

4.0 SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND FORECASTING.

4.1 Introduction.

4.1.1 Chapter 4 – Specific Information and Forecasting sets out the difficulties encountered by consultants in the compilation of specific information relating to the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

4.1.2 In general the compilation of the information necessary for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement did not present significant difficulties. Where required, new survey work has been undertaken to complement data that was available from official sources. In some cases there was a lack of baseline information on certain aspects of the environment. Where appropriate, forecasting methods have been applied. These are identified in each of the relevant chapters assessing the likely impact.

4.2 Chapter 5 – Human Beings

4.2.1 There were no specific difficulties in compiling the Human Beings chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement.

4.2.2 As the chapter was based on a desk-based assessment no forecasting was undertaken.

4.3 Chapter 6 – Flora & Fauna.

4.3.1 There were no specific difficulties in compiling the Flora & Fauna chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement.

4.3.2 As the chapter was based on a desk-based assessment and field surveys, no forecasting was undertaken.

4.4 Chapter 7 – Geotechnical, Soils and Ground Conditions.

4.4.1 There were no specific difficulties in compiling the Geotechnical, Soils and Ground Conditions chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement.

4.4.2 As the chapter was based on a desk-based assessment and field surveys, no forecasting was undertaken.

4.5 Chapter 8 – Water.

- 4.4.1 There were no difficulties in compiling information and no forecasting methods involved.

4.6 Chapter 9 – Air Quality (& Dust).

- 4.6.1 Available information and forecasting on air quality has been contested by third parties and this is set out in chapter 9.

- 4.6.2 The NETCEN emission factor tool was used to correct PM10 background levels for future development years as was used for the air quality assessment with regard to the waste to energy plant. The recently issued Inspector's report to the Board of the EPA on the objections to the Proposed Decision regarding the waste to energy plant, did state that the use of the NETCEN emission factor tool to correct background concentrations has not been justified in the circumstances (given the general lower rate of reduction in PM10 concentrations observed in Ireland compared to the UK) and consequently the predicted future PM10 levels are not regarded, by the Inspector, as robust.

However the observations did not result in a specific requirement in the license and the use of NETCEN is a standard methodology and is listed in H1 Environmental Risk Assessment Part 2, Assessment of Point Source Releases and Cost Benefit Analysis, 2008.

Notwithstanding this, the DDDA will liaise with the EPA and DCC with regard to further air quality monitoring in the area which will allow the use of NETCEN to be justified or otherwise.

4.7 Chapter 10 – Wind.

- 4.6.1 The necessary information was available to undertake the assessment on potential impact of wind. Industry accepted methodologies were employed to forecast potential impact as no forecasting was undertaken.

4.8 Chapter 11 – Odours.

- 4.8.1 There were no specific difficulties in compiling information for the Odours chapter of this Environmental Impact Statement. The chapter is based on a desk-based assessment. Neither odour monitoring or forecasting was undertaken for a number of reasons including the fact that improvement works are currently being carried out with regard to reducing the odour associated with the WWTP. Hence it was considered that monitoring and modelling would be premature. Furthermore, operation and control of the WWTP is not within the DDDA's remit.
- 4.8.2 As the chapter was based on a desk-based assessment and field surveys, no forecasting was undertaken.

4.9 Chapter 12 – Climate & Energy.

- 4.9.1 There were no specific difficulties in compiling the Climate & Energy chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement.
- 4.9.2 As the chapter was based on a desk-based assessment no forecasting was undertaken.

4.10 Chapter 13 – Noise & Vibration.

- 4.10.1 Prediction of construction noise has been conducted as described in BS 5228: Part 1: 1997, Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites.
- 4.10.2 No specific forecasting methods were employed for the operational phase noise.
- 4.10.3 Access constraints to the existing utilities and port meant that modelling of noise sources could not be carried out. However night time monitoring at boundary locations and known distances from sources allowed mapping of noise levels associated with the long term activities which will remain in the area.

4.11 Chapter 14 – Landscape / Visual Impact.

- 4.11.1 No difficulties were experienced in terms of compiling information or forecasting.

4.12 Chapter 15 – Sunlight

4.12.1 The following difficulties were encountered in compiling the sunlight impact analysis section for the Sunlight chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement:

- Exhaustive survey information regarding existing context (e.g., heights and size of buildings, information regarding the extent of landscaping) was not available and must be assumed on the basis of desktop analysis. Having regard to the scope of the Draft Planning Scheme it was not possible or practical to verify this information by way of detailed on-site survey.
- Information regarding topography was assumed from Ordnance Survey mapping and topographic survey, where available. Having regard to the scope of the Draft Planning Scheme it was not possible or practical to verify this information by way of detailed on-site survey.
- The exact form and design of structures proposed as part of the Draft Planning Scheme was not available at the time that the assessment was conducted, as these matters will be the subject of Section 25 Applications made at a later date.

4.12.2 In the preparing the Sunlight Access Impact Analysis section of the EIS a three-dimensional digital model was constructed of the Draft Planning Scheme, of existing structures on the subject site and of existing structures in the area. Using the digital model, shadows were cast at several times of the day at the summer and winter solstices, and at the equinox. Shadows were cast both with and without the proposed development (i.e., the digital model shows shadows cast by the existing buildings only and, on a separate page, show the shadows cast by the existing buildings together with an outline of the possible form of development facilitated by the proposed Planning Scheme). The results were presented in shadow study diagrams contained in Chapter 15.

4.13 Chapter 16 - Material Assets - Traffic & Transportation and Parking.

4.13.1 The following difficulties were encountered in compiling information for the Traffic, Transportation and Parking chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement:

No reliable Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) data is available for this area, and therefore AADT has been calculated based on the modelled peak hour flows, supplemented with one day traffic survey counts. It should be noted that the DTO model

is for AM peak, thus PM peak is not modelled (AM peak). Generally the AM peak has higher traffic flows than the PM peak and therefore the worst case traffic scenario has been modelled and assessed.

The exact land use mix, type of use, nature of occupancy and level of car parking proposed as part of the Draft Planning Scheme was not available at the time that the assessment was conducted, as these matters will be the subject of Section 25 applications made at a later date. Assumptions regarding these aspects for the purposes of conducting analysis of the impact of the scheme on traffic and transport were made on the basis of the Draft Planning Scheme.

4.14 Chapter 17 – Material Assets – Retail Impact.

4.14.1 All necessary information was obtained and commonly accepted means of forecasting were adopted.

4.15 Chapter 18 – Material Assets – Archaeological Heritage.

4.15.1 There were no specific difficulties in compiling the archaeological heritage chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement.

4.15.2 As the chapter was based on a desk-based assessment and field surveys, no forecasting was undertaken.

4.16 Chapter 19 – Material Assets – Architectural and Cultural Heritage.

4.16.1 There were no specific difficulties in compiling the architectural and cultural heritage chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement.

4.16.2 As the chapter was based on a desk-based assessment and field surveys, no forecasting was undertaken.

4.17 Chapter 20 – Material Assets – Utilities.

4.17.1 Sufficient information was available upon which to base the assessment of potential impact on Utilities.

4.17.2 As the assessment was desk based no forecasting was undertaken.

4.18 Chapter 21 – Material Assets – Waste.

- 4.18.1 There were no specific difficulties in compiling the Waste chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement.
- 4.18.2 The chapter was based on a desk-based assessment no specific forecasting was undertaken.