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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030

A Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination is being made by Galway County Council regarding Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan warrant the undertaking of SEA.

In carrying out this Screening for SEA, the Council is taking into account the following:

- Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Loughrea LAP 2024-2030, including consideration of criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the SEA Regulations, as amended;
- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Loughrea LAP 2024-2030;
- Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Loughrea LAP 2024-2030;
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Loughrea LAP 2024-2030;
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Loughrea LAP 2024-2030; and
- Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

The Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Material Alterations demonstrates that most Proposed Material Alterations are advised not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan and the existing Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is identified that all potential effects arising from most Proposed Alterations: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). In addition, some alterations merely added clarifications or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these will not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, these Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA.

The Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Material Alterations demonstrates that the following Proposed Material Alterations require SEA and consideration in an SEA Environmental Report¹:

- MA35
- MA37

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the Screening for SEA Report. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that SEA is required for certain Proposed Material Alterations. The SEA for the above Proposed Material Alterations will be completed by 10th April 2024.

Signed: 

Signatory

Approved Officer

8th April 2024

¹ For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.
