

Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Conclusion Statement for the Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024. The obligation to undertake AA derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of any European Site in view of its conservation objectives. This AA Conclusion Statement should be read in conjunction with the following documents which accompany the Statement:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement
- The Fingal County Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2019-2024(Approved);
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS), including Appendix I and Appendix 2.

The NIS reviewed the potential impacts arising from the Fingal County Council CCAP 2019-2024 and found that, without the implementation of mitigation measures, the Plan will have the potential to impact upon the Conservation Objectives of ten European Sites and their relevant qualifying features that occur within the zone of influence of the Plan.

The potential impacts that could negatively affect these European Sites have been outlined in Section 6 the NIS. These potential impacts relate to actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, road and public transport networks; maintain roads; provide coastal and flood protection; provide fire management at Howth Head; and provide masterplans for the Baldoyle and Rogerestown estuaries. Section 7 outlines the environmental safeguards within the Fingal County CDP 2017-2023 that will be applied for all land use activities supported by the CCAP. The purpose of these safeguards is to minimise and/or eliminate potential impacts associated with the CCAP land use actions to European Sites and the wider environment in general.

The mitigation measures outlined in Section 7 of the NIS will protect these Sites from potential adverse impacts. Table 7.1 has listed these mitigation measures and evaluated their potential to safeguard European Sites from these actions. A rationale has been provided to demonstrate how these mitigation measures will provide effective safeguards against any land use projects arising from the actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, road and public transport networks; maintain roads; provide coastal and flood protection; provide fire management at Howth Head; and provide masterplans for the Baldoyle and Rogerestown estuaries.

The measures and requirements of the Fingal County CDP and particularly Objectives NH10, NH15 and NH25 that aim to protect, conserve and appropriately management European Sites provide a basis for eliminating or minimising to an insignificant level potential adverse land use effects that could arise from the land use actions identified in Table 6.1 of the NIS. These objectives along with the additional safeguards within the CDP as outlined above will provide a basis for ensuring any future land use facilitated by the CCAP will not be supported where they present a risk of likely significant effects to European Sites.

