

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report of the Dublin City Destination & Experience Development Plan (DEDP)

June 2025

In accordance with the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC & the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans & Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI 435 OF 2004, as amended)

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1.0 Introduction

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening of the Dublin Destination and Experience Development plan (DEDP) has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland as the competent authority.

The purpose of this Report is to assess the requirement for a SEA of the Dublin City DEDP. The Report includes a Screening and Determination of the requirement for SEA.

This Report is to be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- The Dublin City Destination and Experience Development plan (DEDP), and
- The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Dublin City DEDP.

2.0 Dublin City Destination & Experience Development Plan (DEDP)

The Dublin City Destination and Experience Development Plan (Dublin City DEDP) is a five-year sustainable leisure tourism development plan for Dublin City. This plan has been developed through a programme of research and stakeholder consultation guided by the V.I.C.E framework i.e., exploring the possibilities for improving visitor experience, improving business viability, enhancing the lives of local communities and all in a way that protects our built and natural environment.

The plan area is set out in Figure 2.1. The development of this Dublin City DEDP has coincided with the conclusion of the Docklands DEDP (2020-2024). Various actions and corresponding workstreams that were ongoing in the Docklands at the time of publication have been integrated into this DEDP.

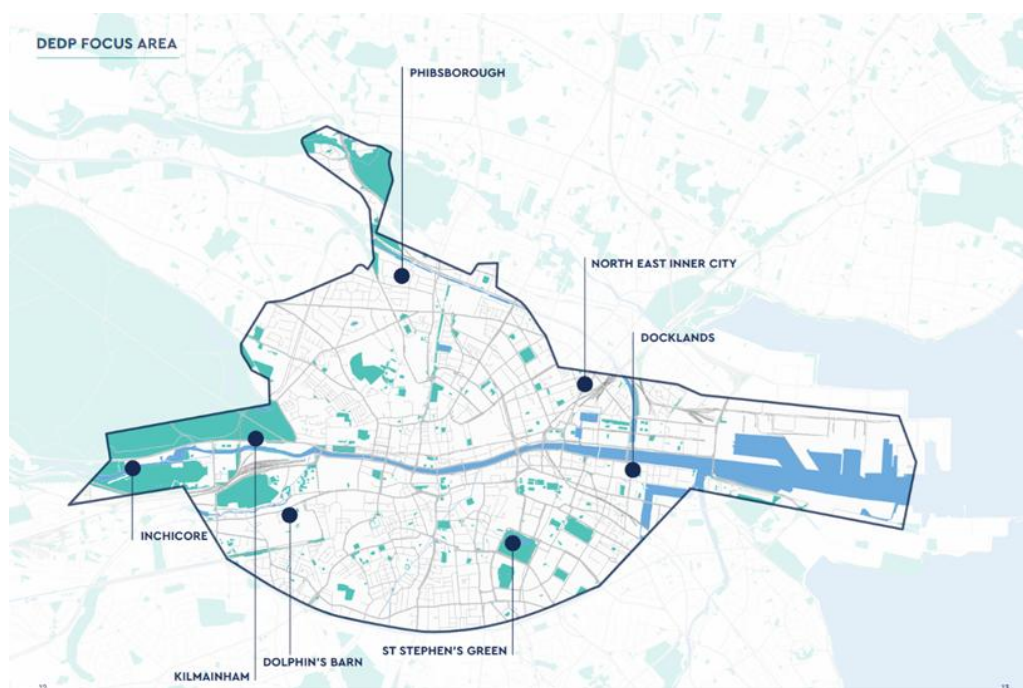


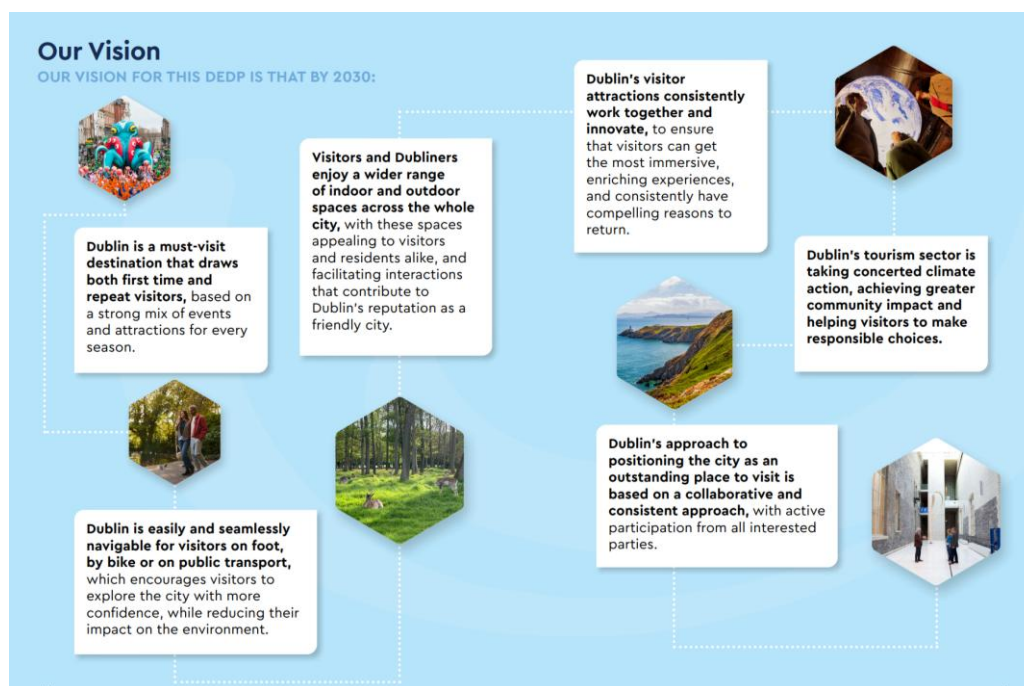
Figure 2.1 Dublin City DEDP Study Area.

The objective of a Destination and Experience Development Plan is to unlock the tourism development potential of an area. It aims to ensure that any development contributes positively to the visitor experience, industry performance, local community, and the environment, through a collaborative process and by promoting sustainable best practice. A DEDP is built through a collaborative process around a roadmap of catalyst projects and industry development initiatives, aligned under strategic objectives and united by an agreed common vision.

Sitting under the objectives of the Dublin Regional Tourism Development Strategy, this plan includes:

- A 10-year, shared destination vision that focuses on what differentiates Dublin from other destinations, and that builds towards the wider regional vision.
- Five-year objectives, which take account of destination maturity, visitor strategy, sustainability, and consumer research.
- Catalyst projects are agreed priority projects, implemented over the course of the 5-year DEDP delivery period. They will make a transformational improvement to the visitor experience, for example through:
 - A wider choice of things to see and do while in the city
 - Expansion of spaces or improvement to facilities at visitor attractions
 - Improvements to the public realm that will enhance the experience for visitors
- Supporting initiatives include projects such as research, strategies, training programmes and collaborative networks. They are intended to build knowledge, develop plans and drive all-round improvements to visitor mobility and exploration, while supporting a thriving, skilled tourism sector in the city.
- Measurement & KPIs – balanced set of SMART measures linking to the EarthCheck Sustainability Indicators.

Set out below is the Plans Vision and Strategic Objectives





(Source: Dublin DEDP – Fáilte Ireland 2025)

3.0 Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the evaluation of the ‘*likely significant environmental effects*’ of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it. It is required to be undertaken of plans and programmes prepared by authorities at a national, regional or local level.

3.1 Legislation & Guidance

The European Directive on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (2001/42/EC), referred to as ‘the SEA Directive’, requires Member States to assess the ‘likely significant environmental effects’ of implementing plans / programmes prior to their adoption.

Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that:

“The objective of this directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”

For the purpose of the Dublin City DEDP which is a tourism plan this Directive is transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended. This Regulation relates to plans or programmes prepared for “agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, **tourism** and town and country planning or land use”.

The Dublin City DEDP is therefore considered under these Regulations.

In addition to legislation there is practical guidance on considering and competing SEA For the purposes of the Dublin City DEDP the following guidance documents were consulted:

- Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening – Environmental Protection Agency, 2021, and
- Good Practice Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Tourism Sector – Environmental Protection Agency, 2023

3.2 Screening of the Dublin DEDP

3.2.1 What is Screening?

SEA Screening is the process of considering whether SEA of a plan or programme is required to be undertaken in accordance with the SEA Directive. Figure 3.1, taken from 1.3 of the Good Practice Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Tourism Sector, demonstrates how one might apply SEA screening to a tourism or tourism related plan.

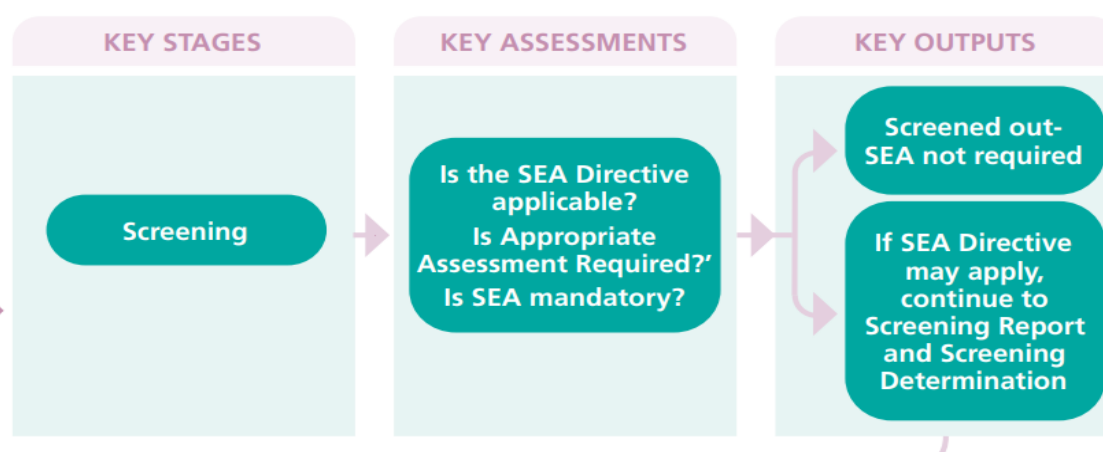


Figure 3.1 How to Apply SEA Screening to a Tourism or Tourism Related Plan (Good Practice Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Tourism Sector, EPA 2023)

Section 5 of the *Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening* (EPA, 2021), sets out three stages that might be considered in the screening process. They include Applicability, Screening and Determination. If the first stage- Applicability- results in a definitive conclusion that SEA is not required then a determination can be directly made.

3.2.2 Stage 1 - Applicability

There are four sections in the first stage. These steps consider whether the SEA Directive applies to the plan or programme being prepared. The information in this section encompasses that which has been set out Figure 3.1. Table 3.1 sets out and assesses each step in this first stage of SEA screening for the Dublin DEDP.

Table 3.1 Stage 1- Applicability

Section 1: General Details	
Type and Title of P/P:	Dublin City Destination & Development Plan (DEDP)
Name of P/P Maker:	Fáilte Ireland
Date: 29.05.25	29/05/25
Section 2: Status of the P/P Maker	
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? Clarify who will prepare the P/P, if they are affiliated to any authority and if the P/P will be adopted through any legislative provision.	<p>Answer: No</p> <p>The Plan is being prepared by Fáilte Ireland the National Tourism Development Authority; however the plan is not being prepared under any legislative provision.</p>
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Answer: No
Section 3: Nature of the P/P	
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism , town and country planning or land use?	<p>Answer: Yes</p> <p>The Plan is being prepared by Fáilte Ireland the National Tourism Development Authority as a tourism plan</p>
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	<p>Answer: No</p> <p>The Plan sets out strategic objectives and forms a basis for working partners to further develop tourism related experiences, visitor movement, engagement with the industry and protection of the natural environment. This set out through a number of actions within the plan.</p>
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	<p>Answer: No</p> <p>Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken and it has been determined that there is no likely significant effect to any European site arising from the implementation of the Dublin DEDP, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects</p> <p>Refer to accompanying Appropriate Assessment Report for further details.</p>
Section 4: Conclusion	
Summarise the relevant information informing the assessment and the main reasons the P/P does or does not fall within the scope of the SEA Directive	<p>While the Dublin City DEDP does fall into the tourism sector covered by the Directive, it is not likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site nor does it provide a framework for development consent. It is therefore not deemed to require SEA or any further screening for SEA by the pre-screening process and no further consideration of its possible impacts is required.</p>

4 Conclusion & Determination

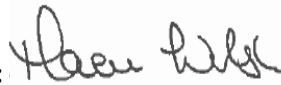
A Draft Determination on the Requirement for SEA has been made following consideration of the following:

- Schedule 1 to S.I. 435/2004 as amended,
- Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening – Environmental Protection Agency, 2021, and
- Good Practice Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Tourism Sector – Environmental Protection Agency , 2023

It is considered that the Draft Dublin City Destination and Experience Development Plan will not result in significant adverse effects and therefore, does not require further assessment of the likely effect on the environment of the preparation of the Draft Plan through SEA. This assessment is derived from consideration of the following the following factors:

- The Dublin City DEDP is a non-statutory document, which sits below the Dublin Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027
- The Dublin City DEDP does not provide a framework for the development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive; and
- The Dublin City DEDP is not likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessment i.e. AA screening exercise has screened out the requirements for stage 2 AA.

Signed on behalf of Fáilte Ireland:



Dated: June 2025