



Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

Dublin Port Masterplan Review 2017



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1 INTRODUCTION

Dublin Port Company (DPC) is undertaking a review of its Masterplan 2012 to 2040 to ensure that it remains relevant and achieves its central objective of providing a clear vision for the development of the Port into the future.

This report is the screening statement for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Dublin Port Masterplan Review 2017. The screening statement outlines the Purpose of the Masterplan, providing a Task 1.1 Pre-Screening Check and a Task 1.2 Environmental Significance Screening in accordance with EPA guidance contained in Schedule 1 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).

This report also presents a proposed timetable and approach for the SEA and contact information and closes with the conclusion of the SEA screening process.

2 PURPOSE OF THE MASTERPLAN

Dublin Port Company (DPC) adopted the Masterplan 2012 to 2040 on 26th January 2012 following an extensive public consultation, stakeholder engagement and environmental assessment process.

The Masterplan provided a vision as to how Dublin Port could be developed to cater for an anticipated doubling in port volumes over the 30 years from 2010 to 2040. It provided strategic guidance and direction on land use within Dublin Port recognising that the optimal use of a scarce land and quayside resource remains an important factor against which future development of Dublin Port must be carefully planned.

Since its introduction, the Masterplan has in fact played a significant role in providing guidance and strategic context on the future of the Port not only to DPC but also to National and Local Government, statutory agencies and planning and development agencies. The Masterplan has informed National Ports Policy, Transport Policy and guided the Planning and Permitting Authorities in determining policies and specific proposals concerning Dublin Port.

It was recognised that the Masterplan needed to be kept under review to ensure that it would remain relevant and achieve its central objective of providing a clear vision for the development of the Port into the future.

Changes in the demand levels for port infrastructure were recognised as the key element impacting on the timing of a review of the Masterplan. At this juncture in 2017 it is clear that the level of demand for port infrastructure will likely be greater than originally anticipated due to a higher than originally envisaged level of growth in cargo volumes for the period to 2040.

Since the Masterplan was published in 2012, there have been a number of significant developments which support the timely review of the Masterplan. These developments include:

- Economic recovery leading to a return to annual compounding growth in port volumes.
- Commencement of the Alexandra Basin Redevelopment (ABR) Project which, in itself, includes about one-third of the infrastructure development options originally identified in the Masterplan.
- Recovering control over 11.2 ha of Port lands making them available for redevelopment.
- Completion of a number of site redevelopments in Dublin Port to provide an additional 16.1 ha of accessible port lands.
- Redevelopment of 720 m of quay walls.
- Purchase by DPC of a 44 ha site adjacent to Dublin Airport for the development of a new Dublin Inland Port facility.
- Publication of the National Ports Policy, March 2013.
- Publication by the Competition Authority of its report Competition in the Irish Ports Sector, November 2013.

- Publication of DPC's Franchise Policy, May 2014.
- Publication by NTA of its Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2016 to 2035.
- Creation of the Dublin Bay Biosphere in June 2015 as a joint initiative by:
 - DPC
 - Dublin City Council
 - Fingal County Council
 - Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
 - Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
 - Fáilte Ireland
- Creation of the Poolbeg West Strategic Development Zone (SDZ), May 2016.
- Publication by Dublin City Council of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016 to 2021.

The Masterplan was originally produced in order to provide all of the Port's stakeholders with a clear view as to how the Port would be developed in the long-term. Now, five years on, there is more clarity as to how Dublin Port should be developed in order to meet the objectives set out in the Masterplan.

This review is intended to update and refine the infrastructure development options for Dublin Port and, in doing this, to ensure that the Masterplan continues to provide the best solution for the future sustainable development of Dublin Port through to 2040.

The land areas covered in this review are shown in **Drawing 1** and comprise:

- Port lands on the North Side of the River Liffey.
- Port lands on the Poolbeg Peninsula.
- Recently acquired lands adjacent to Dublin Airport to be developed as Dublin Inland Port.
- The road connections linking these three separate land areas including the Dublin Port Tunnel and the last mile connection between it and the south port area to be developed as part of the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, that is, the South Port Access Road (SPAR).