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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination

under
Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
for the

Emerging Draft Tuam Local Area Plan 2023-2029

In order to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination has been made by Galway County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Tuam Local Area Plan 2023-2029 to have effects on the integrity European Sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the potential effects on the integrity of European Sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account (this information will be placed on public display in the Natura Impact Report alongside the emerging Draft Plan). The process of screening for AA began at an early stage in the drafting of the Plan. The screening process assessed whether the emerging Draft Plan had the potential to have effects on the integrity of any European Site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The screening process concluded that an AA of the emerging Draft Plan would be required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated have adverse effects on the integrity of 3 (no.) European Sites.

Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as residential, town centre, community, business and enterprise, business and technology, open space, tourism, agriculture, public utilities, transport and other infrastructure that introduce sources for effects through construction phase hydrological interactions; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in disturbance effects and interactions with water quality.

Therefore, Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of the Natura Impact Report) is required for the emerging Draft Plan.

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The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have a likely adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site. Therefore, an AA is required.

Signatory: *Brendan Dunne*

Senior Executive Planner

Date: 01-02-2023