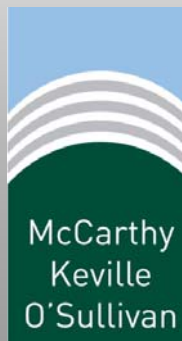




# MORRISON'S ISLAND PUBLIC REALM AND FLOOD DEFENCE PROJECT

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCREENING REPORT

DECEMBER 2018



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - Screening Report has been prepared by Ryan Hanley in association with McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. on behalf of Cork City Council.

Cork City Council (CCC) propose to construct a public realm improvement scheme with integrated flood defence measures along Morrison's Island, Cork City.

As the project will incorporate flood defence works, the project will be jointly-funded by the Office of Public Works (OPW), as the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland.

Ryan Hanley in association with McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. were appointed as Planning and Environmental Consultants on this project and commissioned to prepare an EIA Screening Report. The purpose of this report is to determine whether or not an EIA is required for project listed in Annex II of the EIA Directive (Annex II Projects) and transposed into Irish Planning Law in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2018 identify the criteria for determining if a subthreshold development (as identified in Schedule 5) will require an EIA.

The findings of the EIA Screening assessment undertaken are presented in this report.

## 2 BACKGROUND

Cork City Council (CCC) has had a long-term objective of enhancing the south facing quays along the north bank of the River Lee south channel. These quays are currently dominated by parking and are underutilised as a city centre river amenity. A part of this objective, CCC wishes to create a linked pedestrian route along the riverside between the existing boardwalks at Grand Parade and Lapps Quay East. A key element of this route is the length between Parliament Bridge and Parnell Bridge along Morrison's Quay and Fr. Mathews Quay. Pursuant to the above objective, it is now proposed to carry out a public realm improvement scheme for Morrison's Island.

The Lower Lee (Cork City) Drainage Scheme is currently being advanced under the Arterial Drainage Acts 1945 and 1995. Flood Alleviation measures for the Lower Lee (Cork City) Drainage Scheme included measures for the protection of Morrison's Island from flooding as well as the remainder of the city. The Scheme went to public exhibition in April 2017. On foot of the transposition of the EIA Amendment Directive 2014 this report is currently being updated to reflect these changes in legislation and any relevant guidance arising out of it prior to submission to the Minister. It is anticipated that the revised scheme will be submitted to the Competent Authority in 2019.

Subsequent to the publication of the Lower Lee (Cork City) Drainage Scheme, Cork City Council decided to progress Morrison's Island as a standalone public realm project which incorporates flood defence as identified by the OPW in the Lower Lee Scheme. These flood defence measures are included so as to provide a cohesive approach to the development of Morrison's Island and minimise disruption to the city during the construction phase.

Morrison's Island was assessed as a standalone project with regard to flood protection. The assessment shows that the predicted flood risk reduction delivered by the scheme on its own is sufficiently significant to justify the scheme progressing as a standalone project. This, in combination with the plans for Morrison's Island as identified in the Cork City Development Plan 2015 to 2021 for Public Realm Improvement outline the reason for the proposed scheme being progressed.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed Morrison's Island Public Realm and Flood Defence Project include public realm improvements while also alleviating flooding in the area. The design of the proposed Project has been put through an initial screening

process for public realm design with potential engineering measures typically considered for flood alleviation schemes, the development of potential options and finally the development of an emerging preferred works design.

The Project will enhance the public realm along Fr. Mathew Quay and Morrison's Quay, creating a more pedestrian friendly space, and incorporating open plaza spaces at Parnell Plaza and Trinity Bridge, as well as flood defence works. The proposed work involves raising the existing ground levels and providing an effective continuous flood defence along the left (north) bank of the South Channel of the River Lee at Morrison's Island. The required flood defence levels have been established based on works carried out as part of the Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme (which has built on the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)). The defence level corresponds to the modelled 1:200-year combined event (tidal region), and 1:100-year flow (fluvial zone) taking account of climate change modelling and freeboard.

## 4 EIA SCREENING PROCESS

### 4.1 EIA SCREENING METHODOLOGY

This EIA Screening Report has been prepared to document the appraisal as to whether the proposed Morrison's Island Public Realm and Flood Defence Project would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The information used to inform this report includes desk studies and site assessments.

In addition, the following legislation and guidance documentation has been used:

- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (August 2018) Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (August 2003), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development;
- Environmental Protection Agency (Draft – August 2017) Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports;
- European Commission (2017) Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects. Guidance on Screening.
- European Commission (2015) Interpretation of definitions of project categories of Annex I and II of the EIA Directive;
- EIA (Amendment) Directive 2014/52/EU;
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2018;

EIA is required in one of three circumstances:

- a) The proposed development is of a class specified in Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and exceeds any specified relevant quantity area or other limit specified;  
or
- b) The proposed development is of a class specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and exceeds any specified relevant quantity, area or other limit as specified; or
- c) The proposed development is of a class specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), does not exceed the relevant quantity area or other limit, but having conducted a screening it is determined that the proposed development would nevertheless be likely to have significant effects on the environment as determined by reference to criteria specified in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 - 2018.

## 4.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The *EIA Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effect of certain public and private projects on the environment* (codification), as amended by *EIA Directive 2014/52/EU*, sets out the process by which the likely significant effects of a project on the environment are assessed. The relevant requirements of the EIA Directive have been implemented into Irish law pursuant to the provisions of, inter alia, the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001 - 2018*.

The provisions of Schedule 5 of the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001 - 2018* identify the requirement of EIA for different project types.

Part 1 of Schedule 5 identifies projects of a class that will always have the potential for significant environmental effects and therefore will always require an EIA. Part 2 of Schedule 5 identifies projects that may have an environmental impact and, therefore, thresholds or criteria have been set by member states for the requirements of EIA.

The EIA Amendment Directive states that in order to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health, screening procedures should take account of the impact of the whole project in question, including where relevant, its subsurface and underground, during the construction, operational and where relevant demolition phase. When determining whether significant effects on the environment are likely to be caused by a project, the competent authorities should identify the most relevant criteria to be considered and should take into account information that could be available following other assessments required by Union legislation in order to apply the screening procedure effectively and transparently. In this regard, it is appropriate to specify the content of the screening determination, in particular where no environmental impact assessment is required.

The screening procedure should ensure that an environmental impact assessment is only required for projects likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Annex III of the EIA Directive provides the Criteria used to determine whether the project listed in Annex II should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment. Annex III of the EIA Directive and has been replaced by a new Annex III in the 2014 Amendment Directive and transposed into Irish Law in Schedule 7 of S.I. No. 296 of 2018 – European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (See Appendix I of this report).

## 5 EIA SCREENING

Annex III of the EIA Amendment Directive outlines the criteria to determine whether the projects listed in Annex II should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (subthreshold projects). The Annex was transposed into Irish Law through Schedule 7 of S.I. No. 296 of 2018 – European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018. The EC Guidelines for Screening were published in 2017 with full consideration of the 2014 Directive. EC Guidelines to Screening identify a number of steps involved in deciding whether an EIA is required for a Project (See Table 5.1). The Guidelines further contain a Screening Template for assessment of potential effects which addresses all the criteria identified in Schedule 7 of the Regulations (2018) in the context of the characteristics of the proposed development, the location of the proposed development, and the types and characteristics of potential impacts (Table 5.3).

**Table 5.1 Steps in deciding whether an EIA is required for a project (EC, 2017).**

Steps	Conclusion
1: is the Project in a category listed in annex II?	Yes, See Table 5.2 of this report
2a: Is the project on a list of projects for which EIA is always required?	No

2b: Is the Project on a list of projects for which EIA is not required?	No
3a: Information on the characteristics of the project?	See Section 5.2 and Table 5.3 below
3b: Is the project likely to have significant effects on the environment?	No, See Table 5.3 below
4: Based on the above is an EIA required?	No

## 5.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR EIA IN PUBLIC REALM AND FLOOD RELATED PROJECTS

In respect of public realm and flood related projects, Schedule 5, Part 1 and Part 2 of Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, requires that the competent authority should carry out an EIA in respect of the following relevant projects:

**Table 5.2: Screening Matrix for EIA**

Mandatory Threshold	Statutory Reference	Screening conclusion
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.	<i>P&amp;D Regs 2001, as amended Schedule 5, Part 2, Section 10(b)(iv)</i>	Footprint of the scheme is 0.99 hectares in an urban area / business district and therefore subthreshold for EIA.
Canalisation and flood relief works, where the immediate contributing sub-catchment of the proposed works (i.e. the difference between the contributing catchment at the upper and lower extent of the works) would exceed 100 hectares or where more than 2 hectares of wetland would be affected or where the length of river channel on which works are proposed would be greater than 2 kilometres	<i>P&amp;D Regs 2001, as amended Schedule 5 Part 2, Section 10(f)(ii)</i>	The area of contributing catchment has been defined as approximately 62.7Ha and is therefore subthreshold for EIA. See Appendix II. The project extends for 553m and therefore is subthreshold for EIA with regard to length of affected river channel.
Any project listed in this Part (Part 2) 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 Annex III of the Directive.	<i>P&amp;D Regs 2001, as amended Schedule 5, Part 2, Section 15</i>	The proposed project falls under the category of urban development and flood relief works listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 of the Regulations and should be screened with regard the criteria set out in Annex III to determine the need, if any, for EIA.

## 5.2 INFORMATION ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT?

The works will consist of the following:

- The traffic flow within Morrison's Island will be changed to one-way clockwise only.
- Pedestrianisation of the eastern end of Morrison's Quay and provision of an enhanced plaza area in this area.
- High quality paved pedestrian riverside walkway with a minimum width of 3m.
- To facilitate the proposed riverside walkway, the existing right-angle parking along the quays will be removed and replaced with parallel parking.

- Ground levels along both quays will be carefully re-graded to ensure that the solid element of the parapets will be no higher than knee height (600mm) above the new walkway level, thus maximising the sense of visual connectivity with the river.
- It is proposed to undertake significant remedial works to the existing quay walls to ensure the future integrity of these assets. Cleaning, repointing and grouting along with construction of a reinforced concrete backing wall is proposed.

Key features will include:

- Architecturally designed quayside parapets (with integrated flood defence elements) and railing which reflects and respects the bollards that were historically located along these quays, whilst maximising view of the river and protecting against extreme tidal flooding.
- Architecturally designed entrances on the north and south side of Trinity Bridge. The north side of the bridge will include a flared entrance with ramp access down to the bridge deck. Large benched steps will form seating at the entrance. Similarly, the south side will include flared entrances onto Union Quay. The east side of the bridge will open up into a 30m boardwalk that runs north along the existing footpath at Union Quay. A glazed defence wall will be installed along Union Quay.
- The design for Parnell Plaza includes a central open area with a series of large stone benched steps to the north side of the plaza adjacent to South Mall. These steps will form the flood defences and will include flood gates at the central steps from South Mall and at the western entrance from the shared path. A viewing platform is proposed at the end of the shared path.
- Provision of integrated flood gates at Trinity Bridge (north and south) and Parnell Plaza.
- The extension (i.e. raising) of existing limestone stepped river accesses to 3.5mOD where necessary.
- High quality street furniture tree planting/soft landscaping.
- High quality public lighting.
- Upgraded drainage system incorporating non-return valves on drainage outfalls, and pumping stations to manage surface water discharge during high tides.
- Other ancillary works such as the diversion and sealing of utility services, undergrounding of the existing overhead electricity cables and removal of old poles etc.

The main construction will involve the excavation and placement of material for the construction of walls, pump stations and as well as the haulage of material and importation of materials to complete the flood scheme. Material will be required for the following:

- Structures – the construction of /flood walls and parapets, quay wall remedial works;
- The diversion and construction of utilities and services;
- Road works – sub base and base construction, bituminous pavement surfacing;
- Ancillary reinstatement roadworks including the installation of public lighting, signage and road marking; and
- Piling works.

The construction works will be preceded by a small number of geotechnical and archaeological investigations as necessary. The construction works themselves will be subject to the following programme constraints:

- To avoid impacting on bird nesting sites, the vegetation removal (trees) within the defined working area will not be carried out during the peak bird nesting season of March to August (inclusive) prior to the onset of works.

- Christmas non-working time is from the beginning of the second week of December to the end of the second week of January.

It is proposed to undertake the work in three phases as follows:

- Phase 1 – 2.5 months (Father Matthews Quay)
- Phase 2 – 4.0 months (Morrison's Quay adjacent to Cork College of Commerce)
- Phase 3 – 5.5 months (Morrison's Quay)

There are no demolition works proposed as part of the Project.

### 5.3 MORRISON'S ISLAND IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLANS AND PROJECTS

In order to fully assess the potential impact of the proposed development on the environment, the project must be assessed alone or in combination with existing activities and proposed plans for the region. The main driver for addressing plans and projects in combination is to ensure that cumulative effects are captured.

Determining which plans and projects to consider requires a pragmatic approach given the nature and scale of development; and the potential pathways of risk.

Cork City Council Planning Register, the (EPA) EIA Portal, Cork County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 and Cork City Development Plan 2015 - 2021 were consulted in order to determine if there were any other plans or projects in the area which could result in cumulative impacts.

The River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme previously formed part of the larger Lower Lee (Cork City) Drainage Scheme, which is now divided into two Schemes. The River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme is currently under review by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The Lower Lee (Cork City) Drainage Scheme is currently at design stage with a proposed submission in 2019. Both schemes are subject to EIA, and include measures for the avoidance and minimisation of impact on the natural and built environment during operation and construction phase.

The Lower Lee (Cork City) Drainage Scheme (including Morrison's Island) and the River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme are identified within the Cork City Development Plan in order to address the flooding in the lower reaches of the River Lee and the River Bride in Blackpool and Ballyvolane. The Plan has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA tested the Objectives of the Plan against the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) of the SEA under the headings of population, human health; biodiversity, flora and fauna; soil; water; climate and air; material assets; cultural heritage; and landscape. It was noted that the project would need to consider the potential impacts on the environment in its design with regard to cultural heritage. that the Plan would not result in any significant negative impact on the Environment. T

Other plans and projects within the region include:

- Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-West Region 2010-2022;
- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021;
- Cork Area Strategic Plan Update 2008;
- Mahon Local Area Plan 2014-2020;
- South Docks Local Area Plan 2008-2018;
- Farranferris Local Area Plan 2009-2015;
- North-West Regeneration Masterplan 2011;
- Water Services Investment Programme;
- IPPC Programme;
- Local Authority Discharge;

- Groundwater Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Surface Water Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study.

The plans identified above include policies and objectives aimed at protecting the built, human and natural environment. No other pathway has been identified by which any of the plans and programmes identified could have a significant ‘in combination’ effect.

Furthermore, project/site specific best practice measures will be implemented for the construction works of the Morrison’s Island Public Realm and Flood Defence Project in order to avoid pollution and/or sedimentation of watercourses, to ensure the enhancement of the landscape and visual features of the area, the protection of built heritage and potential archaeology while minimising the temporary impact on the community, in terms of noise, air quality and disturbance during the works.

**5.4 SCREENING ASSESSMENT**

**Table 5.2 EC Guidelines Screening checklist (2017)**

Questions to be considered	Yes / No? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes / No? - Why?
Brief Project Description	<p>Public realm improvements and flood defence. Covers the quay walls for approximately 550m of their length at Morrison’s Island and a total land area of 0.99 hectares</p> <p>The works will consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in traffic flow, changes to parking layout;</li> <li>• Pedestrianisation of Morrison’s Quay (Lower) and provision of an enhanced plaza area at eastern end of Morrison’s Quay; paved pedestrian riverside walkway;</li> <li>• Ground levels along quays will be re-graded to ensure that the solid element of the parapets will be no higher than knee height (600mm) above the new walkway level;</li> <li>• Undertake remedial works to the existing quay walls. Cleaning, repointing and grouting along with construction of a reinforced concrete backing wall is proposed for flood protection;</li> <li>• Architecturally designed quayside parapets (with integrated flood defence elements) and railing;</li> <li>• Architecturally designed entrances on the north and south side of Trinity Bridge. The north side of the bridge will include a flared entrance with ramp access down to the bridge deck. Large benched steps will form seating at the entrance. Similarly, the south side will include flared entrances onto Union Quay. The east side of the bridge will open up into a 30m boardwalk that runs north along the existing footpath at Union Quay;</li> <li>• Parnell Plaza includes a central open area with a series of large stone benched steps to the north side of the plaza adjacent to South Mall. A viewing platform is proposed at the end of the shared path.</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgraded drainage system and pumping stations to manage surface water discharge during high tides.</li> </ul> <p>Other ancillary works such as the diversion and sealing of utility services etc. There is no demolition works proposed.</p>	
1. Will construction, operation, decommissioning or demolition works of the Project involve actions that will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc.)?	Yes, public realm improvements, improved amenity use, pedestrianisation. Changes to ground levels and quay walls for flood protection. No demolition works proposed.	Yes, positive impact in improved public realm use reduced flooding risk.
2. Will construction or the operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	Yes. Natural resources including stone, building materials etc are required.	No, not in short supply.
3. Will the Project involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health, to the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	Yes, some substances will be used during construction and road surfacing, e.g. bitumen, concrete, diesel, oils etc.	No, appropriate procedures for use and storage will minimise potential for localised impact.
4. Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes, construction waste will be produced.	No, a waste management plan will be implemented. Where required, waste will be disposed of in appropriate licenced facilities.
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, some dust produced during construction phase, no release of pollutants during operational phase.	No Dust minimisation plan will be implemented. Dust impact is temporary only (construction phase).
6. Will the Project cause noise and vibration or the releasing of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Noise disturbance and vibration disturbance during construction. No changes to emissions during operational phase.	No, not significant. Minimisation measures and monitoring will be required during construction. Temporary only.
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, Potential for runoff of materials into the River Lee during construction phase. No risk of contamination of land or water during operational phase.	No, not significant. Mitigation required for containment of runoff and instream pollution control measures, impact is not anticipated to be significant. Impact is temporary only (Construction phase).
8. Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project that could affect human health or the environment?	No, no construction procedures are considered high risk with regard to environmental incidents or	No, security measures will be put in place to protect public health and avoid accidents during construction.

	accidents. No risk to human health during operational phase.	
9. Will the Project result in environmentally related social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	No significant changes to demography and lifestyle overall, positive impact on use of public realm. Encourages sustainable transport, with provision of pedestrian and cyclist facilities.	No, public realm and flood protection will result in positive impact on social infrastructure.
10. Are there any other factors that should be considered such as consequential development which could lead to environmental impacts or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	The enhancement of the public realm will not result in any significant consequential development of changes in land use within the study area. The will be improved amenity use which may result in the use of the site for public events and social gathering. May give rise to improvements in sustainable transport in adjoining areas.	No, no environmental impact as a result of consequential development. Potential positive impact on sustainable transport in adjoining areas.
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?	There are no European Sites (SAC, SPA at risk from the proposed development). There are no national monuments at risk from the development. There will be enhancement of the site in terms of amenity value and social infrastructure.	No, improvements to the site for use as a public realm.
12. Are there any other areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, that could be affected by the Project?	The River Lee adjoins the works. However, the river ecology is not particularly sensitive in this area. There is not potential for impact during operational phase of development. Construction impacts will require mitigation to ensure pollution control.	No, Pollution control measures will ensure the protection of water course including the River Lee. Construction phase impacts are temporary in nature.
13. Are there any areas on or around the location that 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?	There is some potential for use of the river by otters, however no breeding or resting otters are likely in the area. There is some potential for nesting birds such as dipper and wagtail at the bridges. No potential for operational impacts. Fish use the river corridor to move upstream. No loss of riverine habitat.	No. mitigation will apply and surveys will be carried out to ensure that no protected birds or mammals are using the area for breeding prior to construction. Pollution control measures will minimise risk to watercourse.
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?	The River Lee adjoins the site, Cork Harbour is approximately 4km downstream of the site. There is no potential to significantly impact on	No, Pollution control measures will ensure the protection of water course including the River Lee. Construction phase

	groundwater systems as a result of the project.	impacts are temporary and not significant in nature.
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 urban city landscape which includes protected views and features as identified in the City Development Plan. Protected views include RP4 and LT4 of the Plan (Parliament Bridge - downstream and Father Matthew Quay to George's Quay respectively).	No, the design has ensured sensitive consideration of the surrounding landscape and its relationship with the River Lee. Landscape architects have designed to scheme as a public realm project that will enhance the site in terms of visual and amenity 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, access to church and college of commerce. All access will be maintained for the duration of construction. There will be temporary impact on amenity use of the River for boating etc. during the construction phase. There will be no changes to amenity use during operational phase of the project.	No, access will be maintained to public facilities during construction and post construction. Temporary impact on river amenity (boating). Sustainable transport, walking and cycling will be encouraged as part of the design of the public realm project.
17. Are there any transport routes on or around the location that are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the Project?	No, transportation improvements will be made as a result of the project. No significant arterial road networks within the works area.	No. Sustainable transport, walking and cycling will be encouraged as part of the design of the public realm project.
18. Is the Project in a location in which it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	Yes, public realm project in the city centre.	No. Positive impact on the visual aspect of the site by reductions in traffic and remedial works to the quay walls. Landscape architect design has considered the use of the site for public realm.
19. Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location that could be affected by the Project?	Yes, quay walls and associated fenders, while not protected are of cultural importance. Protected buildings and structures nearby but not directly impacted.	No, remedial works to the quay walls result in improvements due to their current poor condition. The scheme is being construction to ensure that the city's relationship with the river and the quays is not negatively altered (increased horizontal alignment). There will be no direct impact on protected features or on their setting. RPS 270 Parliament Bridge, slight indirect impact. Monitoring during construction will be required.

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 within 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 that could be affected by the Project?	No private land used affected. Public access to community facilities, residences and business will be maintained during construction and enhanced once operational.	No, positive impact on improving the public space and providing a public realm project, reduced traffic and reduced flooding risk will secure its use for the public and associated businesses affected by flooding.
22. Are there any plans for future land uses within or around the location that could be affected by the Project?	No	No
23. Are there areas within or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, that could be affected by the Project?	No, use of urban space is confined to existing roads, quay walls and footpaths.	No
24. Are there any areas within or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, that could be affected by the Project?	Yes, college of commerce, church, local businesses.	No, access will be maintained to all facilities during construction and operations.
25. Are there any areas within or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, that could be affected by the Project?	No.	No.
26. Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, that 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, subject area is susceptible to flooding. Flood protection included in the project scheme.	No. Reduced flood risk to area as a consequence of the development.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

This screening report has been carried out in accordance with a methodology that is based on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Guidelines for Planning Authorises and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out EIA (DHPLG, 2018) and The European Commission Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects. Guidance on Screening (2017). The proposed Morrison's Island Public Realm Project does not comprise a mandatory class of project specified in either

Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. The proposed project falls under Schedule 5, Part 2, Section 15 of the Regulations as a subthreshold development, therefore EIA Screening is required.

In light of the EIA Screening above, it is concluded that there is no potential for significant impact on the environment. Therefore, there is no requirement for the Planning Authority to conduct an EIA in respect of the project which comprises the Morrison's Island Public Realm and Flood Defence Project and there is no requirement on Cork City Council to either prepare or submit an EIA Report in relation to this project.

# Appendix I

## Planning and Development Regulations 2000 – 2018 Schedule 7

## SCHEDULE 7

Sections 146B, 176B, 176C, 177D and 177K of the Act and articles 103, 109, 120, 123A, 132I, 289 and 299C  
CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHETHER DEVELOPMENT LISTED IN PART 2 OF SCHEDULE 5 SHOULD  
BE SUBJECT TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## 1. Characteristics of proposed development

The characteristics of proposed development, in particular—

- (a) the size and design of the whole of the proposed development,
- (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 caused 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—

- (a) the existing and approved land use,
- (b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground,
- (c) 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, 541
- (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.



## SCHEDULE 7A

Sections 146B, 176A, 177C, 177D and 177K of the Act and articles 33, 103, 109, 120, 123A, 132C, 132D, 132F, 132G, 132H, 132I, 227, 286, 289, 299B and 299C

### 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.

## **Appendix II**

# **Morrison's Island Contributing Sub-catchment**

