



Paul Christy
Senior Executive Planner
Central Planning Unit
Donegal County Council
County House
Lifford
Co Donegal
XX September 2016

Re: AA Screening Report & Preliminary SEA Scoping Report for review of current Co Donegal Development Plan 2012-18 and preparations for a new Co Donegal Development Plan 2018-24.

Dear Mr. Christy,

The Planning Committee notes the contents of your 29th June & 8th July 2016 correspondence in relation to the above, and responds further to the Interim response from my officials on 9th August.

Derry City and Strabane District Council welcomes this early opportunity to engage with Donegal County Council on this Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and Preliminary Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report in relation to the above. In responding to the two separate distinct consultations, the Committee comments as follows:

Appropriate Assessment (AA):

The Committee, having consulted with the Shared Environmental Service (SES, which advises Councils in NI on AA matters) is content that the outcome of the Screening for AA is correct and it provides a good baseline for carrying out the full AA in due course. The Council endorses the SES response to the AA Screening Report as follows:

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment correctly identifies all Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection areas in Derry City and Strabane District Council and captures the potential impacts in broad terms. It is agreed that the plan should be subject to full Appropriate Assessment taking account of more detailed information on spatial and policy proposals for land use in County Donegal.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):

The Committee is content with the Transboundary scope and level of detail as set out in the SEA Preliminary Scoping Report. This Council has also liaised with Natural Environment Division of DAERA, which responds on behalf of the NI Government; having the largest land border with Donegal, we concur with the comments they have set out in their response to you (copy attached at Appendix 2).

I trust that you find these comments useful and this Committee looks forward to continuing liaison with Donegal County Council as we plan for the future of our adjoining Council areas and a thriving North West region.

Yours sincerely,

John Boyle
Planning Committee (Chair)
Derry City & Strabane District Council