

DIRECTION IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 31
OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended)
Galway County Development Plan 2022 -2028

“Development Plan” means the Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028

“Planning Authority” means Galway County Council

WHEREAS the powers and duties of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), other than the power to prosecute an offence, have been delegated to the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage pursuant to the Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2020 (S.I. 559 of 2020).

WHEREAS the Minister of State at the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 31 of the Act 2000, and consequent to a recommendation made to him by the Office of the Planning Regulator under section 31AN(4) of the Act hereby directs as follows:

- (1) This Direction may be cited as the Planning and Development (Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028) Direction 2022.
- (2) The Planning Authority is hereby directed to take the following steps with regard to the Development Plan:
 - a. Reinstate the following zoning objectives to that of the draft Plan:

- i. Clifden SGT LUZ 6.1 - i.e. the subject land reverts to Agriculture from Residential Phase 2.
- ii. Clifden SGT LUZ 6.4b - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Phase 2.
- iii. Clifden SGT LUZ 6.5 - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Phase 2.
- iv. Headford SGT LUZ 7.2 - i.e. the subject land reverts to Open Space/Recreation and Amenity from Residential Phase 2.
- v. Headford SGT LUZ 7.4 - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Phase 2.
- vi. Headford SGT LUZ 7.7- i.e. the subject land reverts to Open Space/Recreation and Amenity from Residential Phase 2.
- vii. Headford SGT LUZ 7.8 - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Phase 2.
- viii. Headford SGT LUZ 7.10 -- i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Phase 2.
- ix. An Cheathrú Rua SGV LUZ 11.1a - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Existing.
- x. An Cheathrú Rua SGV LUZ 11.1b - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Phase 2.
- xi. Oranmore MASP LUZ 3.5 - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Phase 2.
- xii. Oughterard SGT LUZ 9.4 - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Infill.
- xiii. Woodlawn RSA LUZ 20.1 - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Residential Phase 1.
- xiv. Maigh Cuillinn SGT 8.4 - i.e. the subject land reverts to unzoned from Tourism.

- b. Delete the Business and Enterprise zoning objective on lands south of Headford, on the eastern side of the N84 road to Galway.
- c. Delete policy WW9 and reference to the minimum 100 metre separation distance for all new wastewater treatment plants in An Cheathrú Rua.
- d. Delete the amended and additional provisions inserted under:
 - (i) MA 7.8 to amend text in Section 7.5.10 (Sludge Management);
 - (ii) MA 7.9 to amend Policy Objective WW1 Enhancement of Wastewater Supply Infrastructure; and
 - (iii) MA 7.10 to amend Policy Objective WW 2 Delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

I. Pursuant to section 31(1)(b), section 31(1)(ba)(i) and section 31(1)(c)

The Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as made includes material amendments to the draft Plan, that are inconsistent with the evaluation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and which individually and cumulatively are not consistent with the Core Strategy, national and regional planning policy, and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including:

- a. Land zoned for residential development that is not consistent with the Development Plan's own Core Strategy for Clifden, Headford, An Cheathrú Rua and Woodlawn, in the adopted Plan. In making the Development Plan with residential zoning in excess of that determined to be required under the Core Strategy, the Planning Authority fails to have regard to the requirements of section 4.5 of the *Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)* and section 4.4 of the *Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022)* to ensure enough land is zoned and to avoid zoning too much land and the Planning Authority provides no or no adequate reasons relating to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to explain why the guidelines have not been followed;

- b. Land zoned for residential development located in peripheral locations outside the CSO settlement boundary in the case of Clifden, and Headford, and in the case of Woodlawn where no CSO boundary exists, inconsistent with the requirements for compact growth in NPO 3c and RPO 3.2;
- c. Land zoned for development located in non-sequential and peripheral locations at a distance from the centre and beyond undeveloped greenfield lands in Clifden and Headford, An Cheathrú Rua, and Oughterard, or in the case of Woodlawn detached from any existing settlement, which fails to have regard to the requirement to implement or adopt the sequential approach to zoning under the *Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)* issued under Section 28 of the Act, except in exceptional circumstances (which '*must be clearly justified ... in the written statement*'), and under section 6.2.3 of the *Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning authorities - (2022)* and the Planning Authority provides no or no adequate reasons relating to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to explain why the guidelines have not been followed;
- d. Land zoned for development in Oranmore vulnerable to flood risk in areas known to be at risk of flooding contrary to NPO 57 and which fails to have regard to the statutory guidelines of the Minister *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)*, as revised and where the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment recommends that the zoning amendment not be adopted;
- e. Land zoned for development in Maigh Cuillinn adjacent to the route of the N59 Maigh Cuillinn by-pass, which has the potential to negatively impact the delivery of the planned national road network in the area, undermine Government investment in the N59 Moycullen Bypass Scheme and fails to have regard to the statutory guidelines of the Minister *The Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)*.

Further, the residential zoning amendments are also inconsistent with the requirements of section 10(2A)(d)(ii) of the Act which requires the development plan to provide details of how the zoning proposals in respect of lands zoned for residential and for a mixture of residential and other uses accords with national policy that development of land shall take place on a phased basis.

Further, the statement under Section 28(1A)(b) attached to the Development Plan as made fails to include information which demonstrates that the planning authority has formed the opinion that it is not possible to implement the policies and objectives outlined at (I), above, as contained in the Guidelines, because of the nature and characteristics of the area and to give reasons for the forming of that opinion contrary to Section 28(1B)(b).

II. Pursuant to section 31(1)(c)

The Development Plan as made includes policy WW9 and reference to the minimum 100 metre separation distance for all new wastewater treatment plants in An Cheathrú Rua which may unreasonably and significantly prejudice the delivery of this key infrastructure and prejudice the planned sustainable growth of An Cheathrú Rua over the plan period inconsistent with the statutory requirement in section 10(1D) of the Act that the development objectives in the development plan are consistent with the conservation and protection of the environment.

III. Pursuant to section 31(1)(ba)(i)

The Development Plan as made includes material amendments to identify Ballinasloe and Tuam as being unsuitable locations for a regional waste management facility and/or sludge hub centre inconsistent with NPO 56 and RPO 8.17 to promote circular economy principles to maximise waste as a resource and the provisions of NPO 63 and RPO 8.12 to ensure that sustainable water services infrastructure is in place to meet demands of continuing population growth and the developing economy.

IV. Pursuant to section 31(1)(c)

The Development Plan as made includes policies and material amendments to the draft Plan that are inconsistent with the evaluation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

V. Pursuant to section 31(1)(a)(i)(II)

The Development Plan has not been made in a manner consistent with and has failed to implement the recommendations of the Office of the Planning Regulator under Section 31 AM.

GIVEN under my hand,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Burke", is written over a horizontal line.

**Peter Burke T.D.
Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning**

28 Day of September 2022