

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

Department: Parks & Landscape Services / Public Realm **Date:** 06/01/2022

SARAH WATSON

Area Planner

Planning Department

Development: Construction of a 3 storey (part 4 storey) data centre known as 'DB8' to include data halls, electrical/plant rooms including internal generators, offices, lobbies, ancillary staff areas including break rooms and toilets, stores, stair/lift cores throughout and photovoltaic panels at roof level; the total gross floor area excluding hot air plenums and external staircase is c.9,601sq.m and the overall height of the data centre ranges from c.16m to c.20m to roof parapet level and up to c.24.48m including roof top plant, flues and lift overrun; provision of 5 external generators, 8 fuel tanks and ancillary plant contained within a plant yard to the north of DB8; provision of a water tank plant room, air cooled chillers and ancillary plant contained within a chiller plant yard to the south of DB8; provision of a water sprinkler pump room (c.23sqm), 2 sprinkler tanks (c.12m high each), heat recovery plant room (c.17sqm), ESB substation (c.44sqm), waste/bin stores (c.52sqm); total floor area of ancillary structures and plant (c.303sqm); provision of a delivery yard and loading bays, 64 car parking spaces, 5 motorcycle spaces, bicycle shelter serving 14 spaces, smoke shelter, internal access roads and footpaths,

vehicular and pedestrian access to the west from Falcon Avenue and closure of an existing vehicular entrance from Falcon Avenue; all associated site development works, services provision, drainage works including attenuation, landscape and boundary treatment works including berming, hedgerow protection areas and security fencing; no buildings are proposed above the existing ESB wayleave and SDCC watermain wayleave to the west and north of the site; the area to the southwest of the site (temporary meadow) is reserved for a future data centre, subject of a separate application to South Dublin County Council on a site bounded to the east and south by Grange Castle Golf Club, to the north by Nangor Road (R134) and to the west by an estate road known as Falcon Avenue. This application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement.

Location: Plot 100, Profile Park, Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Applicant: Equinix (Ireland) Ltd.

Reg. Ref: SD21A/0186

Recommendation: **CLARIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Site Area

2.65 ha

Zoning

Objective EE - To provide for enterprise and employment related uses.

Outstanding Concerns

1. Lack of Sustainable Drainage Systems.

Item 6 (e) required the applicant to:

'submit a drawing showing the inclusion of more Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for the development such as swales, filter drains, SuDS tree pits, rain gardens and Rainwater harvesting systems. A cross sectional detail is required of all proposed SuDS features.'

The requested more sustainable features have not been provided. In addition, an underground tank remains beneath landscaped areas which area could have been used for above ground attenuation and/or conveyance and rendering these areas sterile for tree planting. SDCC do not approve of using underground tanks as part of SuDS schemes where the full potential for the natural drainage features has not been explored.

The applicant should note that Item (e) SuDS is an interdisciplinary issue their drainage engineers need to address and is not simply a landscaping requirement as indicated by the report by Pinnacle Engineers.

Relevant Sections, Policies and Objectives of the SDCC Development Plan 2016-2022:

CHAPTER 4: ECONOMIC AND TOURISM (ET)

Policy 3 Enterprise and Employment (EE)

ET3 Objective 5: To ensure that all business parks and industrial areas are designed to the highest architectural and landscaping standards and that natural site features, such as watercourses, trees and hedgerows are retained and enhanced as an integral part of the scheme.

CHAPTER 7: INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (IE)

Policy 2 Surface Water & Groundwater

It is the policy of the Council to manage surface water and to protect and enhance ground and surface water quality to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.

IE2 Objective 3: To maintain and enhance existing surface water drainage systems in the County and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), including integrated constructed wetlands, at a local, district and County level, to control surface water outfall and protect water quality.

IE2 Objective 5: To limit surface water run-off from new developments through the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and **avoid the use of underground attenuation and storage tanks.**

CHAPTER 8 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (G) Policy 2 Green Infrastructure Network

G2 Objective 1: To reduce fragmentation of the Green Infrastructure network and strengthen ecological links between urban areas, Natura 2000 sites, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, parks and open spaces and the wider regional Green Infrastructure network.

G2 Objective 2: To protect and enhance the biodiversity value and ecological function of the Green Infrastructure network.

G2 Objective 3: To restrict development that would fragment or prejudice the Green Infrastructure network.

G2 Objective 4: To repair habitat fragmentation and provide for regeneration of flora and fauna where weaknesses are identified in the network.

G2 Objective 5: To integrate Green Infrastructure as an essential component of all new developments.

G2 Objective 6: To protect and enhance the County's hedgerow network, in particular hedgerows that form townland, parish and barony boundaries, and increase hedgerow coverage using locally native species.

G2 Objective 9: To preserve, protect and augment trees, groups of trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the County by increasing tree canopy coverage using locally native species and by incorporating them within design proposals and supporting their integration into the Green Infrastructure network.

G2 Objective 11: To incorporate appropriate elements of Green Infrastructure e.g. new tree planting, grass verges, planters etc. into existing areas of hard infrastructure wherever possible, thereby integrating these areas of existing urban environment into the overall Green Infrastructure network.

G2 Objective 12: To seek to control and manage non-native invasive species and to develop strategies with relevant stakeholders to assist in the control of these species throughout the County.

G2 Objective 13: To seek to prevent the loss of woodlands, hedgerows, aquatic habitats and wetlands wherever possible including requiring a programme to monitor and restrict the spread of invasive species.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (G) Policy 4 Public Open Space and Landscape Setting

G4 Objective 2: To connect parks and areas of open space with ecological and recreational corridors to aid the movement of biodiversity and people and to strengthen the overall Green Infrastructure network.

G4 Objective 4: To minimise the environmental impact of external lighting at sensitive locations within the Green Infrastructure network to achieve a sustainable balance between the recreational needs of an area, the safety of walking and cycling routes and the protection of light sensitive species such as bats.

G4 Objective 7: To avoid the cumulative fragmentation and loss of ecologically sensitive areas of the Green Infrastructure network to artificial surfaces.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (G) Policy 5 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

G5 Objective 1: To promote and support the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) at a local, district and county level and to maximise the amenity and biodiversity value of these systems.

G5 Objective 2: To promote the provision of Green Roofs and/or Living Walls in developments where expansive roofs are proposed such as industrial, retail and civic developments.

HERITAGE, CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPES (HCL) Policy 15 Non-Designated Areas

HCL15 Objective 1: To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992.

HCL15 Objective 2: To ensure that, where evidence of species that are protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992 exists, appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.

HCL15 Objective 3: To protect existing trees, hedgerows, and woodlands which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/ or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management in accordance with Living with Trees: South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy 2015-2020.

Living with Trees – Tree Management Policy 2015 – 2020

South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy 'Living with Trees' 2015-2020 contains information within Chapter 7 Trees and Development that relates to the retention, protection and planting of trees on development sites. Relevant points within this section include:

- The Council will use its powers to ensure that where it is conducive with the objectives of the County Development Plan, and other planning objectives there is maximum retention of trees on new development sites.
- In the processing of planning applications, the Council will seek the retention of trees of high amenity / environmental value taking consideration of both their individual merit and their interaction as part of a group or broader landscape feature.
- On construction sites all work must be in accordance with British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations.

- The Council will promote the replacement of trees removed to facilitate approved planning and development of urban spaces, buildings, streets, roads, infrastructural projects and private development sites.

The Public Realm Section has assessed the additional information for the proposed development in accordance with the CDP and best practice guidelines and recommends clarification of additional information as follows:

1. Sustainable Drainage Systems

The proposed development is lacking a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS). The applicant is requested to address Item 6 (e) of the Additional Information Request. SuDS should be an integrated multi-disciplinary approach which locally addresses water quality, water quantity, and provides for amenity and biodiversity enhancement which meets the objectives of South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022. SDCC do not approve of using underground tanks as part of SuDS schemes where the full potential for the natural drainage features has not been explored. The applicant is requested to make use of the soft landscape to manage surface water.

- a) The applicant shall show further proposed SuDS features for the development such as green roofs, living walls, swales, channel rills, integrated SuDS bioretention tree pits, bioretention features, rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, above ground attenuation, detention basins, reed bed/wetland etc. and other such SuDS and show what attenuation capacity is provided by such SuDS.
- b) SuDS features shall be integrated into the landscape proposal and details provided on how they work.

CLARIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fionnuala Collins
Assistant Parks Superintendent

Endorsed By: Laurence Colleran
Senior Executive Parks Superintendent