***Requirement for Screening for Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive.***

The draft LECP has been developed following a year of consultation and collaboration involving stakeholders from the community and economic development sectors in the County. The LECP aims to introduce new approaches and programmes of work while complementing existing programmes and plans. The mode of action of the LECP will be to build new partnerships while strengthening existing partnerships. New commitments will be made to ensure that the planning of work in the areas of community and economic development will prioritise value for money, reducing duplication, sharing resources and more evidence based practice.

The Plan is not intended to replace the statutory, strategic or operational plans of national and local agencies and organisations but aims to develop improved integration and reduced duplication through a collaborative action plan. As such, the strategic policies of national, regional and local bodies have been adhered to.

The LECP’s goals and actions are also set within the over-arching policies of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-1016, in addition to the range of other instruments considered including the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020.

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016 was subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive to ensure no significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites were likely. The draft LECP has been prepared taking the objectives and policies of the County Development Plan into account. Any individual project or plan arising from the proposed LECP will therefore be subject to these policies and objectives and will likewise be subject to the individual requirement for Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

In relation to potential cumulative impacts from the goals and actions of the proposed LECP in conjunction with other plans and projects, it is a requirement that each of these, in addition to each individual project or plan arising from the actions listed within the proposed LECP itself, will all be subject to screening for appropriate assessment to ensure there will be no significant cumulative negative impact on Natura 2000 sites. Taken together, adherence to this required approach will ensure no cumulative impacts on Natura 2000 sites will arise from the proposed LECP.