 of the Principle Act. Before so doing, the County Council must determine whether the proposed amendment would be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that, in so doing, it must take account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Regulations.

Submissions or observations in relation to whether or not the proposed amendments would be likely to have significant effects on the environment may be made to the County Council and must be received before Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**Background**

This proposed amendment involves the zoning of 2.535 hectares of current 'Town Greenbelt' lands for 'Business' use in order to facilitate the expansion of the existing "Business" lands to the north zoned B-02 in the Skibbereen Environs Section of the current Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011.

The full text of this proposed amendment to the Electoral Area Local Area Plan is set out in the attached document "**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report, Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan - Amendment No.2: Business Development in Skibbereen Town (Expansion of the existing B-02 Business Zoning)**"

It is intended that the 'Proposed Amendment No 2' to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011 will be published for public consultation on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. It is envisaged that the

## Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

proposed amendment will be 'made' by the Council towards the end of April 2016. A Screening for Natura Impacts is also being carried out in relation to this proposed amendment.

### **Preliminary Conclusions**

In order to consider whether or not the proposed amendment would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, taking into account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A and the fact that the proposed amendment;

- Is in accordance with the policies set out in the Cork County Development Plan, 2014;
- Provides for the expansion of existing employment uses in a sustainable manner, to the economic benefit of the town and surrounding area;
- Reduces the need to identify new Greenfield employment lands in less appropriate locations, thus reducing the level of unsustainable travel movement;
- Does not change the population/housing targets for Skibbereen Town as set out the Cork County Development Plan, 2014, Core Strategy.

The County Council is reserving its' final decision on whether or not the proposed amendment would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, taking account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A, until it has had the opportunity to consider any submissions or observations made under article 14A (4) (b) of the Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 from the relevant bodies. However, for the reasons set out in this letter, the indication at this stage is that the County Council is inclined towards the view that the proposed amendments are unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore Cork County Council intends to consider making the determination that there is no requirement for the proposed amendment to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Yours faithfully,

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**Padraig Moore**  
**Senior Executive Planner**



Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area  
Local Area Plan, 2011

Amendment No. 2: Business Development in  
Skibbereen Town (Expansion of the existing B-02  
Business Zoning)

***Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report***

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2016**





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## 1.0 Introduction

In accordance with Section 20(d) of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2006, notice is hereby given that Cork County Council is proposing an amendment to the **Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011 - Amendment No.2: Business Development in Skibbereen Town (Expansion of the existing B-02 Business Zoning)**.

This amendment has arisen in order to facilitate the expansion of the existing "Business" lands to the north, zoned B-02 in the Skibbereen Environs Section of the current Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011. The amendment will facilitate the expansion of the existing IDA Industrial Estate, Skibbereen, to the economic benefit of the town and surrounding area.

The purpose of this report is to consider whether the material amendment to the Electoral Area Local Area Plan will have any likely significant environmental effects, and as such, would therefore require the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The SEA process is the formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme. The key indicator that will determine if an SEA is required, of particular plans or amendments to plans, is if they are likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment or not. Screening is the technique applied to determine whether a particular Plan or amendments to a plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant an SEA.

In accordance with Section 14A of the Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended, the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011 was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment for environmental impacts in 2010/11. These SEA Environmental Reports and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Reports are available for consideration on the Councils website [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie)

In accordance with Section 14A and 14G of the Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004, as amended, the current proposed amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011 requires to be screened for SEA in order to ensure that the analysis previously carried out remains valid.

The proposed material amendments to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011 is outlined in Section 2.2 and should be read in conjunction with the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011. The likely significant environmental effects or potential impacts of the amendments are screened and assessed in Sections 3.0 and 4.0.

This screening report concludes that the material amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011 would not warrant a full SEA including SFRA. The site is not at risk of flooding based on the assessment carried out as part of the 2011 LAP Review.

## 2.0 SEA Screening of Proposed Material Amendment

### 2.1 Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Environmental Effects

The effects of the Proposed Amendment has been determined having considered the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of SI 346 of 2004, as amended "Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004:

Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected in particular:

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
- the cumulative nature of the effects,
- the transboundary nature of the effects,
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
  - (a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
  - (b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
  - (c) intensive land-use,
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.

In order to consider whether or not the proposed amendment would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, taking into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A above consideration was also give to the fact that the proposed amendment;

- Is in accordance with the policies set out in the Cork County Development Plan, 2014;
- Provides for the expansion of existing employment uses in a sustainable manner, to the economic benefit of the town and surrounding area;
- Reduces the need to identify new Greenfield employment lands in less appropriate locations, thus reducing the level of unsustainable travel movement;
- Does not change the population/housing targets for Skibbereen Town as set out the Cork County Development Plan, 2014, Core Strategy.

## **2.2 Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011**

This amendment proposes changes to zone 3.1 hectares of land currently designated as 'Town Greenbelt' for 'Business' use at Poundlick, Skibbereen, to the south of the existing IDA Industrial Estate, extending the existing B-02 Business Development Zoning.

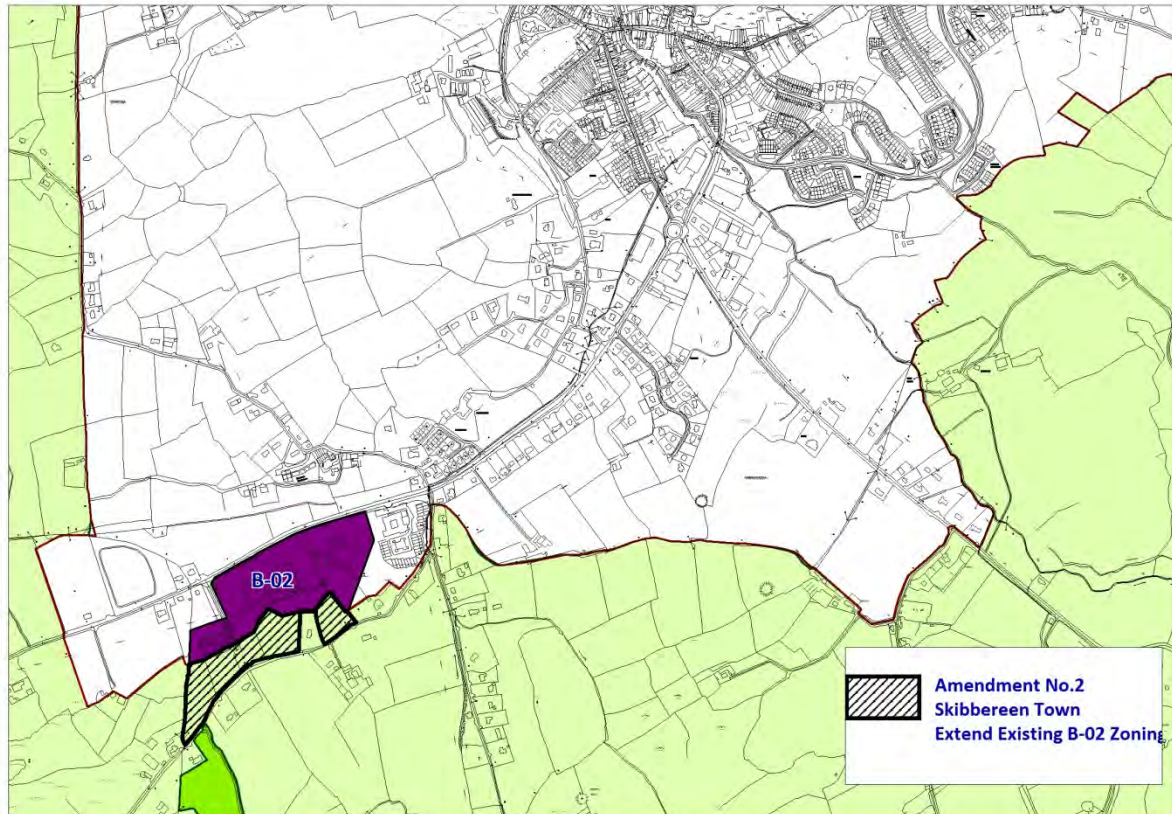
The amendment relates to material changes to the:

(a) 'Skibbereen Environs Zoning Map' and the 'Skibbereen Green Belt Map' in the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011, and

(b) Text changes to existing specific zoning objective B-02.

Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

(a) Amended 'Skibbereen Zoning Map' and Amended 'Skibbereen Green Belt Map' in the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011, as follows:



(b) Text changes to the specific zoning objective B-02 which applies to the expanded site, as follows:

<i>Objective No.</i>	<b><u>Business</u></b>	<i>Approx Area (Ha)</i>
B-02	Business development.	<del>6.2</del> <b>9.3</b>



### **3.0 Significance of effects**

Assessment is the process of evaluating the importance or significance of a plan's impacts, be they adverse or beneficial in nature. In most cases, this is essentially a judgment grounded within a number of factors but it may also be made more objective with the use of a range of criteria and standards. The assessment of significance will be based upon the following main factors:

- The character and perceived value of the affected environment;
- The magnitude, spatial extent and duration of anticipated change;
- The resilience of the environment to cope with change;
- Confidence in the accuracy of predictions of change;
- The existence of policies, programmes, plans, etc. which can be used as criteria;
- The existence of environmental standards against which a proposal can be assessed (e.g. air quality standards, water quality standards);
- The degree of public interest and concern in the environmental resources concerned and the issues associated with a proposed project;
- Scope for mitigation, sustainability and reversibility.

Having regard to these factors and the identified likely impacts set out above, it is considered that given the value of the existing environment in the Plan area and the nature of surrounding areas is such that any development resulting from the material amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan is unlikely to lead to any significant negative environmental effects.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

Based on this screening process it is considered that an SEA will not be required for the proposed material amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011. As outlined in section 14A of the Planning & Development (Strategic environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 and having considered the response from the EPA, full SEA scoping and environmental reports will not be necessary in this case.

Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral  
Area Local Area Plan 2011

Amendment No. 2: Business Development in  
Skibbereen Town (Expansion of the existing B-02  
Business Zoning)

**Habitats Directive Assessment Report**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2016



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## 1 Introduction

Cork County Council is proposing an amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011. This amendment is proposed in order to facilitate the expansion of the existing IDA Industrial Estate, Skibbereen, to the economic benefit of the town and surrounding area.

The scope of the amendment involves the zoning of 3.1 hectares of current 'Town Greenbelt' lands for 'Business' use in order to facilitate the expansion of the existing "Business" lands to the north zoned B-02 in the Skibbereen Environs Section of the current Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011. They have been compiled into a document titled **Proposed Amendment to Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, Amendment No. 2: Business Development in Skibbereen Town (Expansion of the existing B-02 Business Zoning)**.

In accordance with requirements of Articles 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as transposed into Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 (and subsequent amendments), the impacts of all statutory land use plans and proposed amendments to these on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature (known as Natura 2000 sites or European sites<sup>1</sup>), must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting of the plan or amendment. This is to determine whether or not the implementation of plan or amendment could have negative consequences for the habitats or plant and animal species for which these sites are designated. This assessment process is called a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) and must be carried out at all stages of the plan making process.

### **Habitats Directive Article 6(3)**

*Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.*

Habitats Directive Assessment is an iterative process which is intended to run parallel to and inform the plan making process. It involves analysis and review of draft policies as they emerge during each stage of plan making, to ensure that their implementation will not impact on sites designated for nature conservation, nor on the habitats or species for which they are designated. Within this process, regard is had to the potential for policies to contribute to impacts which on their own may be acceptable, but which could be significant when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans or policies.

The process may result in the development of new policy areas and/or the modification or removal of certain policies to be presented in the final plan. The results of this analysis and review are presented in reports which are produced for each stage of the plan making process. At the end of the process, a Final Natura Impact Report and Habitats Directive Conclusion Statement will be produced which will contain a statement relating as to the likely consequences of the plan on the

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<sup>1</sup> Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive. Special Areas of Conservation are sites that are protected because they support particular habitats and/or plant and animal species that have been identified to be threatened at EU community level. Special Protection Areas are sites that are protected for the conservation of species of birds that are in danger of extinction, or are rare or vulnerable. Special Protection Areas may also be sites that are particularly important for migratory birds. Such sites include internationally important wetlands.

## Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

Natura 2000 network and a summary of how ecological considerations in relation to Natura 2000 sites have been integrated into the plan. There are two main stages to the assessment process which are as follows:

### *Stage One: Screening*

The process which identifies what might be likely impacts arising from a plan on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. No further assessment is required if no significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites are identified during the screening stage. The screening assessment is normally set out in a Habitats Directive Screening Report.

### *Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment*

Where the possibility of significant impacts has not been discounted by the screening process, a more detailed assessment is required. This is called an **Appropriate Assessment** and involves the compilation of a **Natura Impact Report** by the Planning Authority which is a report of scientific evidence and data relating to European sites for which significant negative impacts have not been previously screened out. This is used to identify and classify any implications of the plan for these sites in view of their conservation objectives. The appropriate assessment must include a determination as to whether or not the plan or its proposed amendments would adversely affect the integrity of any European site or sites. The plan may be adopted if adverse effects on the integrity of European sites can be ruled out during the appropriate assessment process. The plan may not be adopted on foot of an Appropriate Assessment, if it is found that it will give rise to adverse impacts on one or more European sites, or if uncertainty remains in relation to potential impacts on one or more European sites following appropriate assessment.

Article 6(4) of the Directive sets out procedures to allow the adoption and implementation of plans despite a finding of adverse effects on one or more European sites. In order for such a plan or project to proceed, it must be demonstrated that

- that there are no alternatives;
- there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for which the plan must proceed; and
- that measures have been put in place that compensate for losses/impacts which will be incurred.

### ***Habitats Directive Article 6(4)***

*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.*

Two further assessment stages are required, if it is determined that a plan must proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, despite a finding that it will have adverse effects on the integrity of one or more European sites. These procedures can only be invoked where it has been shown that there are no alternative ways to implement the plan which avoid adverse effects on the integrity of one or more European sites. These are set out below.

## Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

### *Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions*

In circumstances where the potential for a plan to give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of a European site or sites has not been ruled out during the appropriate assessment process, it can only be considered for authorization where it is demonstrated that there are no alternative solutions. Stage three of a Habitats Directive Assessment involves the assessment of alternative solutions.

### *Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain*

In circumstances where it has been demonstrated that a plan must proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, and where it has been shown that there are no alternatives, compensatory measures must be put in place in advance of the implementation of the plan/project which ensure the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. Compensatory measures must compensate for the expected impact on the site. The fourth stage of the habitats directive assessment process involves the assessment of the proposed compensatory measures.

This document represents the first phase of the Habitats Directive Assessment process, being the assessment of impacts of the proposed amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan on European sites.



## **2 Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011**

This amendment proposes changes to zone 3.1 hectares of land currently designated as 'Town Greenbelt' for 'Business' use at Poundlick, Skibbereen, to the south of the existing IDA Industrial Estate, extending the existing B-02 Business Development Zoning.

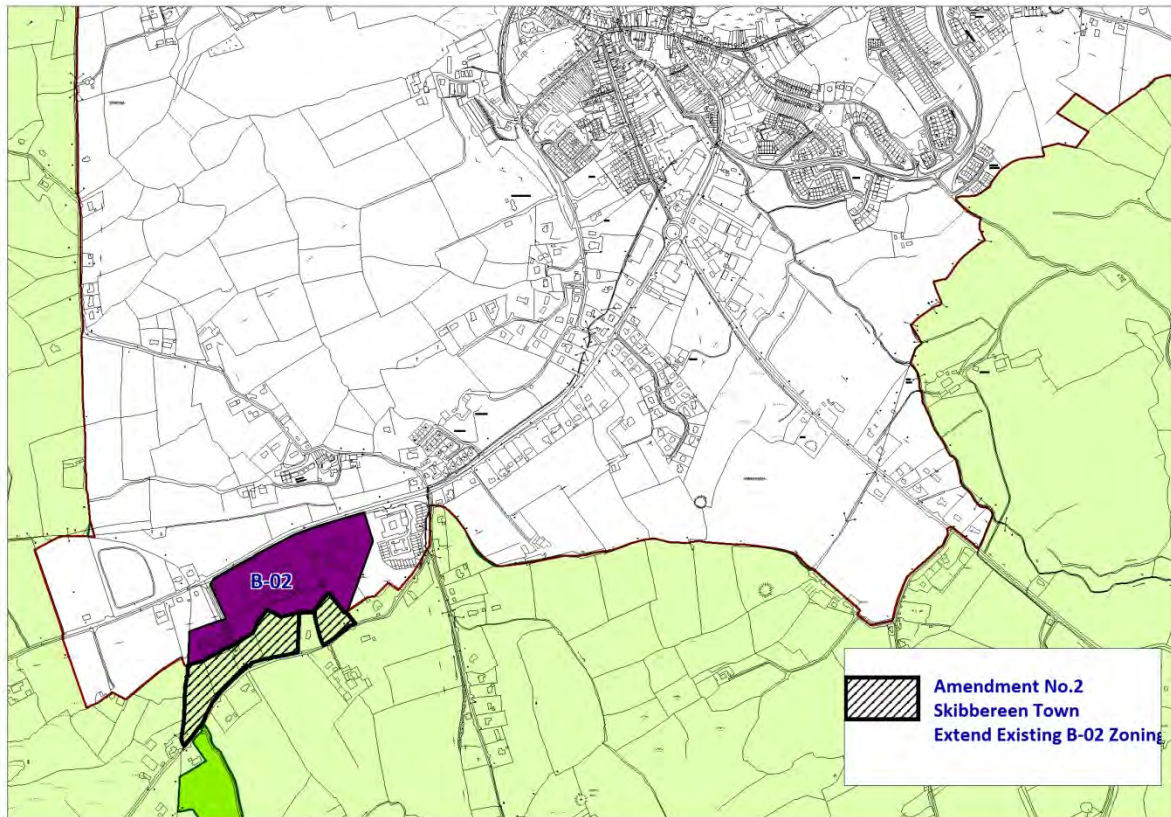
The amendment relates to material changes to the:

(a) 'Skibbereen Environs Zoning Map' and the 'Skibbereen Green Belt Map' in the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011, and

(b) Text changes to existing specific zoning objective B-02.

Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

(a) Amended 'Skibbereen Zoning Map' and Amended 'Skibbereen Green Belt Map' in the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2011, as follows:



(b) Text changes to the specific zoning objective B-02 which applies to the expanded site, as follows:

Objective No.	<b><u>Business</u></b>	Approx Area (Ha)
B-02	Business development.	<del>6.2</del> 9.3

### 3 Identification of Natura 2000 Sites required to be Screened

This section identifies all Natura 2000 sites within the Electoral Area Boundary, as well as all other sites occurring within 15km of these. These are the sites which are subject to Habitats Directive Assessment for the proposed amendment.

#### 3.2 Natura 2000 sites within the Potential Impact Zone of the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan

Natura 2000 Sites In Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan and Within 15km of its boundary				
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key requirements to protect site integrity
0090	Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	Old sessile Oak Woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> ; Alluvial forest with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> . Kerry slug; Lesser horseshoe bat; Otter; Common (Harbour) seal	This is a diverse site which supports woodland, upland, freshwater and coastal habitats and species.  <a href="#">Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC Site Data</a>	Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in harbour area;  Prevent direct loss of estuarine, woodland and upland habitats within SAC;  Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;  Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats;  Protect marine mammals from disturbance in particular at haul outs and breeding sites.
0093	Caha Mountains SAC	Blanket Bog and Active Blanket Bog; Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; <i>Alpine and Boreal</i> heath; Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoëto-Nanojuncetea; Killarney fern; Kerry slug	This upland site supports rare plant species and number of upland bird species of conservation value.  <a href="#">Caha Mountains SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC;  Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC;  Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
0097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Submerged sea caves	This coastal marine site supports a range of rare marine plant and animal species. The terrestrial	Maintain / restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and streams and transitional

Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

Natura 2000 Sites In Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan and Within 15km of its boundary				
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key requirements to protect site integrity
			<p>portion of the site is also diverse with woodland, marsh and heath habitats and associated plant and animal species.</p> <p><a href="#">Lough Hyne Nature Reserve &amp; Environs SAC Site Data</a></p>	<p>coastal zones in bay area;</p> <p>Prevent direct loss marine habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or deterioration of marine habitats.</p>
0101	Roaringwater Bay & Islands SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; European dry heaths; Submerged or partially submerged sea caves; Harbour porpoise; Otter; Grey seal	<p>This coastal marine site supports a diversity of marine and terrestrial habitats. It is notable for the presence of a number of rare plant species and also supports important sea bird colonies.</p> <p><a href="#">Roaringwater Bay &amp; Islands SAC Site Data</a></p>	<p>Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in harbour area;</p> <p>Prevent direct loss of terrestrial and estuarine habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or deterioration of marine habitats;</p> <p>Protect marine mammals from disturbance in particular at haul outs and breeding sites;</p> <p>Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.</p>
0102	Sheep's Head to Toe Head SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; Kerry slug	<p>This coastal heathy headland supports the rare and legally protected plant species Pale Dog-violet and Spotted Rock-rose. It also has a small sea breeding seabird population and is designated as an SPA for Chough and Fulmar.</p>	<p>Prevent direct loss of terrestrial habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within</p>

Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

Natura 2000 Sites In Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan and Within 15km of its boundary				
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key requirements to protect site integrity
			<a href="#">Sheep's Head to Toe Head SAC Site Data</a>	SAC.
0109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; European dry heaths	This SAC has two coastal headlands which supports heathy habitats and sea cliffs. It supports two vascular plant species listed in the Red Data Book, Spotted Rock-rose and Pale Dog-violet. The site also supports wetland habitats and is designated as an SPA for its population of Chough.  <a href="#">Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent direct loss of terrestrial habitats within the SAC;  Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;  Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within SAC.
0353	Old Domestic Buildings, Dromore SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	This SAC is in Co. Kerry. It consists of a large stone building situated in Dromore Wood. It is an important hibernation site of the Lesser Horeshoe Bat.  <a href="#">Old Domestic Buildings, Dromore SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent disturbance to roost site;  Protect surrounding woodland habitat.
0364	Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	This SAC is in Co. Kerry. The site contains three buildings and also covers an area of woodland which is designated Lesser Horseshoe Bats. The ice-house is one of the largest hibernating sites for this species in Europe, while the two other buildings within the SAC serve as summer maternity roosts for this species.  <a href="#">Kilgarvan Ice House SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent disturbance to roost site;  Protect surrounding woodland habitat.

Environmental Screening Reports for Proposed Amendment to the Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

Natura 2000 Sites In Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan and Within 15km of its boundary				
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key requirements to protect site integrity
0365	Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion; Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ); Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; European dry heaths; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Calaminarian grasslands of <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils; Blanket bog (*Active only); Old sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> ; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Twaite shad; Killarney fern; Slender naiad; Kerry slug; Marsh Fritillary; Lesser horseshoe bat; Sea lamprey; Salmon; River lamprey; Freshwater pearl mussel; Otter.	This is a very large SAC, most of which is located in Co. Kerry. The eastern most portion of this SAC in the Paps Mountain range is within Co. Cork. This portion of the site supports the largest mountain Blanket Bog site in the South West at Caherbarnagh, and supports upland peatland and freshwater habitats including upland streams and rivers as well as a number of lakes including Lough Murtagh, Gortavehy Lough and Kippagh Lough.  <a href="#">Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC Site Data</a>	Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in surface waters in SAC;  Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC;  Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats;  Prevent direct loss of peatland, woodland and freshwater habitats within SAC;  Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;  Prevent contamination or deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC;  Prevent disturbance to Otter or Otter habitat.  Prevent disturbance to bat roosts.
1040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with	This site is situated on the Mizen Peninsula. It is a coastal site, important for estuarine habitats, dune and heathy habitats. It supports rare plants including Sea Kale, Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil, Lanceolate Spleenwort, Pale Dog-violet, Green-winged Orchid, Bird's-	Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in harbour area;  Prevent direct loss of terrestrial and estuarine habitats within the SAC;  Prevent drainage of

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		<i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes). Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); European dry heaths	foot and Spotted Rock-rose. It is also an important site for Cough, and overlaps with the Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA.  <a href="#">Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC Site Data</a>	wetland habitats;  Prevent contamination or deterioration of marine habitats which could be caused by certain activities permitted in intertidal/ marine or coastal areas;  Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within SAC.
1043	Cleanderry Wood SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; Old sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> ; Killarney fern	This site is located on the western side of the Beara peninsula. It supports woodland and heath habitats, and also includes Derryvegal Lough. The site also supports the protected species Killarney Fern. It is of exceptional value as it contains no introduced species, and for the proliferation of moisture loving plant species that occur in the woodland.  <a href="#">Cleanderry Wood SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent direct loss of woodland habitat within the SAC;  Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;  Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within SAC.
1070	Myross Wood SAC	Killarney fern	This is a small site near Leap, comprising mixed woodland habitat. It has a diverse ground flora, and is of particular importance for its presence of the Annex II species Killarney Fern.  <a href="#">Myross Wood SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent direct loss of woodland habitat within the SAC;  Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;  Regulate visitor access / human use within SAC.
1547	Castletownshend SAC	Killarney fern.	This is mixed woodland site near Castletownshend, which is of conservation	Prevent direct loss of woodland habitat within the SAC;

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			importance for its population of Killarney Fern.  <a href="#">Castletownshend SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;  Regulate visitor access / human use within SAC.
1873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	Blanket Bog (*Active) only	This is an upland site whose main conservation interest in intact active mountain blanket bog. Other habitats that occur on site include heath and grassland habitats, upland streams and exposed rock.  <a href="#">Derryclogher Bog Site Data</a>	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC;  Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC;  Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
1879	Glanmore Bog SAC	Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ); Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Blanket bog (*active) only; Freshwater pearl mussel; Killarney fern.	This diverse site on the Beara Peninsula, supports a range of upland peaty habitats and freshwater habitats and species of very high conservation importance. In addition to its qualifying features it supports breeding Chough and number of other upland bird species, as well as very good diversity of plant species.  <a href="#">Glanmore Bog SAC Site Data</a>	Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in surface waters in SAC;  Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC;  Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats;  Prevent direct loss of peatland or freshwater habitats within SAC;  Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;  Prevent contamination or other deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC;  Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.



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1881	Maulagowna Bog SAC	Blanket bog (*active only)	This upland site is located within Co. Kerry in the Caha Mountains. It supports intact active Blanket Bog, as well as Cummer Lough. The Annex I (Birds Directive) species, Chough breeds in this site.  <a href="#">Maulagowna Bog SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC;  Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC;  Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
2041	Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	This site consists of a derelict building in Curraglass Wood in Co. Kerry, which is used as a nursery site by Lesser Horseshoe Bats. The surrounding woodland provides important foraging habitat for this species.  <a href="#">Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent disturbance to roost site;  Protect surrounding woodland habitat.
2158	Kenmare River SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; Atlantic salt meadows; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); European dry heaths; Calaminarian grassland of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ; Submerged or partially submerged sea caves; Whorl snail; Lesser horseshoe bat; Otter;	This is a large coastal site which is located in Co's Cork and Kerry. It is of special importance for its estuarine and coastal habitats and species, some of which are very rare and known only from this area in Ireland. It is also of high importance for the occurrence of a very rare habitat type (Calaminarian grassland) associated with old mine works at Allihies. This grassland is the only Irish site for a number of exceptionally rare lichen species. The bay	Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in harbour area;  Prevent direct loss of habitat within SAC;  Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;  Prevent contamination or deterioration of wetland habitats;  Protect marine mammals from disturbance in particular at haul outs and breeding sites;

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		Common (harbour) seal.	supports a breeding population of Arctic/Common Tern, and overlaps with the Beara Peninsula which is designated for a breeding population of Chough.  <a href="#">Kenmare River SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent disturbance to Otter or their breeding sites.
2189	Farranamanagh Lough SAC	Coastal lagoons; Perennial vegetation of stony banks.	This is a relatively small site located on the Sheep's Head peninsula. It is designated for the occurrence of a small shallow lagoon in a natural condition, which supports lagoonal specialist species, and for its fine example. The site also supports heath, wet grassland, freshwater marsh, scrub and woodland habitats. Kerry Slug has been recorded within the site.  <a href="#">Farranamanagh Lough SAC Site Data</a>	Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in lagoon and in waters discharging to lagoon;  Prevent direct loss of coastal and wetland habitats within the SAC;  Prevent contamination of wetland habitats;  Prevent drainage of wetland habitats.
2098	Old Domestic Building, Askive Woods SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	This is a small SAC located in Co. Kerry. It is a breeding site of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. The site also includes woodland habitat which provides suitable foraging habitats for the population of bats which use this roost site.  <a href="#">Old Domestic Building Askive Woods SAC Site Data</a>	Prevent disturbance to bat roost;  Protect foraging woodland habitat within SAC.
2280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	This is a small coastal site located at the head of Dunmanus Bay near Durrus. It is of high conservation importance	Prevent direct loss of coastal and wetland habitats within the SAC;  Maintain a high standard

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			<p>for the diversity of habitats and species that it supports. These include saltmarsh, wet and dry heath, lake, freshwater marsh, tidal estuarine creeks, scrub woodland and wet woodland. The site provides valuable feeding habitat for several bird species, and is also used by Otter.</p> <p><a href="#">Dunbeacon Shingle SAC Site Data</a></p>	<p>of water of water quality in freshwater habitats within SAC;</p> <p>Prevent contamination of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to birds.</p>
2281	Reen Point Shingle SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks.	<p>This is a small site which is designated as it supports a good example of shingle beach habitats. Other habitats which occur on the site include lagoon habitat, saltmarsh, marsh/scrub and heath. These add to the overall value of the SAC.</p> <p><a href="#">Reen Point Shingle SAC Site Data</a></p>	<p>Prevent direct loss of coastal and wetland habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p>
2315	Glanlough Woods SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	<p>This site is located in Co. Kerry. It consists of a derelict farmhouse and adjacent out-buildings. The buildings support an important Lesser horseshoe bat maternity roost.</p> <p><a href="#">Glanlough Woods SAC Site Data</a></p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to bat roost;</p> <p>Protect bat foraging habitat.</p>
4066	Bull and the Cow SPA	Storm Petrel; Gannet; Puffin	<p>This site comprises to small rock islands and surrounding water situated off Dursey Head. It is an important site for breeding populations of Storm</p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to breeding birds.</p>

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			<p>Petrel, Gannet and Puffing. Other seabirds which also breed on the islands include Gull spp, Cormorant, Kittiwake, Guillemot, Fulmar and Razorbill.</p> <p><a href="#">Bull and the Cow Rocks SPA Site Data</a></p>	
4155	Beara Peninsula SPA	Fulmar; Chough	<p>This SPA includes sea cliffs and the land behind these as well as several upland areas further inland of the coast. A large population of Chough have been recorded from this site. They are breeding both on the sea cliffs and at the old copper mines at Allihies. The SPA protects Chough feeding and breeding sites, as well as areas where birds flock in the wintertime. The site is also important for breeding seabird species including Fulmar, Black Guillemot, Shag, Gull spp and Razorbill.</p> <p><a href="#">Beara Peninsula SPA Site Data</a></p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to breeding birds;</p> <p>Maintain Chough feeding , wintering and breeding habitat.</p>
4156	Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA	Peregrine Falcon; Chough	<p>This site encompasses high coast and sea cliffs on the SW coast including Sheeps Head, Mizen Head, Brow Head and Crookhaven, Baltimore, Tragumna, Gokane Point and Toe Head. It includes sea cliff and land inward from these. It also includes areas of sand dune at Barley Cove and Crookhaven. It includes breeding, feeding and</p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to breeding birds;</p> <p>Protect breeding habitat for Chough and Peregrine Falcon.</p> <p>Protect feeding and flocking sites / habitats used by Chough.</p>

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			<p>flocking areas for an important population of Chough. It also supports breeding sea birds and an important population of Peregrine Falcon.</p> <p><a href="#">Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA Site Data</a></p>	
4191	Seven Heads SPA	Chough	<p>This site is located south-west of Courtmacherry. It supports an important population of breeding Chough. The SPA includes grassland and heath, freshwater marsh and arable land behind the cliffs which are used as feeding areas by this species. Site also supports breeding seabirds including Fulmar; Gull spp, Cormorant as well as breeding Peregrine Falcon.</p> <p><a href="#">Seven Heads SPA Site Data</a></p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to breeding birds;</p> <p>Maintain Chough breeding and feeding habitat within SPA.</p>

## **4 Screening Assessment**

### **Proposed Amendment to Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan**

This proposed amendment involves the zoning of 3.1 hectares of current 'Town Greenbelt' lands for 'Business' use in order to facilitate the expansion of the existing "Business" lands to the north zoned B-02 in the Skibbereen Environs Section of the current Skibbereen Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011.

There are no Natura 2000 sites located within or near Skibbereen Town.

No aspects of the proposed amendment have been identified which would be likely to give rise to impacts on any Natura 2000 sites. Accordingly, the requirement for the proposed amendment to be subject to Appropriate Assessment is screened out.

## **5 Screening Conclusion**

The amendments do not direct development to any areas within or near Natura 2000 sites, and no increased risk of disturbance to species for which these sites have been designated has been identified. No potential for the amendments to cause or contribute to negative impacts on any Natura 2000 site within or near the County has been identified, and accordingly it is considered that the amendment does not need to be subject to Appropriate Assessment.

