



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council

# **TOGETHER PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

## **EIA PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**



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# EIA SCREENING

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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Cork City Council has prepared an Environmental Screening Checklist to aid in determining whether an EIA is required for the proposed Togher Public Realm Enhancement scheme in Cork City.

The prescribed classes of development and thresholds that trigger a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment are set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended. A review of the project types listed in the aforementioned Schedule 5, as amended has been carried out. The proposed development is a type set out in Part 2 Class 10 (b)(iv) of Schedule 5 but it does not exceed the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part. Therefore, it is a sub-threshold development.

This preliminary examination has been made as to whether the proposed development would or would not, individually and in combination with other developments, be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The EIA Screening Checklist in Section 3 summarises the assessment of whether there is likely to be significant negative effects on the environment.

## 2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

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The proposed scheme at Togher Road consists of the creation of a high quality public realm streetscape. The scheme will consist of the following:

- Improvement of pedestrian facilities by widening footpaths throughout to a minimum width of 2m. The footpaths will be constructed with a high-quality concrete finish;
- Provision of safe raised crossing points at each junction with Togher Road and at strategic crossing points along Togher Road, while in turn narrowing the roadway to a desirable width of 6m minimum;
- Addressing the congestion issues apparent along the route, both through re-design of the Togher Cross roundabout and addressing the informal on-street parking and setting down regime;
- In two locations, the current open drainage channel is to be filled in as part of the Douglas Flood Relief Scheme (Togher Main Works Contract) works, and these two areas will be used to create a wider pedestrian space/public space;
- Reorientation of the existing bus stop on the south of the roundabout to an inline bus stop;
- a new 3.5m wide mixed facility will be provided connecting the existing Togher Greenway to the north to the existing shared route alongside the two schools, via the existing signalised pedestrian crossing;
- The creation of a consistent and high quality landscape strategy along the route;

3 SCREENING CHECKLIST

The EC Guidance on EIA Screening (EC, 2017) provides a checklist to help users decide whether EIA is required based on the characteristics of a project and its environment. This screening checklist is included in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Screening Checklist to determine if EIA is required based on the characteristics of a project and its environment**

Questions to be considered:	Yes/No	Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact?	
			Yes/No	Why?
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	The project proposed to improve and amend public realm and road layout.	No	The general land use within the red line boundary remains as it is currently.
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	Services such as water and power will be required during the construction phase. Mobile generators will be used during the construction phase whilst a permanent power supply will be required during the operational phase of the proposed development. Construction materials will include natural stone, concrete, support structures, signage etc.	No	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact due to use of these resources as part of the proposed development.
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	Standard construction materials will be used.	No	The contractor will ensure that the proposed works are carried out in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2013). It is envisaged that the risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used is very low and therefore will not result in significant environmental effects.

4. Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	Standard construction waste materials will be produced.	No	Inert construction waste generated will be removed from the site areas and disposed of at a suitable licensed facility. The production of waste will be managed in accordance with the relevant waste legislation.
5. Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air or lead to exceeding Ambient Air Quality standards in Directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC?	No	It is expected that dust will be emitted during the construction works. Emissions from construction plant and vehicles will arise during the construction phase,	No	Emissions will be minimal and appropriate management measures will be implemented to ensure that significant negative effects on the environment do not occur.
6. Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes	Standard construction noise is expected during construction activities.	No	Appropriate management measures will be implemented to ensure that significant negative effects on the environment do not occur as a result of noise and vibration.
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 extent of the works on land are relative small, and excavations are not significant.	No	Any construction run off will enter the existing surface water drainage system and will be diluted before entering the Tramore River.
8. Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the project which could affect human health or the environment?	Yes	This is a standard construction project with associated standard risks.	No	A "Project Supervisor for the Construction Stage" will be appointed to manage safety issues during construction.
9. Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	Yes	The public realm will be greatly enhanced and there will be improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.	Yes	The proposed development will have a positive effect on people living, working and visiting the area.

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?	Yes	Douglas FRS (Togher Main Works Contract) will be undertaken in the vicinity and has the potential to result in cumulative effects with the proposed development.	No	The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) implemented by the Contractor will be required to take into account the culvert works construction schedule. Therefore, significant negative effects are not envisaged.
11. Is the project located within or close to any areas which are protected under international, EU, or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the project?	No	The proposed development is located within the Tramore River catchment. However, that watercourse is not protected and there will be no significant effects on water quality during the proposed development.	No	The scheme is also located upstream of both Cork Harbour SPA and Great Island Channel SAC. A Report for Screening for Appropriate Assessment was prepared by Arup. It is the opinion of Arup and Cork City Council that it is possible to rule out likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites.
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?	No		No	
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?	No		No	

14. Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters (or features of the marine environment) on or around the location that could be affected by the project?	Yes	The proposed development is located within the Tramore River catchment.	No	There will be no effect on water quality as a result of the proposed development due to the minor nature, extent and duration of the proposed works.
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?	No			
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 works will take place in vicinity of 2 schools, community centre, church and commercial premises. Access to the Togher Greenway is also within the red line boundary.	No	A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be implemented for the duration of the construction works in order to minimise any disruption to traffic flow on the road network at and surrounding the proposed development areas.
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?	Yes	The Togher Road Roundabout is susceptible to congestion, and improvement of the roundabout is proposed under this project.	No	Improvement of the roundabout and approach arms are proposed under this project. A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be implemented for the duration of the construction works in order to minimise any disruption to traffic flow on the road network at and surrounding the proposed development areas.
18. Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	Yes	Works are proposed along the Togher Road, and junctions and will be visible to people in the immediate vicinity.	No	The proposed development is concerned with improvements to Togher Road Roundabout and public realm improvements.
19. Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No		No	



20. Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No		No	
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 a variety of land uses in the proposed works area including church, community centre, schools and commercial and residential developments.	No	Access to residences and facilities will be maintained during the construction phase. Air emissions will be generated during the construction phase however these will be minimal and appropriate management measures will be put in place. The proposed development is already located in a built – up busy environment and therefore, noise emissions are not expected to be significant.
22. Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No		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 project is proposed along Togher Road, an urban area.	No	There is a variety of land uses in the proposed works area including church, community centre, schools and commercial and residential developments. Access to these facilities will be maintained during the construction phase. Air emissions will be generated during the construction phase however these will be minimal and appropriate management measures will be put in place. The proposed development is already located in a built – up busy environment and therefore, noise emissions are not expected to be significant.
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?	Yes	There is a variety of sensitive land uses in the proposed works area including church, community centre, and schools.	No	Access to these facilities will be maintained during the construction phase. Air emissions will be generated during the construction phase however these will be minimal and appropriate management measures will be put in place. The proposed development is already located in a built – up busy environment and therefore, noise emissions are not expected to be

				significant.
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		No	
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?	No		No	
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?	Yes	The Togher Road area has been susceptible to flooding from the Tramore River.	No	The Douglas Flood Relief Scheme (Togher Main Works Contract) is proposed to militate against flood events through replacement of the culvert.

## 4 CONCLUSION

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The proposed development is a type set out in Part 2 Class 10 (b)(iv) of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended but it does not exceed the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part. Therefore, it is a sub-threshold development, and has been screened for EIA.

Based on the information set out in this report, it is the opinion of Cork City Council that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an EIA is not required.