



**Determination of the Need for  
Appropriate Assessment  
of the  
draft Variation (No. 2) to the Letterkenny &  
Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015 (as varied)**



Letterkenny Town Council and Donegal County Council propose to vary the Letterkenny and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (as varied) so as to introduce an evidence-based Core Strategy into the Plan, as required by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 so as to show that the development objectives in the development plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines. In addition, the draft Variation also provides for a number of other amendments in the areas of flood risk, 'Strategic Community Opportunity', cemeteries/ burial grounds, technical standards, and amendments to ensure compliance of the Plan with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.

Having assessed the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites and network, of implementing the draft Variation, and having consulted the prescribed Environmental Authorities, the planning Authority has determined that the proposed variation is not likely to have significant impacts on the network of Natura 2000 sites and therefore an Appropriate Assessment of it, is not required.

A detailed report entitled, 'Screening for Appropriate Assessment- March 2013,' resulting in this Determination is available for inspection upon request. In summary the reasons for the Determination are as follows:

- i. The Core Strategy provides for facilitation of a reduced quantum of future residential development within the plan area from that which is provided for in the current Letterkenny & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015 (as varied). In conjunction with the quantum of future residential land, the spatial distribution of this land is identified having regard to the Natura 2000 Network and its conservation objectives so as to avoid likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 Sites and Network.
- ii. In accordance with Circular letter PSSP5/ 2011, the Letterkenny & Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (as varied) has been screened to ensure compliance with both the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) subject to a number of limited amendments included in the draft Variation. Therefore the implementation of its objectives and policies will provide appropriate protection and mitigation, where relevant, in respect of Natura 2000 Sites and Network.

END

13<sup>th</sup> March 2013