

Library Square Refurbishment

EIA Screening Report



March 2023



Client:
Dublin City Council
Civic Offices
Wood Quay
Fishamble Street

Library Square Refurbishment

EIA Screening Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this EIA Screening Report is to inform the competent authority as to whether the proposed refurbishment of Library Square, located in Ringsend (Dublin City) referred hereafter as the 'proposed development' is subject to the requirements of the EIA Directive (as amended) and therefore whether an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should be prepared.

1.1 Terms of Reference

Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers have been engaged by Dublin City Council to undertake an EIA Screening Report for the proposed development in accordance with legislation provisions and based on the required screening assessment and procedures to form an opinion as to whether EIA is required.

1.2 Legislative Context

Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive) sets out the requirements for environmental impact assessment ("EIA"), including screening for EIA.

Projects listed in Annex I of the EIA Directive require mandatory EIA while projects listed in Annex II require Screening to determine whether an EIA is required or not. Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive have been transposed into Irish Law in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and in particular Schedule 5 (Part 1 and Part 2). This is discussed in more detail below in Section 3 of this EIA Screening Report.

The Directive has been fully transposed into Irish law and EIA legislation as it relates to the planning process and has now been largely brought together in Part X of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and in Part 10 and Schedules 5, 6, 7 and 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 - 2022 (as amended). Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations lists projects included in Annex I of the EIA Directive which require a mandatory EIA to be prepared. Part 2 of Schedule 5 outlines thresholds for other projects which also require EIA, in accordance with Annex II of the EIA Directive.

1.3 Methodology

This EIA Screening has been developed with reference to the relevant legislation, EU and national Guidance documents. The methodology devised for this EIA Screening is based on established best practice with particular reference to:

- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), and the criteria set out in Schedule 7A and Schedule 7 (as appropriate).
- *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities Regarding Sub-Threshold Development* (DEHLG, 2003).
- *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening* (European Commission, 2017).
- *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment*, (Government of Ireland, August 2018).
- *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2022).

The screening exercise is divided into two separate but consecutive stages in order to determine if the project requires an EIA.

- I. The first stage is to determine if the proposed development requires a mandatory EIA i.e. if it is a development listed in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- II. If the proposed development is deemed not to require a mandatory EIA. The proposed sub-threshold development must be assessed on a case by case basis to determine whether or not the sub-threshold development requires a discretionary EIA based on considerations such as the nature, size or location of the development and if the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Section 3 of this report includes a screening matrix informed by the criteria detailed in Schedule 7A (**Error! Reference source not found.**) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Item four of Schedule 7A states that “*The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7 [of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2020].*” Therefore, the criteria set out within Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) (Table 1.2) have also been considered in the screening matrix where appropriate.

Section 3.2 of this report assesses the proposed development’s likely significant effects on the environmental factors. The basis for the Screening determination is provided within the assessment tables.

Table 1.1 Schedule 7A Information to be provided by the applicant or developer for the purposes of Screening sub-threshold development for Environmental Impact Assessment

1. A description of the proposed development, including in particular— (a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works, and (b) a description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.
2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.
3. A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from— (a) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant, and (b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.
4. The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.
<i>Source: Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)</i>

Table 1.2 Criteria for determining whether a sub-threshold development should be subject to an EIA (as per Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended))

1. <i>Characteristics of the proposed development</i> The characteristics of the proposed development, in particular – (a) The size and design of the whole of the proposed development,
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- (b) Cumulation with other existing development and / or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of Section 172 (1A) (b) of the Act and / or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment,
- (c) The nature of any associated demolition works.
- (d) The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity,
- (e) The production of waste.
- (f) Pollution and nuisances,
- (g) The risk of major accidents, and / or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those cause by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge, and
- (h) The risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution).

2. *Location of proposed development*

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the proposed development, with particular regard to –

1. The existing and approved land use,
2. The relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground,
3. The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
 - i. Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;
 - ii. Coastal zones and the marine environment;
 - iii. Mountain and forest areas;
 - iv. Nature reserves and parks;
 - v. Areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive and;
 - vi. Areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the European Union and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
 - vii. Densely populated areas;
 - viii. Landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

3. *Types and characteristics of potential impacts*

The likely significant effects on the environment of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to the impact of the project on the factors specified in paragraph (b) (i) (I) to (V) of the definition of 'environmental impact assessment report' in Section 171A of the Act, taking into account –

- (a) The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example, geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- (b) The nature of the impact,
- (c) The transboundary nature of the impact,
- (d) The intensity and complexity of the impact,
- (e) The probability of the impact,
- (f) The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact,
- (g) The cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and / or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172 (1A) (b) of the Act and / or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment, and
- (h) The possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

This EIA Screening Report will provide the Competent Authority with the information required to form an opinion as to whether the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment and, as such, whether an EIA should be completed in respect thereof. It should be noted that EIA should only be completed for proposed developments which are considered likely to result in significant environmental effects, or for which insufficient information is available in order to allow such a conclusion to be reached:

“Screening should ensure that an EIA is carried out only for those Projects for which it is thought that a significant impact on the environment is possible, thereby ensuring a more efficient use of both public and private resources.”
(European Commission, 2017; p. 23)

The assessment draws on the findings of the separate Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared by Roughan & O'Donovan in March 2023 on behalf of Dublin City Council and supporting desk-based information.

1.3.1 Description of Effects

A key document that has informed the methodology for assessing the effects of the proposed development is the *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (May 2022)* produced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Section 3.7 of the Guidelines includes a standardised methodology for describing effects as recreated in Table 1.3 below and forms the basis for describing the impacts as part of this assessment. The consideration of impacts includes direct, indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts as appropriate.

Table 1.3 Description of Effects

Quality of Effects:	
Positive	A change which improves the quality of the environment.
Neutral	No effects, or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
Negative	A change which reduces the quality of the environment.
Describing Significance of effect:	
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Slight effects	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Moderate effects	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Significant Effects	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Very significant Effects	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Profound Effects	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.

Describing the Extent and Context of Effects:	
Extent	Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.
Context	Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)
Describing the Probability of the Effects:	
Likely Effects	The effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
Unlikely Effects	The effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measure are properly implemented.
Describing the Duration and Frequency of Effects:	
Momentary Effects	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
Brief Effects	Effects last less than a day
Temporary Effects	Effects lasting less than a year
Short-term Effects	Effects lasting one to seven years
Medium-term Effects	Effects lasting seven to fifteen years
Long-term Effects	Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
Permanent Effects	Effects lasting over sixty years
Reversible effects	Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration.
Frequency of Effects	Describe how often the effect will occur. (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hour, daily, weekly, monthly, annually).
Source: EPA (2022) <i>Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports</i>	

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Need for the Development

The need for refurbishment works and the creation of Library Square as a village centre has been identified in the Ringsend Irishtown Local Environment Improvement Plan (LEIP), prepared by Mitchell+ Associates on behalf of the Dublin City Council, in 2016. The plan was prepared with the assistance and collaboration of local community groups, various local authority departments, councillors, local residents and businesses. The intention of the LEIP is to promote the enhancement of the Ringsend and Irishtown public realm.

Following consultation in 2016 and 2017, the LEIP was adopted at the South East Area Committee meeting in June 2017. The plan identifies four main focus areas, 1. Library Square, 2. Ringsend Park, 3. Cambridge Road, and 4. Improving links. The proposed development is concerned with focus area 1. Library Square and seeks to improve the public realm by refurbishing Library Square, Ringsend.

The primary benefits of the proposed development include the following:

- Enhancement of the public realm through the creation of a “village square”.
- Create “community identity”, promote community activity, participation and co-operation and lift community spirit.
- Provide legible and uncluttered space, creating visual coherence.
- Provide an attractive, practical, and usable public space for community use and gathering including a possible venue for weekly and one-off community events.
- Provide links and gateways to other public spaces and facilities.
- Reduce the current sense of the road and vehicles dominating the space.
- Moderate speeds of traffic to improve comfort of vulnerable road users.
- Improve connections across the square and primarily between the two sides of the road carriageway.
- Improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Encourage the use of bicycles for local journeys.
- Improve access to Ringsend Library and its interface/ relationship with the public realm in general.
- Improve the status of the library, its patronage, and its relationship with the public.
- Improve movement across the square which is currently hampered by the level differences and obstructions.
- Reduce trip hazards.
- Increase sense of public safety and security.
- Improve connectivity between retail units, the community space, and the library.
- Improve visibility of retail unit from the road.
- Encourage members of the community to pause, meet, and socialise.
- Generate opportunity for greater diversity in retail/ commercial offering.
- Create a focal space that links together local areas within Ringsend/ Irishtown.

- Encourage the community generally to avail of this and other local public spaces.
- Elevate and improve the aesthetic of the public realm.
- Provide a “greener” space with improvements to biodiversity.
- Improve hygiene and overall public realm cleanliness.
- Increase the potential footfall of tourists.

2.2 Project Description

The proposed development involves refurbishment works to c.0.47ha in Library Square, Ringsend, Co. Dublin.

The main infrastructure elements proposed include the following, as illustrated in the Drawings in Appendix A:

- Narrowing and raising the over-wide carriageway on Bridge Street/ Irishtown Road and hardening of the sweeping bend.
- Provision of shared cycle path on Bridge Street.
- Levelling of Library Square which will be gradually graded over the entire space.
- Resurfacing of plaza with beige coloured granite paving slabs on concrete raft foundation.
- Surface treatments to carry across from west side of Library Square to the east side on one level.
- Removal of existing clustered No. 11 semi-mature trees which are unfit for their space and replacement with No. 12 semi-mature trees with scattered distribution.
- Creation of public space delineated with corten steel planters to the north and east and provision of 7m high lighting columns.
- Provision of low level in-ground LED uplighters adjacent corten steel planters and proposed tree planting.
- Provision of No. 54 cycle parking spaces.
- Broadening of square space.
- Retention of customer parking and loading bays for retail premises on Fitzwilliam Street.
- Relocation of the bus stop at the bend on Bridge Street, approximately 25m to the west to the junction of Thorncastle Street and Bridge Street.
- Provision of new controlled pedestrian crossing to St. Patrick's Villas giving access to Ringsend Park.
- Restoration of stepped access to the original library front door.
- Provision of universally accessible entrance to the main library entrance way.
- Provision of universal accessibility throughout the library.
- Expansion and improvement of internal space in the library including refitting of electrical and mechanical infrastructure, and building energy rating.

The proposed development will be entirely confined to public land in the ownership of Dublin City Council.

Construction is anticipated to begin mid 2024, and the total duration is approximately 18-24 months. Except where otherwise agreed with Dublin City Council, working hours will be 07:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday, and 08:00 to 18:00 Saturday.

2.3 Location and Extent of Proposed Development

The proposed development is located at Library Square, Ringsend, Dublin 4. The existing environment at Library Square is presented in Figure 2.1, below. The indicative extents of the development are as shown in Figure 2.2 below. Refer also to the drawings provided in Appendix A.

The proposed development is located in a densely populated urban area in Ringsend with a population of 6,064 (DCC, 2017). The existing zoning under the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 is Z4 (Key Urban Villages/ Urban Villages) which is “to provide for and improve mixed service facilities”. The North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) is located approximated 170m west at Ringsend Bridge (DCC, 2014).

There are no current planning applications, either awaiting decision or granted permission within the vicinity of the proposed development.

The River Dodder (Dodder_050) is located 115m west, and the River Liffey Estuary (Liffey Estuary Lower) is located 310m north of the proposed development. The latest (2013-2018) Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the River Dodder at this location is *Moderate* and *At Risk*. The Lower Liffey Estuary transitional waterbody is *Good* and *Under Review*. Waterbodies that are ‘At Risk’ if they are at risk of not meeting their WFD objectives.



Figure 2.1 Google Maps Streetview November 2021 available at <https://www.google.com/maps/> (Accessed December 2022)



Figure 2.2 Library Square (Indicative site boundary annotated by red line)

Adjacent to the proposed development there are 17 two-storey terraced dwelling houses. Additionally, there are 11 retail premises adjacent to the proposed development surrounding Library Square. Several of these units have accommodation above the shop front.

The nearest sensitive receptor is Ringsend Medical Centre is located at No. 5, Fitzwilliam Street, adjacent the proposed development. Irishtown and Ringsend Primary Care Centre is located approximately 70m south on Bridge Street. St. Patrick's Church is located approximately 50m north west on Bridge Street.

Geotechnical surveys carried out in 2006 (IGSL) for a neighbouring (<10m) residential development confirm that the geological environment consists of made ground comprising predominantly concrete, cobbles, steel, red brick, and cobbles, to a depth of approx. 2-4m below ground level (mBGL). A coarse layer comprising sand/ gravel underlies this layer to a depth of approx. 8mBGL, and thereafter a fine layer comprising predominantly clay to a depth of approx. 12.6mBGL where boreholes were terminated.

There are no sites or monuments on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) located within 100m of the proposed development.

The proposed development is not located nearby any European sites. The nearest European sites are South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and South Dublin Bay SAC which are located 1.1km south east of the proposed development.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report has also been prepared by ROD for the proposed development. In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, Part XAB of the Planning and Development Acts, the relevant case law, established best practice and the Precautionary Principle, the AA Screening Report

examined the details of the Library Square Refurbishment and the relevant European sites and has concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is not likely to give rise to impacts which would constitute significant effects in view of the Conservation Objectives of any European site.

3. SCREENING FOR EIA

3.1 Mandatory EIA

This first part of the EIA Screening exercise is to determine if EIA is required as set out in the mandatory and discretionary provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) (the Act) and Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Section 172 of the Act provides the legislative basis for mandatory EIA.

The assessment found that the proposed development is not of a class or exceeds a threshold specified in Schedule 5 (Part 1 or Part 2) and therefore **does not trigger a mandatory EIA** in this regard.

Similarly, the Roads Acts 1993 (as amended) outlines situations under which an EIA for a sub-threshold road project may be required. Section 50 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) and Article 8 of the Roads Regulations 1994 (as amended) outline the legislative requirements that determine whether an EIA is mandatory for a proposed road development. The proposed development does not constitute a motorway, busway or service area. It does not involve the provision of four or more lanes greater than 500m in length, and it does not involve the provision of a bridge or tunnel greater than 100m in length. Therefore, the proposed development does not exceed any of the thresholds and does not require a mandatory EIA.

3.2 Sub-Threshold Development Assessment

Part 10 (93) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) defines "*sub threshold development*" as "*development of a type set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5 which does not equal or exceed, as the case may be, a quantity, area or other limit specified in that Schedule in respect of the relevant class of development.*"

For projects that fall below a class or threshold specified in Schedule 5, it is the decision of the Competent Authority to determine if an EIA (and the associated EIAR) is required to be completed. This is determined by examining if the 'sub threshold' development is likely to result in significant environmental effects. Significant environmental effects may arise as a result of the characteristics of the potential effects due to the nature and extent of the proposed development, and/ or its location in relation to the characteristics of the receiving environment, particularly sensitive environments.

Relevant sections of Schedule 5 to inform this assessment include:

Class 10 (b) (iv) "*Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere*"

Class 15 "*Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development, but*

which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.”

The Schedule 7A criteria (Table 1.1 above) forms the basis for the examination of likely significant effects on the environment and are discussed in Table 3.1 below.

3.2.1 Assessment of Aspects of the Environment and Significance of Impacts

Having regard to the location and nature of the proposed development, Table 3.1 below provides an assessment of characteristics and likely significance of impact on any EIA environmental receptor, under each of the EIA environmental topics.

Table 3.1 Assessment of characteristics and likely significance of Impact on EIA environmental factors

EIA – Environmental Factor	Screening Assessment	EIA Screened In/ Out
Population and Human Health	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>A construction methodology has been prepared by ROD in the accompanying Outline Construction Management Plan (ROD, 2023). Standard construction methods will be implemented and the risk of accidents during construction are considered low.</p> <p>There is likely to be localised, slight, short-term negative effects resulting from noise, dust and traffic impacts.</p> <p>There will be temporary to short-term, slight, negative effects on the local population due to increased journey time during the construction phase, as traffic management (in the form of stop-go as agreed with Dublin City Council) is put in place. Due to the small scale and nature of the proposed development no likely significant effects on population and human health are predicted.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>There will be a long-term moderate positive effect on population and human health as result of the proposed development from the improvement of the public realm. The proposed development will promote Active Travel in Ringsend due to the provision of a safer shared cycle path and cycle parking in Library Square.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures</p> <p>Standard control measures for the short-term emissions of noise, vibration, dust, and air pollutants will be implemented as per the Outline Construction Management Plan (OCMP). A Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be prepared by the appointed Contractor and submitted for agreement with Dublin City Council prior to construction.</p> <p>A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will also be submitted for approval to Dublin City County Council Roads and Transport Division by the awarded contractor prior to the commencement of any construction works as part of the CEMP. A ‘stop and go’ or traffic light system will be put in place and access will be maintained insofar as possible for pedestrians, cyclists and local traffic.</p> <p>No likely significant negative effects are predicted.</p>	Screened out

EIA – Environmental Factor	Screening Assessment	EIA Screened In/ Out
Biodiversity	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>There will be minor vegetation clearance included as part of the proposed development with the removal of 11 semi-mature Sycamore trees which are planted on either side of the existing carriageway on Bridge Street. No other vegetation removal will be involved in the proposed development. The proposed development takes place entirely in a modified built up area within an urban environment. The proposed development will result in an imperceptible, neutral effect on biodiversity.</p> <p>The AA Screening Report prepared by ROD in respect of the proposed development concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is not likely to give rise to impacts which would constitute significant effects in view of the Conservation Objectives of any European site.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>There will be no impacts associated with the operational stage of the proposed development. As such, no likely significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>Standard Mitigation Measures</p> <p>The design, construction and operation of the proposed development will be undertaken in line with TII Standards and Publications¹, and the relevant guidelines related to biodiversity. These documents specify the type of ecological surveys and mitigation measures to be carried when planning and constructing road projects.</p> <p>Pollinator friendly planting zones will be provided as part of the proposed development as shown the drawings in Appendix A, with specimen tree planting and SuDS capacity.</p> <p>No likely significant negative effects are predicted.</p>	Screened out
Land and Soil	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>The proposed development involves resurfacing works in the form of relaying asphalt on the road and pedestrian footpaths on Bridge Street, installing granite chips on the raised crossing platform, as well as granite paving slabs on a concrete raft foundation within the plaza of Library Square itself. Due to the scale of the proposed development, there will be a minor amount of construction materials required.</p> <p>Minor quantities of made ground will be disturbed by resurfacing works and during works to Bridge Street. Surplus soil will be reused on site where possible, particularly in the raising of Bridge Street. As such, only minor quantities of excess waste will be removed from the site.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any handling of contaminated/ hazardous waste materials during the construction stage of the proposed development. There will be minor amounts of waste generated from resurfacing and landscape treatment works constituting excess made ground and building materials.</p> <p>Due to the small scale and nature of the proposed development</p>	Screened out

¹ <https://www.tii.ie/technical-services/environment/construction/>

EIA – Environmental Factor	Screening Assessment	EIA Screened In/ Out
	<p>no likely significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>There will be no impacts associated with the operational stage of the proposed development. As such, no likely significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures</p> <p>The proposed works will be carried out in accordance with TII Construction Guidelines and with best practice measures in relation to contaminated land, asbestos, and the disposal of waste material will be undertaken in line with the <i>TII Guidelines: The Management of Waste from National Road Construction Projects</i> during the construction phase. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Waste Management Plan (WMP) will be submitted to Dublin City Council prior to construction works commencing, to ensure that the awarded contractor adheres to the environmental measures set out during planning.</p> <p>On the basis of the mitigation measures, significant negative effects to land and soil are considered unlikely.</p> <p>No likely significant negative effects are predicted.</p>	
Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>During the construction phase there is potential risk of pollution to surface water as a result of accidental spillage or discharge of hydrocarbons or construction material from plant/equipment, construction chemicals or sediment (e.g. concrete or contaminated land), among other potential pollutants. However, due to the distance to the nearest watercourse (River Dodder), it is considered unlikely that any significant negative effects will occur in terms of surface water quality.</p> <p>The proposed development will not result in any major increase of impermeable area and constitutes only a replacement of impermeable surfacing and a small area of vegetation. The proposed development involves predominantly resurfacing works and as such it will not interact with the hydrological or hydrogeological environment.</p> <p>Due to the small scale and nature of the proposed development no likely significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>There will be no impacts associated with the operational stage of the proposed development. As such, no likely significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>Mitigation measures</p> <p>The design, construction and operation of the proposed development will be undertaken in line with TII Standards and Publications, and the relevant guidelines related to Hydrology and Hydrogeology.</p> <p>No likely significant negative effects are predicted.</p>	Screened out
Landscape and Visual Amenity	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>During the construction phase the proposed works will involve the movement of construction machinery and visible construction works within the landscape. It is likely that construction works will have a slight, negative, short-term effect on landscape and visual</p>	Screened out

EIA – Environmental Factor	Screening Assessment	EIA Screened In/ Out
	<p>amenity in the immediate vicinity of the proposed works and on nearby receptors.</p> <p>The proposed development will not interact with any protected views or prospects, or scenic views.</p> <p>Due to the small scale and nature of the proposed development no likely significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>There will be a long-term moderate positive effect on the landscape of the receiving environment as result of the proposed development from the improvement of the public realm. This will be achieved by improving the accessibility, character, and amenity of Library Square through widening the pedestrian area, resurfacing works, and the provision of vegetation (pollinator friendly planting zones will be provided as per the drawings in Appendix A, with specimen tree planting and SuDS capacity).</p> <p>Mitigation measures</p> <p>The design, construction and operation of the proposed development will be undertaken in line with TII Standards and Publications, and the relevant guidelines related to Landscape and Visual Amenity.</p> <p>No likely significant negative effects are predicted.</p>	
Air and Climate	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>The proposed works may result in a negative, temporary to short-term, not significant effect to air quality as a result of emissions caused from the construction machinery.</p> <p>Dust emissions will be managed by the contractor on site, however, due to the small nature of the site, potential dust emissions are not likely to result in significant effects.</p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions will be released throughout the construction phase by vehicles and construction plant. Similarly, stalled road vehicles as a result of the traffic management system required to accommodate the works, are likely to locally increase emissions. However, due to the small nature of the proposed development, these emissions are likely to result in an imperceptible impact on climate. Additionally, due to the scale of the proposed development and the quantity of construction material required, is not likely to have significant embodied construction emissions.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>During the operational phase, the proposed development will provide a safe cycle facility and will promote walking and cycling as zero carbon alternatives to greenhouse gas emitting modes of transport, thus having a positive, long-term impact due to the potential reduction in car usage and vehicle emissions to the atmosphere.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures</p> <p>Standard mitigation measures will be implemented throughout the construction phase and will prevent / reduce emissions to ensure that significant negative effects do not occur.</p> <p>A dust minimisation plan shall be formulated by the contractor as part of the CEMP following recommendations and guidance contained in the Institute of Air Quality Management <i>Guidance on</i></p>	Screened out

EIA – Environmental Factor	Screening Assessment	EIA Screened In/ Out
	<p><i>the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction</i> for sensitive receptors.</p> <p>On the basis of the mitigation measures, significant negative effects to air quality and climate are considered unlikely.</p> <p>No likely significant negative effects are predicted.</p>	
Noise and Vibration	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>There are several businesses and residential properties within the vicinity of the proposed development that are likely to experience increased noise and vibration levels during the construction phase due to construction works.</p> <p>While there may be minor disturbance due to increased noise and vibration, the impacts will be temporary to short-term and localised, and are therefore not considered significant. Construction works will be limited to standard working hours.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>There will be no impacts associated with the operational stage of the proposed development. As such, no likely significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures</p> <p>During the construction phase, the Contractor shall implement specific noise abatement measures and comply with the recommendations of BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 and European Communities (Noise Emission by Equipment for Use Outdoors) Regulations, 2001.</p> <p>On the basis of the mitigation measures, significant negative effects on noise and vibration are considered unlikely.</p> <p>No likely significant negative effects are predicted.</p>	Screened out
Cultural Heritage including archaeology and architectural heritage	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>The proposed development does not involve any works which will modify sites of historical or archaeological significance. There are no features listed on the Record of Protected Structures, Sites and Monuments Records, or National Monuments List located in the vicinity of the proposed development. As such, due to the small scale and nature of the proposed development there are no likely significant effects predicted on features of archaeological or architectural interest.</p> <p>However, Ringsend Library is a feature of cultural significance in a local context for the population of Ringsend. There will be a slight, negative, short-term effect on Ringsend Library while construction works are ongoing.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>There are no direct or indirect impacts predicted on cultural heritage during the operational phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>No likely significant effects are predicted.</p>	Screened out
Material Assets	<p>Construction Stage</p> <p>There will be no land take as part of the proposed development and all works will take place within public property comprising the Bridge Street, Fitzwilliam Street, public footpaths, and Ringsend Library. The proposed development does not require the demolition of any buildings. Access to commercial or residential</p>	Screened out

EIA – Environmental Factor	Screening Assessment	EIA Screened In/ Out
	<p>properties will not be interrupted. However, access to the library may be affected during discreet intervals by the construction works. These effects will be intermittent and temporary. Therefore, there will be no significant effects on commercial or residential properties.</p> <p>There is no requirement for provision of upgraded utilities for the proposed development.</p> <p>Operational Stage</p> <p>The improved cycle infrastructure will have a positive, moderate and long-term effect by encouraging cycling and making the public realm more attractive. Members of the public will be encouraged to cycle to this area, reducing the number of cars parked on street and creating a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians. The proposed development will promote Active Travel in Ringsend due to the provision of a safer shared cycle path and cycle parking in Library Square. The public open space will be more attractive and safer in terms of security following the proposed development and will improve this public amenity.</p> <p>Mitigation measures</p> <p>Accesses which are disrupted during the construction phase will be reinstated without reasonable delay.</p> <p>No likely significant effects are predicted.</p>	
<p>Interactions between the impacts on different factors</p>	<p>Construction Phase</p> <p>During the construction phase, interactions will occur between several environmental factors namely noise and vibration, population and human health and air quality and climate. Mitigation measures for noise, vibration and air quality will also mitigate negative effects on population and human health, through the reduction of noise and dust nuisance.</p> <p>Operation Phase</p> <p>During the operation phase, there will be interactions between population and human health, noise, air and landscape impacts. The provision of dedicated, safe cycle infrastructure will provide a means for a modal shift to sustainable transport. If car usage reduces, this may result in positive interactions between population and human health, air quality, noise and landscape, as impacts are likely to reduce.</p> <p>No likely significant negative effects are predicted.</p>	<p>Screened out</p>

4. SCREENING CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This EIA Screening Report has determined that the proposed development does not exceed the thresholds that trigger the mandatory requirement for EIA and subsequently the proposed development is deemed to be a sub-threshold development. This sub-threshold development has been assessed in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

This assessment has been undertaken with regard in particular to:

- (1) A description of the proposed development;
- (2) A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development; and
- (3) A description of any likely significant effects on the environment.

This EIA Screening Report found that no significant adverse effects are predicted as a result of the proposed development. Any potential negative effects were adjudged to be *not-significant to slight, temporary to short-term* due to the small scale and nature of the works and can be mitigated as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan and Traffic Management Plan. Further, the proposed development will impact only the immediate localised area in which its located, Library Square, Ringsend, during the construction phase only. Thereafter, there is an expected *long-term slight to moderate* positive effects on population and human health as result of the proposed development from an improvement to the public realm.

A separate AA Screening Report has been completed and has informed this EIA Screening. The AA Screening assessment concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is not likely to give rise to impacts which would constitute significant effects in view of the Conservation Objectives of any European site.

It is therefore recommended to Dublin City Council as the competent authority that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of its characteristics, location, size or potential impacts and does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be undertaken.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DRAWINGS

APPENDIX B

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST (Source EIA of Projects, Guidance on Screening (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) (2017) European Commission

Questions to be Considered	Yes / No /? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
Brief Project Description: The proposed development aims to improve the public realm in Ringsend and Irishtown through the refurbishment of Library Square, Ringsend. Refurbishment works aim to create a more accessible and cohesive “village square” through accessibility improvements, resurfacing works, road improvements, lighting, and provision of pedestrian crossing etc.		
1. Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc)?	Yes. Resurfacing works will include levelling of Library Square and modifications of vertical alignment of Bridge Street/ Irishtown Road.	No. Changes will not be large enough to result in a significant effect.
2. Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes. Resurfacing, landscaping, and road works will require some natural resource building materials.	No. The volume of materials required will not be large enough to result in a significant effect.
3. Will the Project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	Yes. Some concrete, bitumen, oils, etc. will be used during construction.	No. Construction best practice and guidance will be adhered to during construction, therefore there will be no likely significant effects.
4. Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction, operation or decommissioning?	Yes. Material will be excavated during construction, and where unsuitable for reuse, it will be removed from site.	No. All waste will be managed in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan, which will include a Waste Management Plan.
5. Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	Yes. The construction phase will produce air pollutants.	No. Air pollution levels will not exceed permitted thresholds.
6. Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes. The construction phase will cause limited noise and vibration.	No. The extent of the construction works will be localised and short-term. With the incorporated mitigation measures in place, there will be no likely significant effects.
7. Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Yes. The construction phase will have risk of pollutants entering surface water.	No. The proposed development will be designed and constructed in accordance with the best practice guidelines and there will be no likely significant effects.

Questions to be Considered	Yes / No / ? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
8. Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>During construction there is a risk of accidents in keeping with a small project of this nature, which could affect human health or the environment. However, the operation phase will result in improved safety for cyclists and pedestrians and therefore will result in a reduced risk of accidents.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The proposed development will be designed and constructed in accordance with best practice guidelines and there will be no likely significant effects.</p>
9. Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposed development will have positive social changes by creating a "village square" public space that is safe and accessible. There will be improved access to Ringsend Library and the adjacent retail units during the operational phase.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The positive social effects deriving from the proposed development are not likely to be significant.</p>
10. Are there any other factors which should be considered such as consequential development which could lead to environmental effects or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Any future development will be subject to their own environmental impact and cumulative assessments. There will be no likely significant effects resulting from the proposed development.</p>
11. Is the project located within or close to any areas which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the project?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The nearest European designated sites are the South Dublin Bay SAC [000210] and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024] which are located 1.1km south east. The nearest nationally designated site is the Grand Canal pNHA [002104] which is located 270m west. Grand Canal Dock is a valuable area in terms of amenity and landscape with significant public use.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The proposed development will not give rise to ecological, landscape, cultural heritage impacts which would constitute significant effects.</p> <p>A separate AA Screening has also been undertaken by ROD which concluded that the proposed development <i>"either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the sites concerned"</i>.</p>

Questions to be Considered	Yes / No /? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
12. Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The River Dodder (Dodder_050) is located 115m west, and the River Liffey Estuary (Liffey Estuary Lower) is located 310m north.	No. The proposed development will not give rise to ecological impacts which would constitute significant effects.
13. Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. South Dublin Bay SAC [000210] and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024] are located 1.1km southeast and are protected for several habitats and bird species.	No. The proposed development will not give rise to ecological impacts which would constitute significant effects.
14. Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters (or features of the marine environment) on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The River Dodder (Dodder_050) is located 115m west, and the River Liffey Estuary (Liffey Estuary Lower) is located 310m north.	No. Through following standard construction methodologies, significant effects will not occur to either watercourse.
15. Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The River Liffey and the River Dodder are noted as a major landscape features of Dublin City in the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028.	No. The proposed development will not give rise to significant effects on these waterbodies or their scenic value.
16. Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The proposed development is situated at Library Square, Ringsend, which has Ringsend Library, and several businesses located within it.	No. The proposed development will maintain access to local businesses during construction. There may be temporary access restrictions to Ringsend Library during construction.

Questions to be Considered	Yes / No / ? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
17. Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The proposed development is situated on Bridge Street and Irishtown Road. Short-term 'stop-go' traffic light systems will be required during the construction stage to facilitate construction works.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The proposed development will increase wait times on Bridge Street/ Irishtown Road during construction. During the operational phase it may reduce congestion on the existing road network as the improvement works will promote cycling transport. Construction works will result in short-term, slight, negative effects on traffic and a Traffic Management Plan will be put in place to mitigate this. No likely significant impacts are anticipated.</p>
18. Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The proposed development is located in a densely populated urban area in Ringsend Bridge Street/ Irishtown Road is also a busy existing road.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Construction works will result in a slight, negative, short-term effect on the existing views and the visual amenity of Library Square. However, the proposed development will improve views and increase security during the operational phase and result in a long-term moderate positive effect on the landscape of the receiving environment.</p>
19. Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Ringsend Library is a feature of cultural significance in a local context for the population of Ringsend.</p> <p>There are no features listed on the Record of Protected Structures, Sites and Monuments Records, or National Monuments List located in the vicinity of the proposed development.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Due to the small scale and nature of the proposed development no likely significant effects are predicted on the archaeological or architectural environment. There will be a slight, negative, short-term effect on Ringsend Library while construction works are ongoing on the building itself.</p>
20. Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	<p>No.</p> <p>The proposed development is entirely located within a densely populated man made urban environment.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>There will be no loss of greenfield area.</p>

Questions to be Considered	Yes / No / ? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
21. Are there existing land uses on or around the location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying which could be affected by the project?	Yes. There are residential properties, commercial properties and a public open space within the vicinity of the proposed development.	No. The proposed development will be situated within an existing public open space, road, and within an existing public library. Construction works will not affect the curtilage of any private buildings or property. The development will improve the public domain, road surface, and existing cycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
22. Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No. Any existing accesses to undeveloped land will be maintained.	No.
23. Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The proposed development is located in an urban area.	No. There are residential and commercial buildings located adjacent to the existing public square. Indirect effects on properties are not likely to be significant due to the nature of the works and the existing urban environment.
24. Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, which could be affected by the project?	No. There are no sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the proposed development.	No. The proposed development will not give rise to significant effects on sensitive land uses.
25. Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the project?	No. There are no areas of important, high quality, or scarce resources nearby which could be affected by the project.	No. The proposed development will not give rise to significant effects on important, high quality, or scarce resources.
26. Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The latest (2013-2018) Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the River Dodder at this location is Moderate and At Risk.	No. Given that the design, construction and operation of the proposed development will be undertaken in line with TII Standards and Publications, and the relevant guidelines related to Hydrology and Hydrogeology, the proposed development will not give rise to water quality impacts which would constitute significant effects.

Questions to be Considered	Yes / No /? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
27. Is the project location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	No. The project location is not susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions	No. The proposed development will not give rise to environmental problems of this nature.
<p>Summary of features of Project and of its location indicating the need for EIA:</p> <p>No features of the proposed development or of its location indicate the need for an EIA.</p>		

CHECKLIST OF CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS		
Questions to be Considered	Yes	Not Significant
1. Will there be a large change in environmental conditions?		X
2. Will new features be out-of-scale with the existing environment?		X
3. Will the impact be unusual in the area or particularly complex?		X
4. Will the impact extend over a large area?		X
5. Will there be any potential for transboundary impact?		X
6. Will many people be affected?		X
7. Will many receptors of other types (fauna and flora, businesses, facilities) be affected?		X
8. Will valuable or scarce features or resources be affected?		X
9. Is there a risk that environmental standards will be breached?		X
10. Is there a risk that protected sites, areas, features will be affected?		X
11. Is there a high probability of the effect occurring?		X
12. Will the impact continue for a long time?		X
13. Will the effect be permanent rather than temporary?		X
14. Will the impact be continuous rather than intermittent?		X
15. If it is intermittent will it be frequent rather than rare?		X
16. Will the impact be irreversible?		X
17. Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effect?		X