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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination

Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2021-2027

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination is being made by Galway County Council regarding Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027. 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 AA.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 3 (no.) European Site, the River Suck Callows SPA, Middle Shannon Callows SPA, and River Shannon Callows SAC. The most likely effects of the potential site allocations within the plan on European sites are related to pressures from new development, including recreational impacts, atmospheric pollution, water abstraction/discharge, increased water pollution and flood risk management pressures. Sensitivity of Qualifying Features was identified across a number of potential hazards including (but not limited to) habitat loss and fragmentation, disturbance effects, changes to water quality and pollution.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

With reference to the Material Amendments, in making the determination that Appropriate Assessment is not required, information regarding potential effects on the integrity of European Sites and the nature of the Material Amendments were taken into account, and a finding of no significant effects from the Material Amendments was concluded. The

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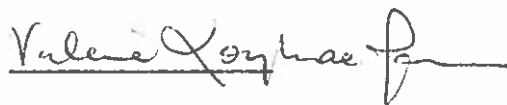
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Material Amendments were assessed in their own right, and the Screening Document for the Material Amendments will be published alongside the Draft Plan.

Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise as a result of the Proposed Material Alterations.

The AA Screening for the Proposed Material Alterations is part of the ongoing and overall AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

Signatories:


SP.

Brian Corcoran EP.
01/03/2022.

Date: 1/03/2022