**Natura Impact Statement: Appropriate Assessment Screening**

Introduction

This is an Appropriate Assessment Screening of the proposed new Ballymun Plaza in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

The proposed works have been assessed to ascertain if it is required to be subject to an *‘Appropriate Assessment’* under the EU Habitats Directive. Based on the *‘Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, a *‘Screening Matrix’* and a *‘Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix’* have been completed.

The principal trigger for undertaking an *‘Appropriate Assessment’* would be if the proposed project was likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site. For the purposes of Article 6 assessments, Natura 2000 sites are those identified as Sites of Community Importance under the Habitats Directive (normally called Special Areas of Conservation) or classified as Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

There are no Natura 2000 sites within the proposed project area. The nearest Natura 2000 sites are approximately five kilometres to the east/south-east of the project area.

These are

1. North Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code: 000206)
2. South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code: 004024)

2 Screening Matrix

|  |
| --- |
| **Brief Description of Project or Plan**  |
| The site is Ballymun Plaza and involves primarily soft landscaping. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Brief description of the Natura 2000 sites** |
| There are no Natura 2000 sites within the proposed project area. The nearest Natura 2000 sites are approximately five kilometres to the east/south-east of the project area.These are 1. North Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code: 000206)
2. South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code: 004024)

The Conservation Objective for the North Dublin Bay SAC is ‘to maintain/restore the favourable conservation condition of * Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
* Annual vegetation of drift lines
* Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
* Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)
* Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)
* Embryonic shifting dunes
* Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)
* Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
* Humid dune slacks
* Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort)

The Conservation Objectives for the South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA are ‘to maintain the favourable conservation condition of:Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) Knot (Calidris canutus) Sanderling (Calidris alba) Dunlin (Calidris alpina) Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) Redshank (Tringa totanus) Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea), And ‘to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Assessment Criteria** |
| **Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of:****Size and scale;**The size and scale of the project are not likely to result in any direct, indirect, or secondary impacts on the Natura 2000 Site, either alone, or in combination with other plans or projects.There is no hydrological connectivity or other pathways which would be likely to give rise to any impacts on the Natura 2000 Sites. The project site is not used by the Special Conservation Interests of the Natura 2000 Sites.**Land-take;**There will be no land-take from the Natura 2000 sites as a result of this project.**Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;**There are no Natura 2000 sites in the proposed project area. The nearest Natura 2000 sites are approximately five kilometres from the project area. There is no hydrological connectivity or other pathways which would be likely to give rise to any impacts on the Natura 2000 Sites. The project site is not used by the Special Conservation Interests of the Natura 2000 Sites**Resource requirements (water abstraction etc);**There will be no resources required from the Natura 2000 Sites as a result of this project. **Emission (disposal to land, water or air);**No direct, indirect or secondary impactsof any Natura 2000 sites are predicted as a result of emissions from the proposed project. **Excavation requirements;**There will be no excavation requirements which would be likely to give rise to any impacts on the Natura 2000 Sites**Transportation requirements;**There will be no transportation requirements which would be likely to give rise to any impacts on the Natura 2000 Sites**Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc;**The duration of construction and operation are not likely to give rise to any impacts on the Natura 2000 Sites**Other**None |
| **Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:****Reduction of habitat area:** There will be no reduction in habitat area as a result of this project. **Disturbance to key species;** There will be no disturbance to key species as a result of this project. **Habitat or species fragmentation;** There will be no habitat or species fragmentation as a result of this project**Reduction in species density;** There will be no reduction in species diversity as a result of this project**Changes in key indicators of conservation value** There will be no changes to key indicators of conservation value as a result of this project**Climate change:** There will be no impacts on climate change as a result of this project |
| **Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:****Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site;**No likely interference.**Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site;**No likely interference. |
| **Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:****Loss;** None identified**Fragmentation;** None identified**Disruption;** None identified**Disturbance;** None identified**Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc);** None identified |
| **Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts are not known.**None identified. |

3. Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Project or Plan:** | Proposed New Ballymun Plaza |
| **Name and location of Natura 2000 sites:** | There are no Natura 2000 sites within the proposed project area. The nearest Natura 2000 sites are approximately five kilometres to the east/south-east of the project area.These are * 1. North Dublin Bay SAC
	2. South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA
 |
| **Description of the Project or Plan** | The site is Ballymun Plaza and involves primarily soft landscaping. |
| **Is the Project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?** | No. |
| **Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide** **details)?** | No |

|  |
| --- |
| **The Assessment of Significance of Effects** |
| **Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 sites:** | No likely impact on any Natura 2000 sites. |
| **Explain why these effects are not considered significant:**  | There are no Natura 2000 sites in the proposed project area. The nearest Natura 2000 sites are approximately five kilometres from the project area. There is no hydrological connectivity or other pathways which would be likely to give rise to any impacts on the Natura 2000 Sites. The project site is not used by the Special Conservation Interests of the Natura 2000 Sites |
| **List of Agencies Consulted: Provide contact name and telephone or email address:** | None |
| **Response to Consultation** | None |

|  |
| --- |
| **Data Collected to Carry out the Assessment** |
| **Who carried out the Assessment?** | Parks, Biodiversity & Landscape Services, Dublin City Council |
| **Sources of Data** | Existing Data  |
| **Level of Assessment Completed** | Desktop Study |
| **Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed** | This document contains the full results of the Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise and will be placed on display with the proposed project. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Overall Conclusion** | The screening process indicates that the proposed project will not have any significant cumulative, direct or indirect impacts upon any of the Natura 2000 sites. Therefore it is not considered necessary to undertake any further stages of the Appropriate Assessment process. |