

Mr Proinsias McCaughey
Principal Planning Officer
Development Planning
Derry City and Strabane Local Council
98 Strand Road,
Derry / Londonderry
BT48 7NN

8th April 2025

Our Ref: SCP250306.1

Re. Derry City & Strabane District Local Development Plan and associated SEA.

Dear Mr McCaughey,

We acknowledge your notice, dated 19th March 2025, in relation to the Derry City & Strabane District Local Development Plan (the 'Plan') and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Our comments and observations are provided in the context of ongoing cooperation and discussion between the EPA and plan making authorities in Northern Ireland.

We welcome the opportunity to provide input at this stage of the Plan and SEA process. This submission includes general aspects to be considered in the Plan and SEA processes.

From a transboundary perspective, the Plan should consider and promote compliance with the requirements of the relevant environmental European directives (Water Framework, Floods Directive, Waste Framework, Air Quality, Habitats, Birds, Floods, SEA, EIA, etc). Potential transboundary effects arising from any proposed climate adaptation or climate mitigation measures should also be considered, as appropriate.

Some key plans and programmes to consider

In the Republic of Ireland, some key relevant plans and programmes at a national and regional level to consider include the Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework (DHLGH), Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (NWRA), Grid 25 Implementation Plan (Eirgrid), 4th Biodiversity Action Plan, Water Action Plan for Ireland 2024 (DHLGH) and the relevant Flood Risk Management Plans (OPW).

Additional plans to consider include the All of Government Climate Action Plan the National Energy and Climate Plan, relevant local authority Climate Action Plans and associated SEA, Biodiversity Action Plans and local authority county development plans and associated SEA.

Additional aspects to consider include:

- Assessment of potential for cumulative effects, including possible transboundary aspects.
- Need for appropriate community engagement
- An environmental monitoring programme, to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plan in both jurisdictions.

Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024

In October 2024, the EPA published the latest iteration of our 4-yearly State of the Environment Report. This report would be useful to consider in finalising the SEA Environmental Report. It is available at: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-environment-report/>.

Available Guidance & Resources

Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:

- [SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory](#)
- Topic specific SEA guidance (including [Good practice note on SEA and Integration](#) (EPA, 2025), [Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment](#) (EPA, 2020), [Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring](#) (EPA, 2020)).

You can access these and other resources at: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/>

EPA SEA WebGIS Tool

Our SEA WebGIS Tool is available at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>. It allows an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area to be produced. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.

Catchments.ie

Our <https://www.catchments.ie/maps/> website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.



If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact Cian O'Mahony at c.omahony@epa.ie directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Tadhg O'Mahony
Senior Scientific Officer
SEA Section
Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
Environmental Protection Agency