

## **Background to Proposed Scheme**

The overall Coonagh to Knocklisheen Distributor Road Scheme which received An Bord Pleanála approval in 2011 is described as follows:

The proposed Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road scheme will provide a new high quality dual carriageway on the north western outskirts of Limerick City linking Coonagh Roundabout on the N18 with the Knockalisheen Road at a point close to the Limerick Clare county boundary. The total length of new dual carriageway will be approximately 2.6kms. The proposed scheme will also include the following elements from south to north commencing at Coonagh Roundabout:

- Moyross Link Road: a two way carriageway of approximate length 600metres which will link the new distributor road with the Moyross area. The junction of the link road with the distributor road will be in the form of a roundabout.
- Ballygrennan Railway Bridge: new bridge to carry the distributor road across the existing rail line which runs to the north of the Moyross area.
- Knockalisheen Road Roundabout: new roundabout at the northern end of the route which will link the distributor road to the Knockalisheen Road.

Further to the above, the CKDR scheme will also include significant improvement works to the Knockalisheen Road extending from its roundabout intersection with the proposed distributor road over a length of approximately 1.8kms southwards to its junction with the Long Pavement Road at Watch House Cross. These improvement works will primarily involve widening of the existing road to accommodate cycle paths and improved pedestrian facilities but will also include carriageway reconstruction and improvement of existing junctions. A significant element of these works will be the replacement of the bridge where the Knockalisheen Road crosses over the existing railway line at Ballynanty with a new bridge which will facilitate road widening and improved sight lines on its approaches.

## **Description of Proposed Development**

The proposed works include the construction of a temporary access/haul road extending from the R464 Kileely Road, Limerick. The proposed development is located in the townlands of Ballynanty More and Monabraher, adjacent to the R464 Kileely Road, Limerick.

The access/haul road is temporary and will be in operation whilst Ballynanty Bridge is being demolished and re-constructed. The access/haul road will allow for access from the industrial facility to the R464 Long Pavement (Kileely Road) during the period when Knockalisheen Road will be closed. The access/haul road will also facilitate the movement of construction materials to the bridge re-construction site. It is envisaged that the access/haul road will be required for a period of 18 months. The temporary access/haul road will then be removed following the re-opening of the improved Knockalisheen Road.

Works to construct the temporary access/haul road would take approximately 6 weeks. It may take 2 to 3 weeks to remove at the conclusion of the project.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening exercise has been undertaken in relation to a proposed temporary access/haul road and is enclosed as part of the Planning Pack. The screening report has been prepared and submitted to enable Limerick City and County Council, as competent authority, to determine whether there is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.

The screening report concludes that there is no real likelihood of significant effects of the environment.

### **Appropriate Assessment**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening exercise has been undertaken in relation to a proposed temporary access/haul road and is enclosed as part of the Planning Pack. The Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3). The function of this Screening Report is to determine if it can or cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site. This Screening Report has been prepared to provide information to the competent authority to assist them in their determination as to whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

The screening report concludes that that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.