



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Local Development Plan 2030 - SA/SEA Transboundary Screening Table for draft Plan Strategy and Proposed Changes.

December 2020

Transboundary Screening Table – Regulation 13 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Northern Ireland) 2004

Transboundary Screening of Draft Plan Strategy

Proposed Policy/Policy Group of draft Plan Strategy	Likely to have any Significant Effects on Environment of Republic of Ireland (Yes/No)	Summary of Consideration as to why no Transboundary Effects
Furthering Sustainable Development	No	The policy underpins all decision-making on development proposals by recognising the need to provide balance between the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development and ensuring that no one pillar is given more prominence than any other. The policy would work alongside the Spatial Growth Strategy and is aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of all development and therefore is likely to have a positive effect on the environment of Fermanagh and Omagh and its adjoining councils in the Republic of Ireland.
Spatial Growth Strategy	No	The policies set the settlement hierarchy of the district and the scale of development appropriate to each tier along with the framework for the allocation of housing and industry and business land. As they are also underpinned by furthering sustainable development policy, they are unlikely to have any significant environmental effect on the Republic of Ireland.
Development and Design	No	This is a suite of policies seeking to secure a high standard of design and to create a sense of place with some policies applying to all development in all locations and others applying to all development within the countryside. The approach follows the strategic objectives of enhancing the area's environmental quality. It is envisaged they will have minimal effects on the environment of the Republic of Ireland.

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Housing in Settlements	No	This suite of policies addresses housing development within established settlements. They are designed to direct development towards settlements and to locations with the best access to facilities and to provide quality environments with a mix of housing. As such they are unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on the Republic of Ireland.
Housing in the Countryside	No	The policies seek to facilitate residential development in the countryside and as one of the main measures to sustain rural communities. The policies have been tailored to the specific circumstances of the Council area (the geographical extent of the rural area and high number of farms). They introduce a degree of flexibility to provide additional opportunities in the countryside, with any potential negative effects tempered by additional criteria and the application of the principle of further sustainable development. They are unlikely to have any environmental effect on the Republic of Ireland.
Community Facilities	No	The policy sets a positive aim of supporting new community facilities in settlements, but with various provisos relating to impacts, while also protecting existing community facility for redevelopment as non-community facilities. It is unlikely to have any environmental effect on the Republic of Ireland.
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	No	This suite of policies is designed to protect and promote a varied and high quality open space, recreation and sports facilities across the Council area and to meet the needs of residents and visitors. Existing open space will be protected from any development which would result in loss

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		with some exceptions. There is a particular criteria based approach to development adjacent to main rivers, to maintain a biodiversity strip along the length of the main rivers for public access or recreation provision. This would have positive environmental effects on waterways adjacent to the border.
Rural Community Areas	No	This policy seeks to add to the way that small rural communities can be sustained. It allows for small scale rural start-ups or community development outside of settlements. RCAs are those areas in the countryside which have a strong community identity and where existing social, community and recreational facilities such as a church hall, school, community centre or sports club act as a focal point for local community activity. Given the purpose of the policy, it is unlikely to have any environmental effect on the Republic of Ireland.
Industry and Business	No	These policies aim to direct economic development to the settlements and zoned areas but allow flexibility where suitable locations are outside of these areas. Policies also seek to protect existing economic development from loss to other uses and which may have greater development value (e.g. housing) and direct economic development away from uses which would be detrimentally effected by associated impacts (e.g. noise or odour). They include policies for industrial and business development in settlements and in the countryside including farm diversification and agricultural buildings. Criteria within the policies will act as a control on any potential negative impacts and along with the principle of furthering sustainable development and general amenity and environmental considerations, any significant effects will be mitigated.

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Town Centres and Retailing	No	These policies ensure a ‘town centre first’ approach towards retail and other town centre uses, and include tests (sequential and impact assessments) for development that is outside either the primary retail core (of the main town centres) or the local town centres. The policies also restrict non-retail uses from primary retail frontages and so as to maintain their viability and vitality of the main town centres (particularly for comparison shopping). At the same time the policies allow for the spatial distribution of uses for the day-to-day needs within the local centres within town centres local shops, villages and small settlements. The town centre first approach will ensure there are no significant effects on neighbouring town centres and hubs within Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim and Monaghan.
Tourism	No	The overall aim of the Tourism policies is to direct tourism development (including attractions and accommodation) to designated Hubs while safeguarding existing tourism attractions. This will support the tourism industry and enhance the visitor experience, while in turn, protect the district from the proliferation of tourism development. Further policies seek to ensure the impact of tourism accommodation is minimised. Given the criteria within the policies, they are unlikely to have any significant effects on the Republic of Ireland.
Minerals Development	No	Overall, these policies seek to balance the demands and requirements of mineral development against the potential environmental (and other) impacts. As such, it is proposed to safeguard certain areas for where there are known deposits of minerals of economic or conservation importance and constrain mineral development in other areas (e.g. of a high scenic or historic/cultural nature). The

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		Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development (ACMD) are intended to protect the most sensitive sites from minerals development and include the portion of Sperrin AONB that lies within FODC, and also national and international environmental designations, some of which border onto comparable designations (e.g. Slieve Beagh SAC/SPA) in the Republic of Ireland. This ACMD designation will thus protect shared environmental assets from minerals development. In line with the approach in the SPPS a precautionary approach is taken in relation to unconventional hydrocarbon extraction.
Historic Environment	No	This suite of policies is designed to conserve, protect and enhance the Historic Environment of the district. They are arranged by the type of Heritage Asset (e.g. Listed Buildings, Archaeology) and to address the specific issues relevant to the assets and its designation. They are mainly informed by the requirements of regional policy and based on the local designations within FODC which contribute to the distinctive character of the district. Any important historic asset which may border onto the Republic of Ireland will be protected and conserved.
Natural Environment	No	Overall, the Natural Environment policies recognise the important habitats and species in the Council area and offer appropriate level of protection commensurate with their status and where possible enhancement. The policy framework is in line with current regional policy and will have a potential significant positive effect on biodiversity in the district. They are not considered to have any significant effects on the environment of adjoining council areas in the Republic of Ireland.

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Landscape	No	Overall, these policies recognise the districts habitats and species and special landscapes; and offer appropriate level of protection and where possible enhancement. They set-out policy tests for development that may impact on the various landscape designations. They include policies for the protection of our most valued landscapes within the district (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Countryside Areas and Areas of High Scenic Value). Cuilagh Mountain is identified as a Special Countryside Area and also lies within an Area of Scenic Value which includes part of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, a shared resource with County Cavan. Given that the policies would have significant positive effect in terms of the maintaining the character of landscapes, they are not considered to have any significant effects on the environment of adjoining county councils in the Republic of Ireland.
Flood Risk Management	No	The Flood Risk policies are designed to minimise development within areas liable to flooding (and of relevance to the district area, from both river and surface water) and therefore minimise the need for further flood alleviation and prevent increased instances of flooding resulting from run-off etc. SuDs are promoted as the preferred method from drainage. The policies maintain the approach of current policies and are guided by the precautionary principle. They are expected to have mainly a significant positive effect in terms of the reducing flood risk and increasing resilience to flood risk, and also a positive effect in relation to reducing the vulnerability to climate change. Therefore, no significant effects are envisaged on the environment of the Republic of Ireland as a result.

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Renewable Energy	No	This policy seeks to positively promote the generation of energy from renewable and low carbon sources where the impact of such development can be mitigated or minimised. The policy also seeks to protect valued landscaped, particularly when considering the potential visual impact of wind energy development, and as there is significant pressure for wind energy development within some areas of the district. A Landscape Wind Energy Strategy, informed by a Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study, forms part of the policy. This will guide development to locations where there is capacity to accommodate such development within the landscape without significant harm. No significant effects are envisaged on the environment of the Republic of Ireland.
Transportation	No	The overall objectives of these policies is to ensure development is directed towards the most accessible locations, that development does not inconvenience the free-flow of traffic – for example by limiting new accesses to the strategic highway network – and maintains highway and pedestrian safety. Policies also: promote accessibility for all in all new developments; prioritise walking and cycling; ensures that there is sufficient car parking provided for developments in town centres; and, safeguard routes for New Transport Schemes as and when they come forward. The policy on Disused Transport Routes could result in the creation of transboundary greenways/walkways using shared industrial heritage assets such as old railway lines and canals.

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Public Utilities	No	This policy group includes policies for telecommunications and overhead electricity lines. It is considered that the mitigation offered in the policies, by avoiding sensitive landscapes and locations (such as the AONB), would result in minimal negative effects on the environment of the Republic of Ireland.
Waste Management	No	These policies look to direct waste management facilities and Waste Water Treatment Works, based on locational criteria and environmental/amenity criteria, to the best locations so as to meet anticipated need while minimising any negative impacts. It is not envisaged that they will have a significant effect on the environment of the Republic of Ireland.

Transboundary Screening of Schedule of Proposed Changes

Following consideration of the Representations received to the draft Plan Strategy, the Council recommended a number of 'proposed changes' to the published Draft Plan Strategy. These can be found in the Schedule of Proposed Changes, which was published for an 8 week consultation period commencing on 8 October 2020 and ending on 3 December 2020. An SA Addendum was prepared alongside this document and assessed these changes through the SA process.

As the proposed changes involve only changes to the text of a policy or accompanying policy clarification and do not introduce new policies or proposals, the transboundary screening set out in the above table for the draft Plan Strategy remains unchanged. Therefore, the overall conclusion is that the proposed changes are likely to have no significant effects on the environment of the Republic of Ireland as originally assessed in the SA for the draft Plan Strategy.