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Senior Executive Officer,
Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department,
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By email: devplan@fingalcoco.ie

29th April 2016

RE: Draft IWEA Response to Fingal Draft County Development Plan 2017 -2023 - Stage 2

Dear Fingal Forward Planning Team,

IWEA is Ireland's leading renewable energy body representing more than 200 members involved in wind and renewable energy development in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and represents members with projects ranging from operational, to under construction and to those awaiting connection.

IWEA members represent the full spectrum of the supply chain, and currently employ more than 3400 people in Ireland, are involved in the majority of connected projects and more than 85% of the renewable energy required to deliver the 2020 targets. As such, IWEA has an active interest in the wind and renewable energy and related policies of the Fingal Draft County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 - Stage 2. Wind energy is today delivering over 20% of Ireland's electricity, helping reduce Ireland's 85% energy import dependency and cutting harmful emissions.

IWEA welcomes the integration of a Wind Energy Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy into the Strategic Development Planning for the County, and the Council's recognition within Chapter 5 that *"wind energy can make a significant contribution to reaching Ireland's renewable energy targets to 2020 and beyond"*.

IWEA would warmly welcome Fingal Council's intention under Objective EN10 to support onshore and offshore wind energy as part of supporting Ireland's renewable energy commitment. IWEA would furthermore welcome the focus on a plan-led strategic approach to wind energy development in Fingal which provides direction as to the suitability of areas within the County for wind energy development.

Furthermore, IWEA welcomes the Strategic Policy goals which aim to *“Promote, drive and facilitate the transition in the future to an entirely renewable energy supply”* and to *“Minimise the County’s contribution to climate change, and adapt to the effects of climate change, with particular reference to energy, among other sectors, while maximising the provision of green infrastructure.”* We welcome the plan to develop a Sustainable Energy Strategy for the County which will set out strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to utilise the County’s renewable energy resources in the most effective way. We consider that this approach stands in line with the recently published Government Energy White Paper *“Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030.”*

IWEA furthermore warmly welcomes Fingal County Council’s recognition that Renewable Energy offers sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels, and will reduce both our GHG emissions and our reliance on imported fuels. IWEA notes that Fingal County Council will endeavour to carry out a Spatial Energy Demand Analysis which will feed into spatial planning and energy for the county.

Finally, we welcome this opportunity to contribute to Fingal County Council’s *County Development Plan* and we look forward to working together to achieve Ireland’s renewable energy targets for 2020 and beyond, while supporting Ireland’s renewable energy commitments.

Yours sincerely,

**sent by email, bears no signature*

Brian Dawson,
Head of Communications,
Irish Wind Energy Association.