

There shall of be a minimum 100m setback for all new wastewater treatment plants in An Cheathrú Rua.

Proposal outlined in yellow below

7.7 Electricity

A strong electricity infrastructure and transmission grid is essential for the county in order to attract and retain high-tech industrial investment, to ensure competitive energy supplies, to achieve balanced development, to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and to achieve climate change targets. Moreover, to attract renewable energy development, it is important for County Galway that the existing grid infrastructure is reinforced where necessary and expanded to areas not adequately serviced. The transmission system within the country plays a vital role in the supply of electricity, providing the means to transport power from generators to demand centres using a system comprising of 400 kV, 220 kV and 110 kV networks (and through ESB networks 38kV medium and low voltage networks to customers). The transmission system generally comprises of overhead lines, except in limited circumstances, for example, in the city centres, where some limited underground cables are used.

The provision safe, secure and reliable transmission of electricity is the responsibility of Eirgrid. It is the policy objective of the Council to work in conjunction with Eirgrid to protect existing electricity infrastructure, and to facilitate the timely delivery of new electricity infrastructure. Eirgrid published Ireland's Grid Development Strategy - Your Grid, Your Tomorrow, which was its second review of Grid 25. This Strategy recognises that the development of the transmission grid is of critical importance to support the economy and society, as well as to realise the transformation of Ireland's energy system to meet climate change and energy obligations.

Eirgrid's Implementation Plan 2017-2022 is a practical strategic overview of how the stages of Ireland's Grid Development Strategy are intended to be implemented and identify the parts of the transmission system that are likely to need development over the five year period (2017-2022) and the planning and development of the grid that will be undertaken in implementing the Strategy. The Implementation Plan has also had regard to the Transmission Development Plan 2016, which is a plan for the development of the Irish transmission network and interconnection over a ten year period.

Where strategic route corridors are identified, the Council will safeguard such corridors from encroachment by inappropriate development and ensure their scope for development is maintained.

Policy Objectives Electricity and Gas

EG 1

Enhancement of Electricity Infrastructure

Support and promote the sustainable improvement and expansion of the electricity transmission and distribution network in the County, while taking into consideration landscape, residential, amenity and environmental considerations.

EG 2 Delivery of Electricity and Gas Infrastructure

Support the provision and extension of electricity and gas transmission networks within the county which are critical to the development of the County subject to environmental quality, landscape, wildlife, habitats or residential amenity.

EG 3 Power Capacity

To support and liaise with statutory and other energy providers in relation to power generation, in order to ensure adequate capacity for the existing and future needs of the County.

EG 4 EirGrid's Grid 25 Investment Programme

Support the implementation of EirGrid's Grid 25 Investment Programme, while taking into account landscape, residential and environmental considerations. As Key towns in the county Tuam, Ballinasloe & Loughrea should be given priority for the 220KVA line network. Its proximity to motorway access is attractive to developing commerce and industry with a target brown field sites in these key towns.

EG 5 Smart Grids and Smart Cities Action Plan

Support the roll-out of the Smart Grids and Smart Cities Action Plan enabling new connections, grid balancing, energy management and micro grid development.