

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF DEFERRED REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 11.00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Peter Keaveney  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**Baill:** Comh./Cllr. T. Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, C. Keaveney, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P.J. Murphy, Dr. E. Francis Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh.

**Apologies:** Cllr. A. Dolan, T. Welby

**Oifigh:** Mr. J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services, Ms. J. Brann, Meetings Administrator, Ms. V. Loughnane, Senior Planner, Mr. B. Dunne, A/Senior Executive Planner, Mr. B. Corcoran, Executive Planner, Ms. A O Moore, Asst. Planner, Ms. A. Power, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. U Ní Eidhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge

An Cathaoirleach P. Keaveney congratulated Cllr. Dr. Parsons on her daughter Beibhinn receiving the Sports Writer Player of the Year. He stated that it was a fantastic achievement and wished her well in her future rugby career.

He advised that the Members had agreed to a 2-minute timeframe for Members to make a comment/speak on a submission for meetings going forward and he asked Mr. Owens if this could be organized so as to allow them to get through the rest of the process in a more efficient manner.

Mr. Owens advised that if this was the wish of the Members, he would put that arrangement in place. He advised that the Members had acknowledged that they had a very significant work programme ahead of them. He referred to the 2,877 submissions that were made which was an unprecedented amount. He stated these were done on the basis that their submission would be considered. He said it was important for Members to understand the expectation that each submission would be afforded consideration by the Members.

An Cathaoirleach P. Keaveney stated that he would be having a discussion with Mr. Owens in relation to putting arrangements in place to make this work and would ask the Members to adhere to that.

Mr. Byrne advised that they had already read the submissions and suggested that the Executive give a very brief synopsis of them going forward rather reading it all into Meeting. He suggested if Members don't agree with CE Recommendation, they give reasons why they disagree and go for a vote. He said that were wasting a lot of time arguing as otherwise they won't get through this process.

Mr. Cullen stated that he appreciated those contributions. He stated that the record will show that CE Report was considered, and it carries with it the presumption that Members have read it cover to cover but agreed that they would go through it on a summary basis as suggested. He stated that the issue to be resolved would be the decision points, some of which they would agree on and others they wouldn't, but the critical point was that a decision was made.

Mr. Owens reminded the Elected Members of the provisions of Part 15 of the Local Government Act and the Code of Conduct for Councillors that provides the Ethical Framework for local government including provision for the disclosure of pecuniary or other beneficial interests or conflicts of interest. It was again noted that Councillors must disclose at a meeting of the local authority any pecuniary or other beneficial interest or conflict of interest (of which they have actual knowledge) they or a connected person have in, or material to, any matter with which the local authority is concerned in the discharge of its functions, and which comes before the meeting. The Councillor must withdraw from the meeting after their disclosure and must not vote or take part in any discussion or consideration of the matter or seek to in any other aspect influence the decision making of the Council. Mr. Owens referred to the paragraph 7 of the Protocol for Remote Meetings of Council for the guidance on the means of making a declaration at a remote meeting.

**To consider the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions received to the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 under Part 11, Section 12(5) and (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).** 3914

<b>It was agreed by Members to commence with Chapter CHAPTER 6 – TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT</b>
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## **GLW C10-1320 CLLR. KILLILEA**

### **Pg 356**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

#### **Section 6.5.2.4 Public Transport**

##### **Rail Services**

The county is served from the south and from the east via the Athenry/Limerick (Western Rail Corridor) and Galway/Dublin rail lines respectively. The Galway/Limerick line intersects with the Galway/Dublin line in Athenry. The disused rail line between Athenry and Claremorris via Tuam provides the potential for additional rail services to the north of the county and the extension of the Western Rail Corridor to provide rail access to the north west of the country. The council supports the opening of the Western Rail Corridor route from Athenry to Tuam, Claremorris and Collooney as an option for passenger and cargo transportation. In this regard it is acknowledged that the Government has announced an All Ireland Strategic Rail Review.

At present the existing railway line which serves Galway to Athlone is limited in terms of its capacity due to the infrastructural constraints. This plan supports the upgrade of this line including provision of a dual line being provided between Galway and Athlone which would significantly increase both the speed and frequency of service on this line. The Council considers the development of enhanced rail infrastructure to be critical in terms of facilitating balanced regional growth and the development of the Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP). The Council will continue to engage with Iarnród Éireann **and other service providers** in seeking to improve rail services and infrastructure at appropriate locations in the County.

##### **New PO as follows:**

**PT 9 Tuam to Galway City Light Rail Link (Via Claretuam, Corofin, Loughgeorge, Claregalway, Galway City)**

**To explore the possibility of a light rail link as a rural to Urban connector.**

#### **Section 6.5.2.2 Greenways and Blueways**

##### **GBW 1 Greenways**

To support the development of an integrated Strategic Greenway Network of national and regional routes and maximise connectivity to existing greenways through linkages of cycling and walking infrastructure in a manner that is compatible with nature conservation and other environmental policies. This will include but is not limited to the following which are of National and Regional importance;

- National Greenway Dublin to Galway
- Connemara Greenway i.e. (Clifden to Oughterard, Galway to Oughterard)
- **Develop the "Quiet Man Greenway" from Athenry to Milltown either alongside or on or adjacent to the existing rail infrastructure in some or most part.**

##### **Addition of this text to Table 6.1:**

Table 6.1 Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County Galway 2022-2028.

R336, R446, R332, R360, R328, R365, **R333 from Killbannon to Mayo Border.**

##### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Upon review, it is considered appropriate to include the R333 from Killbannon to Mayo border in Table 6.1, Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County Galway 2022-2028.

The topic in relation to the greenway has been addressed under the Department of Transport submission (GLW-C10-864).

It is not considered appropriate that this policy objective is included as it is not supported in the NDP, NPF and RSES.

Noted.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

See recommendation to Department of Transport (GLW-C10-864).

**Table 6.1 Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County Galway 2022-2028.**

**R336, R446, R332, R360, R328, R365, R333 from Killbannon to Mayo Border.**

Section 6.5.2.4 Public Transport Rail Services

Mr. Dunne advised that it was proposed to insert additional wording and include a new policy objective. He advised that there was already an objective in current plan that would support any infrastructure review within the county rather than specifically identify locations throughout the county and there were further submissions that had come in regard to rail. He further advised that the GTS would be reviewed this year. CE recommendation was not to include those amendments for those reasons.

Cllr. Killilea acknowledged the CE response. However, he stated that he would like this policy objective inserted into Development Plan and welcomed CE response on the other matters in this submission. Mr. Dunne stated that it was not appropriate to pre-determine or identify specific locations as this would undermine the Transport Strategy. Cllr. Killilea stated that he would accept CE Recommendation but would like his comments noted.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.***

Section 6.5.2.2 Greenways and Blueways

GBW 1 Greenways

Mr. Dunne advised that it was proposed to insert additional wording in this policy objective and additional text to Table 6.1. Mr. Dunne advised of policy objective PT 7 would cover this.

Cllr. Killilea requested that it be noted in Minutes that he was supporting this.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-2249 CLLR. DR. PARSONS**

**Pg 358**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

A new strategic aim is proposed in this submission:

- **Ballinasloe Townparks Relief Road linking also to Townparks Amenity Area**

**Other Roads**

- R336 Bearna-Scrib via Ros an Mhil
- Athenry Relief Road;
- Tuam Inner Relief Road;
- Kinvara Inner Relief Road;
- Link from the Parkmore Industrial Estate to the R339;
- **Ballinasloe Townparks Relief Road linking also to Townparks Amenity Area**

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028 is currently on public display and it is considered that this is the more appropriate form for the proposed strategic aim and the listing of the Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Dr. Parsons disagreed with CE Recommendation. She advised that specific funds were set out for these proposals in 2014 before the disbandment of Ballinasloe Town Council and these funds have yet to be utilized for these purposes. She acknowledged that it also had a place in Local Area Plan, but referenced the other roads that were noted in that policy, in particular Tuam and Athenry Relief Road. She stated the request for its inclusion here is that it will form a basis for co-funding arrangements to enable this infrastructure to be put into place. She stated that it would make a huge difference to Ballinasloe Town and would like to see it in the Plan. Cllrs. Broderick, Geraghty & D. Connolly supported and seconded her proposal. Cllr. M. Connolly concurred with comments and stated that development of this road was very important for the town and one of the outstanding pieces of infrastructure that is needed to develop Ballinasloe Town.

Mr. Dunne advised that the other Roads referenced in submission have Part 8 on them and have approved planning permission on them.

The following was agreed:

***Amendment to include two bullet points referencing Ballinasloe Townspark Relief Road was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1 WILLIAM FLYNN**

**Pg 359**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission has raised concern regarding the roads in Bearna, including flooding and traffic issues along the R336.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Galway County Council will continue to support extensions and improvements to existing roads infrastructure within the County. The Council recognises the importance of the public road network in the county and the importance of the continued safeguarding and development of this infrastructure to ensure the safety of road users, the transport of goods and services and connectivity between the settlements and the wider region.

The R336 is listed in Table 6.1 Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County Galway 2022-2028 and it is noted that network improvement works, strengthening overlay and improvements are required.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-165 ANNE GANNON**

**Pg 359**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission notes that it would be beneficial to have a cycle/footpath from the village to the pitch in Moycullen.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The County Development Plan is not an economic plan with the provision of financial budget to facilitate the construction of footpaths. The plan is a land use plan that supports the development of the plan area. There are policy objectives in relation to the provision of footpaths and lighting network etc within the settlement plan for Maigh Cuilinn (see Policy Objective **MSGT 7 Infrastructure** and **MSGT 9 Pedestrian and Cycle Network**). It is noted that the pitch is situated outside of the settlement boundary for Maigh Cuilinn and there is policy objective in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** that support the provision of footpaths etc. However, it is considered that the distance from the settlement to the pitch would require significant investment which is outside remit of the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McKinstry, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.***

Cllr. McKinstry requested that his support for this submission be noted.

## **GLW C10-561 AINE NI CHONNCHUBHAIR**

**Pg 360**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

The submission notes that there is a need for more bus services between the west and east of Galway City. This is suggested between Bearná / Knocknacarra, and the Parkmore / GMIT estates; and Oranmore / Athenry to NUIG / UHG which avoid the city centre.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The County Development Plan is a land use plan, the purpose of which is to support and facilitate development in relation to the policy objectives. There is a suite of policy objectives outlined in Section 6.5.2.4 Public Transport that support the expansion of bus services.

The provision of new bus routes/services is outside the remit of the County Development Plan and is a function of the associated regulatory authorities such as the National Transport Authority.

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-621 CITY BUS DIRECT LTD.**

**Pg 360**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation. He advised that this had already been dealt with under a motion submitted by Cllr. Killilea.

A comprehensive submission has been made which outlines an introduction to City Bus Direct Ltd., along with a description of the lands to which the submission relates and a vision for the subject lands. The submission relates to lands in the townland of Glennascaul, Oranmore which are located outside the MASP settlement of Oranmore. The submission requests that the lands would be used as 'open storage' for a bus depot.

The submission requests the reinstatement of Policy ED 3 and Policy ED 9 from the Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015 and this request is based on the need

to utilise established industrial and commercial use in lands outside of designated settlement centres for 'open storage' uses.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

It is not appropriate to identify lands outside settlement boundary for specific uses. The settlement plan for Oranmore and Urban Framework Plan for Garraun have lands zoned for business and enterprise/industrial uses and therefore development of this nature should be directed to identified settlements.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***This was dealt with previously under a motion by Cllr. Killilea. It was noted by Members.***

**GLW C10-667 TOM SAMPSON**

**Pg 361**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

The submission notes the need for a radical and just transition to low carbon transport and movement. The submission notes that the Draft County Development Plan has this vision however, relies upon third parties to deliver. The submission states that there is no provisions in the Draft Plan that will achieve a reduction in car traffic or emissions.

The submission suggests that safe segregated cycle and walking routes/paths should be implemented throughout Oranmore.

It is recommended that transport hubs should be created throughout the county to fully integrate transport options between all existing and proposed settlements.

It is requested that more specific emphasis and objectives on concepts that can reduce car travel, and in turn carbon emissions, are included (example of the 15-minute city concept provided).

The submission discusses issues such as bike parking at Park & Ride facilities, footpaths, bike lockers at train stations/bus stops/transport hubs, and ownership of the Oranhill link roads.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted by the Planning Authority. The County Development Plan is not an economic plan, it is a land use plan that supports the development of the plan area. The County Development Plan provides policy objectives which support the transition to low carbon transport and movement, and supports third parties in their proposals to achieve this transition. There is a suite of policy objectives in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** to support public transport, electric vehicles, and the transition to low carbon transport modes, in particular **Policy Objective ILUTP 1 Sustainable Transportation**.

The Planning Authority considers that there are sufficient policy objectives contained in the Draft County Development Plan to support concepts that can reduce car travel.

In relation to bike parking at Park and Ride facilities, Section 6.5.2.4 notes '*the Council will investigate the provision park and ride facilities at appropriate locations with the main focus on encouraging commuters to utilise public transport, reducing congestion and assisting in the transition to a low carbon county.*' The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 does not prohibit any of the proposals outlined in the submission.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-669 AINE NI CHONNCHUBHAIR**

**Pg 362**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

In relation to **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** the submission states that a greenway is needed for Connemara, which could be used as a means of travel for the people of Moycullen.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The submission has been noted. In **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**, Section 6.5.2.2 Greenways and Blueways contains a policy objective which recognises that the Connemara Greenway is of National and Regional importance, outlined in Policy Objective **GBW 1 Greenways**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-752 SEAN O KEEFFE**

**Pg 362**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

In relation to **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** the submission notes that a cycling greenway is required for East Galway and Connemara to assist with local transport

**Chief Executive's Response:**

It is considered that the provision of Greenways is adequately addressed within **Chapter 6 Transport & Movement** particularly with respect to **Policy Objectives GBW 1 Greenways** and **GBW 2 Future Development of Network of Greenways**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-746 CAROLINE ROWAN**

**Pg 362**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

In relation to **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**, the submission states that it is vital that high-quality, safe, sustainable transport alternatives are implemented in Galway. It is suggested to develop a light rail system running to and through Galway City and to each of the metropolitan settlements. This light rail system would enable travel between commuter towns and the city.

It is noted that Galway needs to embrace cycling as a sustainable mode of transport and implement safe cycle networks. Bike parking facilities should be provided at appropriate Park & Ride locations.

The submission discusses issues such as the provision of protected cycling infrastructure which keeps pedestrians safe from motorists; prioritising the Bearna – Oranmore cycleway within the lifetime of the plan; delivering Active Travel requires providing safe, wide footpaths; default speed limit of 30km/h should be applied to all urban areas; speed limits on the Oranmore Coast Road and Maree Road should be reduced from 80km/h to 50km/h.

The submission provides a rationale for the above proposals.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. There are a number of policy objectives which support sustainable transport modes in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**.

The Planning Authority supports cycling as a sustainable mode of transport. There are policy objectives outlined in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** to support cycling as a mode of transport. Policy Objective **WC 1 Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure**, **WC 2 Bicycle Parking**, **WC 4 Modern Network of Walking and Cycling Infrastructure** and **PT 5 Park and Ride** are examples of the various policy objectives which embrace cycling as a sustainable mode of transport.

The speed limits applied are outside of the remit of the County Development Plan and are a reserved function of the Elected Members dealt with under the Roads and Transportation Section.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-809 NIALL O BROLCHAIN**

**Pg 363**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission requests an ambition for Very Light Rail system in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. It is considered vital that Galway City Council and Galway County Council develop in partnership as people travel from the county to the city for work and vice versa.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. There are a number of policy objectives which support sustainable transport modes in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**. Policy Objective **GCTPS 9 Collaboration with Galway City** supports the collaboration with Galway City Council to bring forward transport proposals and measures that will enhance travel to and from Galway City.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

**Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion:**

**Add to Chapter 6 ,Transport and Movement,**  
**GCTPS 9 Collaboration with Galway City: The Council will specifically examine the potential for a very Light rail system.**

**Galway County Council supports Galway City Council in seeking national funding for a feasibility study of Very Light Rail in Galway City to be considered as part of a scheduled review of the Galway Transport Strategy in 2022.**

Mr. Dunne advised Members that there were policy objectives in place to support public transport within county and advised it was not necessary to bring forward this motion. He advised that there was a Transport Strategy in place, and it was premature to put in a specific policy objective for this as it was pre-determining an outcome.

Cllr. McKinstry requested that his motion go ahead, and this was supported by An Comh. O Curraoin. Mr. Dunne advised that the GTS would be under review during 2022 and urged the Members not to proceed with this wording. Mr. Pender advised that a light rail system might not be the optimum for this location. He advised that

they were working in collaboration with Galway City Council but advised that they can't pre-determine the outcome. Cllr. McKinstry withdrew his Motion.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-812 COMHLACHT FORBARTHA AN SPIDDEAL**

**Pg 364**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

The submission proposes an amendment/inclusion for **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** in relation to the capacity of the R336. The submission requests that the road is widened and bicycle use restricted to cyclists only. It is also requested that works commence on widening the footpath along the roadside from city boundary at Bearna to An Spidéal. It is suggested to improve bus services on this route to reduce car traffic and all school children travelling from An Spidéal to the city must use a bus. A rationale is provided for these proposals.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Galway County Council will continue to support extensions and improvements to existing roads infrastructure within the County. The Council recognises the importance of the public road network in the county and the importance of the continued safeguarding and development of this infrastructure to ensure the safety of road users, the transport of goods and services and connectivity between the settlements and the wider region.

The R336 is listed in Table 6.1 Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County Galway 2022-2028 and it is noted that network improvement works, strengthening overlay and improvements are required.

The County Development Plan is not an economic plan with the provision of financial budget to facilitate the construction of footpaths. The plan is a land use plan that supports the development of the plan area.

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-820 KILTULLAGH PIONEERS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Pg 364**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

The submission provides background information regarding road safety at Kiltullagh to frame the submission. It is requested that the Council review traffic management plans to cater for a suitable upgrade of the link road, L7182, that will resolve the current dangers associated with daily commuting traffic and pedestrian accessibility to Castlepark. It is requested that the road layout and traffic management upgrade is provided for under **Policy Objective GCTPS 7 Improvements to Road Networks**. A rationale has been provided for this proposal.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. Table 6.1 Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County Galway 2022-2028 contained in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** notes that works are to be undertaken to local and regional road networks within the county including to continue strengthening, improvements and realignment works where necessary, to these networks.

Section 6.3.3 Galway County Transport and Planning Strategy and Galway Transport Strategy contains Policy Objective **GCTPS 7 Improvements to Road Network** which aims to manage and maintain the efficient and safe operation of the road network under its control.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-889 BRENDAN MULLIGAN**

**Pg 365**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

The submission requests that the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes a policy objective to support the Gluas Committee case for the undertaking of an independent, comprehensive feasibility study on a Very Light Rail System for Galway City and across the Galway MASP. It is requested that this feasibility study is undertaken as part of the review of the Galway Transport Strategy.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. There are a number of policy objectives which support sustainable transport modes in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**.

At this stage of the plan making process, the Draft Plan supports public transport such as in Section 6.5.2.4 Public Transport, and the policies and objectives contained in the Galway County Transport & Planning Strategy promote public transport. A number of other stakeholders would need to be consulted in relation to light rail provision, and it would be outside the remit of the development plan to specify such a study to be undertaken without consultation with said stakeholders. Policy Objective **GCTPS 9 Collaboration with Galway City** supports the

collaboration with Galway City Council to bring forward transport proposals and measures that will enhance travel to and from Galway City.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-901 EILIS BELL**

**Pg 366**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission requests the provision of walking/cycling infrastructure on key access routes to Scoil Sailearna, Indreabhán. It is also requested to provide a coastal walkway extending from the pre-existing Spiddal Walkway west to An Trá Mhór

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** contains sufficient policy objectives to support the provision of walking/cycling infrastructure. The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 supports cycling as a sustainable mode of transport. The Draft Plan does not prohibit any of the proposals outlined in the submission.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***It was agreed to defer this until An Comh O Cualáin was available***

**GLW C10-932 COISTE COMHAIRLEACH PLEAN 5 BLIANA IORRAS AITHNEACH**

**Pg 366**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

The submission relates to a number of chapters in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. In relation to **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**, the submission proposes inclusions for Section 6.5.3, including the need for improvements to existing road infrastructure along the N59, R336 and roads of lower grading in the National Transport Hierarchy in Connemara.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that this has been adequately addressed in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. Table 6.1 Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County

Galway 2022-2028 contained in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** notes that works are to be undertaken to the N59 and R336 along with local and regional roads across the country.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by An Comh O Curraoin, seconded by Cllr. Reddington and agreed by the Members.***

### **GLW C10-934 RONAN MAC GIOLLAPHARAIC**

**Pg 367**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission relates to the need for facilities at Cill Ronain Harbour. The need for pontoons / marina is noted. These would improve access for people with disabilities and would cater for smaller vessels. Facilities at Cill Ronain Harbour are below par (e.g. toilet facilities needed).

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Policy Objective **IS 3 Development of Pier Infrastructure** contained in **Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands** supports the enhancement and development of new pier infrastructure.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

***It was agreed to defer this until An Comh O Cualáin was available***

### **GLW C10-945 RONAL MAC GIOLLAPHARAIC**

**Pg 367**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission relates to traffic management at Dun Aonghasa. Concern is raised regarding the volume of traffic, safety and the need for a future traffic management plan at this location.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The preparation of a traffic management plan at Dun Aonghasa is outside the remit of the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

***It was agreed to defer this until An Comh O Cualáin was available***

## **GLW C10-954 MURT COLEMAN**

### **Pg 367**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission requests a feasibility study for Very Light Rail to connect Bearna, Moycullen and Oranmore.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. There are a number of policy objectives which support sustainable transport modes in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**.

At this stage of the plan making process, the Draft Plan supports public transport such as in Section 6.5.2.4 Public Transport and the policies and objectives contained in the Galway County Transport & Planning Strategy promote public transport. A number of other stakeholders would need to be consulted in relation to light rail provision which would be outside the remit of the development plan to specify such a study to be undertaken without consultation with said stakeholders.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***This was already dealt with. It was noted by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-1162 WEST ON TRACK**

### **Pg 368**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission provides information on West on Track. The focus of the submission is the protection and development of the section of Western Rail Corridor that passed from Athenry through Tuam on to County Mayo. The submission outlines relevant national and local policy in relation to rail, and support is shown towards various policy objectives and sections of the Draft County Development Plan in relation to rail. The submission requests that Section 6.3.2 includes the text of the specific RSES objective referred to. It is requested that the following strategic aim is included in Section 6.2:

***To promote the renewal of the Claremorris-Tuam-Athenry rail line including the provision of Park and Ride stops at Tuam and Abbeyknockmoy.***

The submission suggests that planning permission should not be granted in cases where a proposed development would infringe on or interfere with the integrity of the thoroughfare of the Western Rail Corridor.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority considers that this has been adequately addressed in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**. Policy Objective **PT 7 Western Rail Corridor** supports the opening of this rail line for passengers and cargo.

Planning permission for any development would be granted subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, compliance with relevant development management standards and compliance with national policy.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1225 WESTERN INTER-COUNTY RAILWAY COMMITTEE**

**Pg 369**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission requests that a commitment contained in Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 and other County Development Plans is reinstated in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, as follows:

- ***Seek to protect and safeguard the significant investment made in strategic transportation infrastructure, in particular the network of national roads, the existing rail lines and the Western Rail Corridor.***

Additional policy objectives and amendments to current maps are proposed. Policy objectives as follows:

- ***Galway to Athlone Rail Railway Line – construct a dual railway track and additional improvement works to include an additional platform and a passing loop at Garraun, Oranmore to ensure enhanced capacity and frequency of service.***

- ***Western Rail Corridor – reconstruct the Western Rail Corridor from Athenry to Tuam and Claremorris to Collooney for passenger and freight transportation, with Park and Ride facilities at Abbeyknockmoy and Tuam.***

Amendment proposed to Map 6.1 Transport Network to include Abbeyknockmoy.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Policy Objective **PT 7 Western Rail Corridor** and Policy Objective **GCTPS 5 Upgrade to Public Transport Networks** supports the opening and upgrading of the Western Rail Corridor.

The policy objectives mentioned above in relation to the Western Rail Corridor adequately cover this.

It is not considered necessary to include Abbeyknockmoy on this map as it is a higher level, strategic map.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that he saw merit in including Abbeyknockmoy on mapping system as Galway County Council owned a piece of land there. He stated that if and when Western Rail Corridor was opened, it would be Quiet Man Station would remain there at Finnegan's Cross at N63. He stated there was a demand for Park and Ride facilities at this location. Cllr. McClearn supported these comments. Cllr. McHugh/Farag stated that if that rail does become active, she would like to see that building protected. Cllr. Sheridan supported Cllr. M. Connolly's proposal.

Mr. Dunne stated that the Members concerns were noted. Referring to Table 6.1, from Development Plan perspective, he advised this was a high-level map and advised against adding another layer of potential ones as the policy objective for Western Rail Corridor was already there and was adequately covered off in Chapter 6. Cllr. M. Connolly asked that his comments be noted.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-1271 GLUAS COMMITTEE**

### **Pg 369**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

A detailed submission has been made regarding the provision of Very Light Rail in Galway. A rationale for the proposal is outlined in the body of the submission and how the implementation of this system across the Galway MASP can contribute to meeting the objectives in the National Planning Framework and RSES has been set out, with particular reference to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, UN Sustainable Development Goals and specific chapters of the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. The submission requests that the following policy objective is included in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028:

- ***Galway County Council supports Galway City Council in seeking national funding for a feasibility study of Very Light Rail in Galway City to be considered as part of a scheduled review of the Galway Transport Strategy in 2022.***

***This matter has already been dealt with. It was noted by Members.***

## **GLW C10-1391 PAUL A CASSIDY**

### **Pg 370**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission is in favour of re-opening the Western Rail Corridor. The submission provides an overview of the Western Rail Corridor; the Climate Action Bill 2020;

future electrification of the railways and the Western Railway Corridor as an economic driver for north east Galway. The submission notes the recent investment for the upgrading of rail infrastructure in Cork linking Mallow to Kent Railway Station.

The submission notes that the railway corridor is of national importance and should be left as a railway for the purpose it was intended until it is re-opened.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** provides policy objectives to support the opening of the Western Rail Corridor, and the addition of Loughrea to this. Policy Objective **PT 7 Western Rail Corridor** and **PT 8 Loughrea Rail Infrastructure** support the opening and expansion of the Western Rail Corridor.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1403 KEVIN J CASSIDY**

**Pg 370**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission is in favour of re-opening the Western Rail Corridor. The submission outlines reasons as to why they wish to see the Western Rail Corridor reopened. The submission notes the recent investment for the upgrading of rail infrastructure in Cork linking Mallow to Kent Railway Station.

It is noted that the Western Rail Corridor is vital to Tuam commuters, and is an integral part of the National Rail Grid.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** provides policy objectives to support the opening of the Western Rail Corridor, and the addition of Loughrea to this. Policy Objective **PT 7 Western Rail Corridor** and **PT 8 Loughrea Rail Infrastructure** support the opening and expansion of the Western Rail Corridor.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Reddington, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-1408 ROBERT O'HALLORAN

### Pg 371

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission relates to the Western Railway Corridor. The submission provides an overview of the Western Railway Corridor. The submission outlines other rail services in Cork and Dublin which are operative, or have been extended/received funding. The submission notes that the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor is of paramount importance for economic and connectivity purposes for Galway and Ireland as a whole. It is suggested that the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor has to form a vital and integral part of the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

#### Chief Executive's Response:

The contents of the submission have been noted. **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** provides policy objectives to support the opening of the Western Rail Corridor, and the addition of Loughrea to this. Policy Objective **PT 7 Western Rail Corridor** and **PT 8 Loughrea Rail Infrastructure** support the opening and expansion of the Western Rail Corridor.

#### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Reddington, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-2301 MARK CASSIDY

### IPg 371

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

This submission is in favour of the re-opening of the Western Rail Corridor. The submission contains 13 no. points outlining the advantages of the re-opening, and notes the recent investment for the upgrading of rail infrastructure in Cork linking Mallow to Kent Railway Station.

The submission notes that the railway corridor is of national importance and should be left as a railway for the purpose it was intended until it is re-opened.

#### Chief Executive's Response:

The contents of the submission have been noted. **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** provides policy objectives to support the opening of the Western Rail Corridor, and the addition of Loughrea to this. Policy Objective **PT 7 Western Rail Corridor** and **PT 8 Loughrea Rail Infrastructure** support the opening and expansion of the Western Rail Corridor.

#### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Reddington, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed by the Members.***

## **SUBMISSION REFERENCE NUMBERS ARE APPENDED TO CE REPORT – RE: GREENWAYS IN COUNTY GALWAY**

Members were advised that a total of 1,654 submissions were received relating to the topic of Greenways in County Galway. Submission reference numbers were appended to CE Report on Submissions received.

### **Chief Executive's Response**

A significant number of submissions were received relating to the topic of greenways in County Galway. There is no prohibition of the development of greenway infrastructure in County Galway within the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan makes supporting reference to greenways throughout Volume 1. In addition, a number of Policy Objectives support the development of the greenway.

For example, in **Chapter 6 Transport and Infrastructure GBW 1 Greenways and GBW 2 Future Development of Network of Greenways** support the development of greenways in County Galway.

Greenways are also supported in **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure**, specifically under Policy Objectives **BGP 1 Strategic Greenways/Blueways, BGP 2 Development of Strategic Greenway Network and BGP 3 Greenways, Blueways, Peatways and Trails.**

Greenways are also supported with Policy Objectives in **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**.

There is strong narrative and supporting Policy Objectives that is favourable towards greenways in the County throughout the Draft Plan. However, the delivery of the greenway does not fall within the remit of the Draft Plan.

However, the delivery of the greenway does not fall within the remit of the Draft Galway County Development Plan.

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

Please See Chief Executive's Response to submission GLW-C10-864.

Mr. Dunne stated that there was a significant amount of policy objectives in the Development Plan in terms of promotion and encouraging of greenways.

Cllr. Killilea stated that there has been a lot of comments regarding the large number of submissions in relation to the Quiet Man Greenway and he extended a huge thanks to the people for taking the time and effort to do so. He stated that he would

be supporting CE Recommendation on this. Cllr. McHugh/Farag stated that this summary did not reflect the fact that over 1,600 of these submissions related to the Quiet Man Greenway and she didn't believe there was ever another project that received such a volume of submissions. She stated that she was going to reject CE Recommendation because it didn't reflect on what was included in the postcards. Cllr. Byrne stated he would like it to be noted his support for the proposal for the greenway and would be supporting the CE Recommendation. Cllr. Herterich/Quinn stated that she would also like to reference the huge commitment people have put in in relation to their submissions on the Development Plan and looked forward to seeing how the rail and greenway can work together. Cllr. McClearn commended all who had made a submission but stated that some of the submissions made in this regard were not authentic and he suggested that it called into question the whole process. He particularly referred to some that were made in people's names that had not actually made a submission. Cllr. Broderick commented on the amount of monies that was going to be spent on greenways rather than on the provision of basic services that were required, particularly in east Galway. Cllrs. Reddington, Roche, O Curraoin, Hoade & McKinstry welcomed the fact that so many people took the time to make a submission and supported the Greenway and Western Rail Corridor and hoped that both could be delivered.

Cllr. McHugh/Farag stated that they could have both the Greenway and Western Rail Corridor along the same alignment. She stated that her concern as a public representative was in relation to the CE response.

Mr. Cullen explained that the CE Report was just a synopsis, that everybody was familiar with what the submissions were and what was in it and the proposal was to accept CE Recommendation. Cllr. McHugh/Farag stated that she did not accept that. Cllr. Killilea stated that he agreed with the sentiments expressed by Cllr. McHugh/Farag because there was a clear and definitive understanding if a Feasibility Study from Quiet Man Greenway that the policy objectives in Development Plan would embrace the Greenway Strategy. Cllr. McHugh/Farag proposed to take what was in the submission on the Quiet Man Greenway and accept that as a submission and didn't feel that synopsis was adequate. Mr. Dunne stated that he had reviewed all submissions and in particular the grouping of submissions in relation to Quiet Man Greenway, all submissions addressed the pertinent concept of the requirement of a Greenway and the CE Report reflected this. He suggested that the summary read by Cllr. McHugh/Farag of the postcard submissions would be ready into the minutes. This was not accepted. Cllr. McHugh/Farag again highlighted that she wanted it included in Development Plan. Ms. Loughnane advised that if they were to go with what was proposed in motion, it would be amending it to name the Quiet Man as a greenway of national importance in the CE report or Department of Transport. She advised that the Department of Transport submission has already included it with respect to Athenry/Milltown. Cllr. McHugh/Farag was requested to submit the proposed motion to Forward Planning Unit. Cllr. Byrne stated that irrespective of what they did here, this process was in

place. Some projects will happen irrespective of what they do in Development Plan and didn't think that it really made a difference.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that there was no one opposed to concept of greenways. He referred to a Committee he was on that has members from six local authorities that are all supportive of this and want to see the Western Rail Corridor re-opened. He stated that he was opposed to greenway on the actual rail line. Mr. Cullen advised that the feasibility study was to look at all of the options and the greenway from Athenry/Tuam was non-specific. He explained the Development Plan facilitates that should there be a feasible route there was an objective in the current Development Plan for the Western Rail Corridor and that objective was contained in RSES.

**Cllr. McHugh/Farag submitted the following Motion:**

*I propose that GBW1 be amended to name the Quiet Man Greenway (QMG) as a greenway of national and regional importance.*

Cllr. McHugh/Farag stated that she wanted the Quiet Man Greenway to be enshrined and included as of significant importance in the Development Plan. Cllr. Killilea withdrew his proposal on the CE Report. Mr. Cullen stated that the proposal, as he understood, was to name the greenway from Athenry/Tuam in the Development Plan and explained that would be identifying the result of the greenway prior to any studies being carried out and that would be inappropriate. He stated it was already provided for in the Development Plan. Ms. Loughnane advised that if the route was identified as proposed in this motion, it would not get through the SEA or AA screening. Cllr. McClearn stated that the same advice applied here as already had been given in a previous motion and stated that they should go with CE Recommendation.

Mr. Dunne referred to 6.1.3. in RSES and brought it up on screen for Members' information (Pg 223 of RSES). He explained that the wording of this motion meant that they were pre-empting a scheme and urged the Members against agreeing to this motion as it may hinder the project. Cllr. McHugh/Farag stated that the wording was quite open and hadn't mentioned the route in her motion and queried why it wouldn't pass SEA or AA? Ms. Loughnane explained that the Quiet Man Greenway has an associated map with it and was of National and Regional importance. She explained that the Feasibility Study had to determine that. She referred to RSES and explained there was a policy objective listing RPO proposal which included the actual Greenway. She explained that the motion meant that they were actually calling it something now and there was a route indicated on a map. Cllr. McHugh/Farag stated that she had moved away from the submission as a whole and have requested that only the title be included in it. Ms. Loughnane stated that it was the actual naming of it that was the issue, and the name was associated with a route. She explained that when the feasibility study came out, the name of this particular route would already have been included in the Development Plan and that would create a difficulty going forward.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote to be taken. A vote was taken and resulted as follows:

**For - 13**

Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Herterich/Quinn	Cllr. Hoade
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. P. Keaveney,	Cllr. Kelly,
Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. Kinane	Cllr. McHugh/Farag
Cllr. Reddington,	Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Thomas
Cllr. Walsh		

**Against - 14**

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Carroll	Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. O Curraoin	Cllr. Finnerty
Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. Mannion
Cllr. McClearn	Cllr. McKinstry	Cllr. Murphy
Cllr. Parsons	Cllr. Sheridan	

**Abstain – 4**

Cllr. Cronnelly	Cllr. Cuddy	Comh. O Cualáin
Cllr. G. Donohue		

**No Reply: 8**

***The Cathaoirleach declared the Motion not carried.***

**Mr. Dunne advised that they would re-visit deferred submissions and motions received in relation to this chapter.**

**Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion:**

<b>GLW-C10-486, GLW-C10-165</b>
<b>Add to Chapter 6 ,Transport and Movement, Specific Active Travel Plans shall be developed for all Settlement areas 1-5 within the lifetime of the plan.</b>

Mr. Dunne advised that Local Area Plans were currently being prepared for Ballinasloe and Tuam and advised that Loughrea, Gort and Athenry Plans would be happening later in the year. He stated that it was not necessary to bring in this specific policy objective when it was already covered off in the Local Area Plans.

Cllr. McKinstry suggested there was a need to build up Active Travel Plans and that was why he was bring forward this motion.

Mr. Dunne outlined the following:

Level 1 – MASP included in GTS

Level 2 – Key Towns (Local Transport Plan) – Ballinasloe & Tuam

Level 3 – Towns of - Loughrea, Gort, Athenry – LAPs

NTA – in terms of Traffic Management Plans.

He stated that it was already underway with Local Transport Plans – Tuam would be starting in the coming weeks and Ballinasloe was already underway. He explained that as they moved along, they would be engaging with Municipal Areas on this. He stated that this policy objective may cause more confusion than anything else and would request going with what is in the Development Plan and asked Mr. Pender, Director of Services to comment on same.

Mr. Pender advised that they were in the middle of procurement process and roll-out of three stages as follows:

1. Headford, Kinvara, Loughrea & Oranmore/Garraun
2. Athenry, Clifden, Gort, Portumna, Maigh Cuilinn & Oughterard
3. Dunmore, Glenamaddy, An Cheathru Rua, An Spideal, Ballygar & Moylough

He advised that would be happening over the course of the next two years.

***Mr. Dunne referred to policy objective ILUPT 1 and suggested that the wording Active Travel Plan would be included in this objective. This was agreed by Cllr. McKinstry.***

**Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion**

***In line with National Strategy, to move to a 25% reduction in vehicle-km by 2030, the Council will draw up plans for a modal shift to active & public transport***

Cllr. McKinstry stated that the purpose of this motion was to include actual targets and stated that there was a need to put in some form of modal shift in policy going forward beyond promotion of just active measures. Mr. Dunne advised that the County Development Plan was not the place for these figures and was more appropriate in the Local Transport Plan and Active Plans. Ms. Loughnane, referring to GCTPS, advised that it was already in the Plan. She advised that it was not possible to bring everything from supporting documents into the Plan. If you start to bring this in, when it is published, these figures could change. That all comes from appended document to CDP.

***Cllr. McKinstry accepted this response and withdrew his motion.***

**Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion (PARK & RIDE)**

**GLW-C10-561, GLW-C10-667**

**Chapter 6: Transport and Movement** The plan will, as part of identifying park and ride facilities, consider areas as transport hubs for connecting National bus services with future Local Link buses.

Cllr. McKinstry queried if this wording could be added to section on Park & Ride. Mr. Dunne advised that Park & Ride was referenced in both GCTPS and GTS. He also advised that they were covered in DM 32 and was included in Transport Strategy. This was agreed by Cllr. McKinstry. Cllr. McKinstry withdrew his motion.

**Cllr. Herterich/Quinn submitted the following Motion:**

*I would like to note and reference the intention of Irish Rail to invest €500m in a Freight Hub in Athenry. I would like it to be included in and referenced in the County Development Plan under the appropriate section.*

Ms. Loughnane advised that there was a policy objective on that already and referred to GCTPS 8 which includes freight in wording. She suggested that perhaps it could be identified more when Athenry LAP was being prepared.

***This was accepted by Cllr. Herterich/Quinn.***

**Cllr. Sheridan submitted the following Motion:**

*That the N17 be added to the National Roads network listing as per earlier today.*

***Mr. Dunne advised that it was already included in Tables 6.1 and 6.12. This was noted by the Members.***

**Cllr. Mannion submitted the following Motion:**

*I propose that an objective is put into the CDP - that Cleggan and Inishboffin airstrips be brought into use to support economic development and enterprise in North Connemara.*

Mr. Dunne advised Air Strips were already referenced in policy objective AT 2 6.5 (Pg 133).

Cllr. Mannion explained that the airstrip was already in place and wanted to have them included in Plan. She explained that they were built over 10 years ago that it was a resource they had in North Connemara that was not in use and use should be made of them.

***Mr. Dunne suggested amending wording and bring it back before Members for approval. This was agreed.***

***It was agreed to deal with Motions that were deferred earlier as follows:***

### **GLW C10-901 EILIS BELL**

#### **Deferred from earlier**

Mr. Dunne advised that there was a policy objective in plan to support such schemes. An Comh O Cualáin stated that the submission was requesting extension of walkway from An Spideal to Rossaveal and the policy objective to name that coastal walkway. Mr. Dunne He advised against a proposal of identifying a specific walkway. He explained that there had to be policy objective in the plan, a feasibility study in place and Part 8 granted before a project can be identified for funding, following which it had to be environmentally assessed. An Comh. O Cualáin explained that Sli Conamara was being carried out by Udaras na Gaeltachta and they wanted to extend it on from Spideal to Rossaveal.

Mr. Dunne again urged against naming a scheme in Development Plan in advance of screen/assessment being carried out. He suggested that it could be included as a commentary in Minutes and again advised that this would cause a problem for the County Development Plan in its entirety.

Mr. Cullen acknowledged that some Members have a menu of projects that they would like to promote. However, in identifying projects in this plan, he explained they have to be subjected to various screenings/environmental assessments to determine if the project was allowed to advance, which hasn't happened in this case and may undermine the project. He stated that there were policy and objectives in Development Plan that support projects of this natures. He advised that he has no objection to what was being proposed but citing of this in Development Plan as proposed was not appropriate. He explained that the whole principle of independent projects that don't have a feasibility study was that they have not gone through an SEA and AA and therefore could not be included in Development Plan.

An Comh. O Cualáin withdrew his proposal.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed by the Members.***

### **GLW C10-934 RONAN MAC GIOLLAPHARAIC**

**An Comh. O Cualáin submitted the following Motion:**

*I propose to reject the CEO's recommendation and that reference would be made under Policy Objective PH5 Pier Infrastructure on the Islands Support the enhancement and development of new pier infrastructure to the islands including*

*pontoons that shall provide for safe access by sea and include but shall not be limited to Improved pier infrastructure including Toilet facilities on Inis Mór, Inis Oír and Inis Meáin in the Aran Islands.*

Mr. Dunne advised that the matters requested were included in policy objective IS 3 Development of Pier Infrastructure and therefore it was not necessary to include it. An Comh. O Cualáin withdrew his motion.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-945 RONAN MAC GIOLLAPHARAIC**

**An Comh. O Cualáin submitted the following Motion:**

*I propose to reject the CEO's recommendation. I propose that a new policy objective would be included as NNR9 That states Galway County Council along with all the various stakeholders on Inis Mór would undertake a feasibility study and explore all possible solutions to address the ongoing traffic and safety issues in relation to Dún Aonghasa during the lifetime of the plan.*

Mr. Dunne advised that Dun Aonghasa was an OPW site and not in Council ownership. In response to An Comh. O Cualáin regarding the roadway, Mr. Pender advised that the entire road was not public. He further advised that he had a recent meeting with the Islanders and was in communication with the OPW on the matter and there was activity going on in the background. An Comh. O Cualáin withdrew his motion.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed by the Members.***

**An Comh. O Cualáin submitted the following Motion:**

*I propose that a Policy objective be inserted in the plan that states Given the strategic importance of The R336 that Galway County Council will undertake as a matter of urgency/Priority a New Route Selection process and the commencement of a same to replace the current R336 within the life-time of the plan. It is imperative that a new route selection process be undertaken as a matter of urgency to replace the current R336. The current road is not fit for purpose and is noted to be at risk from climate change and the possibility of parts of the road being submerged within the next 10 years. The increased traffic volume on the road and increased number of accidents on the road are also a grave concern.*

The wording was further amended as follows:

**Insert new Policy Objective PRP 3 as follows:**

**PRP 3 R336 Bearna-Scrib via Ros a Mhíl**

It is a policy objective of Galway County Council to support the preparation of a feasibility study in relation to the R336 within the lifetime of the plan.

Mr. Dunne advised that there was an existing policy objective in relation to R336 and CE recommendation would not be recommending this policy objective. Mr. Pender stated that the Department of Transport had made it very clear that until such time as a final decision was made on N6GCRR until An Bord Pleanala decision was finalized. He advised that it was not possible to put in a time-line on when a Judicial Review Process would conclude. He stated that once a decision was made on the Ring Road and once Judicial Review Process was concluded, it was at that stage they could go back to Department about this roadway. While he appreciated where An Comh O Cualáin was coming from he advised that this proposal was premature at this stage. An Comh O Cualáin advised that he was raising it because of road safety concerns at this location. An Comh. Mac an Iomaire feared that the Ring Road would be objected to and that they would have to wait for a number of years for anything to happen on this road.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote to be taken. A vote was taken and resulted as follows:

For – 28

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Carroll
Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. O Cualáin	Cllr. Cuddy
Cllr. Curley	Cllr. O Curraoin	Cllr. Finnerty
Cllr. Herterich/Quinn	Cllr. Hoade	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. Kelly	Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. Kinane
Cllr. King	Cllr. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. Mannion
Cllr. McClearn	Cllr. McKinstry	Cllr. Murphy
Cllr. McHugh/Farag	Cllr. Parsons	Cllr. Reddington
Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Sheridan	Cllr. Thomas
Cllr. Walsh		

Against – 0

Abstain – 4

Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. D. Cronnelly	Cllr. Donohue
Cllr. Geraghty		

No Reply -7

**An Cathaoirleach declared the Motion carried.**

**An Comh. O Cualáin submitted the following Motion:**

*I propose the following insertion to Policy Objective PH2*

*PH 2 Sustainable Development of Ports, Harbours, Piers and Slipways*

*a) Support the development of Ros an Mhíl Harbour as a deep water port and support and facilitate improvements and maintenance to other harbours and consider any new marine infrastructure where appropriate. Protect and upgrade all other small piers and slips throughout the county that continue to be used by the public.*

The wording was further amended as follows:

Amend Policy Objective PH2 as follows:

- a) Support the development of Ros an Mhíl Harbour as a deep water port and support and facilitate improvements and maintenance to other harbours, **piers and slips throughout the County**, and consider any new marine infrastructure where appropriate.
- b) Facilitate the safe and convenient access to the water for the purpose of public transport, industry, commerce, sea rescue, tourism, aquaculture and recreation where appropriate and as resources allow.

***This motion was proposed by An Comh. O Cualáin, seconded by An Comh. O Curraoin and agreed by the Members.***

**Cllr. Mannion submitted the following Motion:**

**T 2 Local Airstrips**

- (a) *The Council shall liaise with the Irish Aviation Authority with regard to the effects of any development proposals in the vicinity of local air strips;*
- (b) ***Support that the Cleggan and Inishboffin airstrips be brought into use to support economic development.***

***This motion was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1260 CLLR. KING**

**Pg 358**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

**6.5.5 Ports, Harbours, Piers and Slipways**

Give slipways a separate identity and plan as they are a serious Health & Safety issue if not attended yearly (I.E contract).

**Chief Executive's Response:**

From a land-use perspective, the Planning Authority considers that the reference to slipways is appropriate where they are.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. King explained that the slipways were equivalent of runways for mainland people and stated that what was happening at moment was they were not being cleaned and maintained on a regular basis. Mr. Dunne explained that under policy objective 6.5.5. and there was a specific Chapter on Marine. He also referred back to An Comh. O Cualain's motion which also included slipways.

***It was proposed by Cllr. King, seconded by an Comh. O Curraoin and agreed by the Members.***

**It was agreed to move on to Chapter 7 - Infrastructure, Utilities and Environmental Protection**

Mr. Cullen advised that they needed to focus now on submissions that were in CE Report that was sent to each Member as otherwise they would find themselves in a situation where they were dealing with Members Motions being submitted and may not have time to deal with submissions that came through the process.

Cllr. Byrne proposed that from now on they would deal with submissions in CE Report and to deal with motions outstanding after submissions were dealt with. This was agreed by the Members.

**GLW C10-1810 CLLR. DONOHUE**

**Pg 374**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

It is recommended that the siting of antenna and masts shall accord with strict guidelines for the siting of same in proximity to Protected Structures and within Architectural Conservation Areas.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

It is considered that there are Policy Objectives contained in **Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage** which address the concerns raised in this submission.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-1320 CLLR. KILLILEA**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

It is recommended that the following amendments are made to **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities & Environmental Protection:**

### **7.5.10 Sludge Management**

Irish Water is responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and wastewater treatment plants. Irish Water has prepared a National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (NWSMP) which outlines Irish Water's strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for managing wastewater sludge over a 25-year period. It is proposed that the NWSMP will have ongoing five yearly reviews. The current plan covers 2016-2021 and will be revised and updated in 2021 for the period 2022-2027. A separate plan will be prepared in relation to sludge produced at drinking water plants. The NWSMP proposes to develop a Sludge Hub Centre and Satellite Dewatering Site network for wastewater sludge treatment, optimised on a regional rather than county basis. **The Tuam Area will not be suitable or considered appropriate siting for a regional Connaught/Ulster waste management facility and/or as a regional or county sludge hub given its proximity to the SAC Lough Corrib and River Clare flood plain and the processing or associated treatment will not be permitted in the life time of this plan**

### **7.5.10 Sludge Management**

WW 1 Enhancement of Wastewater Supply Infrastructure Work in conjunction with Irish Water to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure, to facilitate future growth in the county.

**The Tuam Area will not be suitable or considered appropriate siting for a regional Connaught/Ulster waste management facility and/or as a regional or county sludge hub given its proximity to the SAC Lough Corrib and River Clare flood plain and the processing or associated treatment will not be permitted in the life time of this plan**

### **WW 2 Delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure**

Liaise and co-operate with Irish Water in the implementation and delivery of the Water Services Strategic Plan (2015) and the Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-2024 and other relevant investment works programmes of Irish Water in the delivery of infrastructure within the county. **The Tuam Area will not be suitable or considered appropriate siting for a regional Connaught/Ulster waste management facility and/or as a regional or county sludge hub given its proximity to the SAC Lough Corrib and River Clare flood plain and the processing or associated treatment will not be permitted in the life time of this plan.**

### **7.7 Electricity**

#### **EG 4 EirGrid's Grid 25 Investment Programme**

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

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted.

The content of the submission with respect to Sludge Management is outside the remit of the Development Plan. The allocation of Waste Management facilities does not fall within the control of the Council.

This is outside of the remit of the Council. The provision of electricity infrastructure as indicated in the submissions would be the responsibility of Eirgrid.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

**7.7 Electricity**

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Sheridan and agreed by the Members.***

**7.5.10 Sludge Management , Policy Objective WW1 & WW2**

Cllr. Killilea stated that the WWTP in Tuam was marred with a lot of breakdowns and would not be suitable for the siting of a regional waste management facility or as a county/regional sludge hub. Cllr. Sheridan seconded Cllr. Killilea's motion and stated that bringing sludge from half of Ireland into Tuam was not good policy.

In relation to proposed text to be added to WW 1 and WW 2, Ms. Loughnane advised that this was not the place to do this, and it was not possible to put in a policy objective that doesn't allow for certain things.

***CE Recommendation was rejected by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Sheridan and agreed by the Members.***

Cllr. Dr. Parsons advised that she also had a submission in with regard to sludge management which had the same issue about siting of sludge facility near areas of protection. She stated that her motion was very similar and very relevant and stated that it would save time if her motion was dealt with now also.

***It was agreed that Cllr. Dr. Parsons Motion would be dealt with separately once all submissions in CE report had been considered.***

**GLW C10-2247 CLLR. SHERIDAN**

**Pg 376**

Ms. Loughnane advised that this was same as previous submission – GLW-C10-1320.

Same as submission GLW-C10-1320 above

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Same as submission GLW-C10-1320 above.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
Same as submission GLW-C10-1320 above

***This was already dealt with in GLW-C10 1320. Noted by Members.***

### **GLW C10-2246 CLLR. SHERIDAN**

**Pg 376**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

#### **7.7 Electricity**

##### **EG 4 EirGrid's Grid 25 Investment Programme**

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

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted. It is not in the remit of the County Development Plan to prioritise areas for investment over one part of the county to another.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

### **GLW C10-1129 CLLR. DR. PARSONS**

**Pg 377**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Amend policy objective WM6 as follows:

##### **WM 6 Waste Management**

To continue to meet the duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008, including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.

**To carry out remediation of the Poolboy Landfill site**

**1. as financially provided for in the Landfill Remediation Fund 2013 from Ballinasloe Town Council and detailed in the capital account 2020 (copy attached) and previous documentation with the Galway County Council where this commitment is detailed and**

**2. as per legally required by High Court Order Justice Kearns 1999 No 1789p (copy attached) to return it to recreational / parkland use and**

3. I request those lands "to be designated as an open space/ park/ amenity area" as per Clause 2c of HCO in this CDP 2022-2028 and a specific classification for parkland/amenity applied to them in CDP to protect their future development as decreed by High Court Order and

4. that independent legal clarity is provided to the community of Ballinasloe, funded by GCC regarding all their legal obligations under this High Court Order and in particular clause 2b and 2d of High Court Order 1999 No 1789p as outlined below- Clause 2b "Ballinasloe Urban District Council will not sell transfer lease or otherwise dispose of the lands situate at Poolboy whether to Galway County Council or to a private operator the lands situate at Poolboy or adjacent thereto so as to permit the said lands to be used by Galway County Council or such operator as a landfill facility subject to same not being ultra vires the Ballinasloe UDC" Clause 2d "...the lands situate at Poolboy will not be used for the purpose of landfill or any related purpose and in particular will not be utilised as a transfer station.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted. The content of the submission with respect to landfill sites and referencing within a specific policy objective to deal with waste management of the county is not considered appropriate.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Killilea advised that he may have a Conflict of Interest in this and left the Meeting.

Ms. Loughnane advised that CE cannot quote High Court Order within Development Plan, and this was not the place for reference to a Court Judgement. Cllr. Dr. Parson's asked that it be noted that a specific policy objective for the plan would be put in place for Poolboy that was consistent with its end-use. Mr. Cullen advised that that whole site was subject to a High Court Judgement and Galway County Council were legally bound to that judgement. He advised that nothing would be advanced by putting an objective into plan as it was already covered off by High Court Judgement.

*Cllr. Dr. Parsons stated that she was accepting CE Recommendation but requested that a specific policy objective in relation to landfill remediation of Poolboy would be included. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed by the Members.*

**GLW C10-1373 – DENIS NAUGHTON TD**

**Pg 378**

Ms. Loughnane advised that this was same as submission GLW-C10-1129 above.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Same as submission GLW-C10-1129 above.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

Same as submission GLW-C10-1129 above.

***This submission is same as GLW C10-1129. Noted by Members.***

## **GLW C10-1281 – CLLR. THOMAS**

**Pg 378**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

### **WS 5 Private Water Supply**

Support the provision of a private water supply in instances where there is no public water supply **or where it is not cost effective or practical to connect to an existing supply or where the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity to serve the proposed development.** **the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity to serve the proposed development.**

This will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in the EU and national legislation and guidance including adherence to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, and would not be prejudicial to public health or would not significantly impact negatively on the source or yield of an existing supply.

### **WS 8 Proliferation of Septic Tanks**

~~Discourage the over-concentration/proliferation of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Encourage the use of high standard treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.~~

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The proposed additional wording for **Policy Objective WS 5 Private Water Supply** would not be in accordance with the EPA Guidelines. Furthermore, it is not within the remit of the Planning Authority to consider the cost effectiveness of a proposed water supply. It is therefore considered that the additional wording would not be appropriate in this instance.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The proposed additional wording for **Policy Objective WS 5 Private Water Supply** would not be in accordance with the EPA Guidelines. Furthermore, it is not within the remit of the Planning Authority to consider the cost effectiveness of a proposed water supply. It is therefore considered that the additional wording would not be appropriate in this instance.

The proposed rewording of **Policy Objective WS 8 Proliferation of Septic Tanks** would not be in accordance with the EPA guidance on septic tanks. It is also considered that the proposed wording may also compromise water quality should an over-concentration of defective septic tanks be in situ after a number of years.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

**WS 5 Private Water Supply**

*Cllr. Thomas withdrew this section of Motion.*

**WS 8 Proliferation of Septic Tanks**

Ms. Loughnane advised that the wording was misleading and ambiguous.

*It was proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. C. Keaveney and agreed by Members to reject CE Recommendation and go with Cllr. Thomas's submission.*

**GLW C10-1278 – ATHENRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRUST LTD.**

**Pg 379**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

**Section 7.5.8**

It is requested that Galway County Council explicitly include Athenry as part of the Greater Galway Area Drainage Study (Policy Objectives Wastewater WW3). It is noted that Athenry was originally envisaged under the Galway East Main Drainage Scheme as supported by The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). It is noted that the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Athenry is at capacity.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority note the request with regard to the Greater Galway Area Drainage Study. The Planning Authority also note the wastewater capacity issues in Athenry. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade for Athenry has been completed. Network contract is due to commence construction in 2022 which will address wastewater capacity in Athenry.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Herterich/Quinn advised that she was not in agreement with CE Recommendation on this. She requested that Athenry would be included in the Greater Galway Area Drainage Study. Cllr. Cronnelly, referring to the wastewater capacity issues in Athenry, advised that this was partly because the stormwater around town was being incorporated and didn't require the same treatment as foul sewerage. He suggested that clarification was needed from Irish Water on this issue. Mr. Cullen advised that the separating of foul/sewer was being advanced by Irish Water and they would be carrying out works to network and where they can separate foul/surface water to maximize the lifetime of the plan. In relation to the Greater Galway Area Drainage Study, he advised that Irish Water looking at the areas that would be covered in this scheme and that was outside the remit of Galway County Council. It was further explained that they would only be doing a feasibility study of the areas that were being included.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-1160 CLARINBRIDGE OYSTER CO-SOCIETY LTD.**

**Pg 379**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

It is requested that backland development is not permitted, particularly in rural agricultural areas where there are many narrow roads which are utilised by heavy agricultural machinery. Road safety is stated as the concern.

It is noted that Clarinbridge Village has a proliferation of poorly performing septic tanks and wastewater treatment systems. It is noted that private wastewater treatment plants are not being properly maintained or inspected.

The submission refers to a private treatment system that is serving a housing estate in proximity to the Bridge Shopping Centre, the mouth of the Clarin River and an S.A.C. It is noted that this private treatment system is emitting unpleasant odours impacting the adjacent lands and is particularly noticeable during periods of heavy rainfall.

It has stated that Kinvara's Wastewater Treatment Plant has not functioned since it was installed in 2014 and this is having a negative impact on Kinvara's shellfish farming. It is also noted that Kinvara has had 'no bathing' notices for several months during the summer.

It is requested that there are no buildings permitted in proximity to the coastlines, rivers or lakes.

It is noted that there is significant pollution entering the Clarinbridge Oyster Fishery, the Clarin River and that the Oyster heritage in the area has been decimated by pollution despite the Shellfish Water Directive (2016/113EC) in place. It is noted that there is concern regarding flooding, biodiversity and the native shellfish of Kinvara Bay.

It is noted that the River Basin Management Plan is behind schedule and that there is no evidence of improvement in the local rivers. It is also noted that two pollution incidences reported by Clarinbridge Oyster Co-Op Society Ltd were not addressed. The final issue raised in the submission relates to the pier at Clarinbridge. It is noted that this pier was once an amenity for the area. It is noted that the pier and water are no longer being utilised as the area is unkempt and the water is unsafe for swimming. It is proposed that this area is cleaned up in order to contribute to the village of Clarinbridge.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority note the comments with regard to backland developments. The Policy Objective as proposed is recommended to be amended following the submission of the OPR see Recommendation 10.

The monitoring and performance of septic tanks and wastewater treatments systems are a separate process from the County Development Plan.

The monitoring and performance of private treatment system is a separate process from the County Development Plan.

The performance of Municipal wastewater treatment plants is the responsibility of Irish Water. The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes Policy Objectives within **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities & Environmental Protection** which support the enhancements in wastewater infrastructure.

DM Standard 49 Coastal Management and Protection (b) provides appropriate setback from the soft shoreline. Proposals in close proximity to rivers and lakes will be considered on their merits on a case by case basis.

Concerns with respect to pollution should be referred to the Environment Section of Galway County and the Environmental Protection Agency as appropriate.

The Planning Authority, or the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, cannot expediate the delivery of the River Basin Management Plan. The implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 is supported by Policy Objective WS 3 River -Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.

There is no provision within the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 which would prohibit the cleaning up of the pier in Clarinbridge.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

See OPR Recommendation 10.

Cllr. Kinane stated she wanted to acknowledge the issues raised in the submission by Clarinbridge Oyster Co-Society Ltd. She advised that they were working closely with Environment Section to protect the River Clarin and Oysters. In relation to the issues raised in relation Kinvara WWTP, she stated it was important that this was acted on and the motion shows the importance of clearwater and protection of oysters and water for all users. She requested that it be noted that she supported the concerns raised in submission.

In relation to comments on Kinvara WWTP, Cllr. Byrne stated that this plant was only in place since 2016, the plant was working well to-date and comments were incorrect.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Kinane, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-966 J GRUPA POBAIL CHEIBH AN tSRUTHAIN, AN CHEATHRU RUA**

An Comh O Cualáin stated that he wished to propose an amendment to this submission.

***It was agreed to defer a decision on this until motion was received.***

## **GLW C10-960 RONAN MACGIOLLAPHARAIC**

**Pg 383**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

It is noted that a “public septic system” is crucial for Cill Ronáin and the Aran Islands, for both the residents and the 200,000+ annual tourists.

It is noted that Cill Ronáin is not listed for future works in Section 7.5.5. It is proposed that working with Irish Water should be a key goal of the Council and that there should be an all three-island approach. It is stated that there is no need for major ground works owing to the stony nature of the Islands.

### **Chief Executive’s Response:**

The Planning Authority note the content of the submission. Irish Water are the statutory undertaker responsibility for the provision of wastewater infrastructure.

### **Chief Executive’s Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-930 CUAN BEO ENVIRONMENTAL CLG**

**Pg 384**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

### **Water Quality, Supply and Ground Water Protection**

It is noted that there is a concern that the County Development Plan fails to recognise that freshwater discharge to South Galway Bay is primarily groundwater. It is noted that this concern is supported by the Geological Survey of Ireland which commented that as of the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 “*There are no Groundwater Protection Scheme summary of Groundwater Quality reports for Co. Galway to date*”

It is noted that in the same period the EPA (Water Quality in Ireland 2013-2018) reports that “*water quality date and ecological assessments of two Turloughs (Caherglassaun and Tullynafrankagh), undertaken by the National Parks and*

*Wildlife Services (NPWS), indicate that these Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWTDE) do not meet their conservation objectives due to excessing phosphorus concentrations in groundwater, and the groundwater bodies relating to the Turloughs remain at poor status".*

In this submission it is proposed to develop a Groundwater Protection Scheme that categorises groundwater discharge as the primary conduit for nutrients and contaminants to South Galway Bay.

It is proposed to integrate the Groundwater Protection Scheme with River Basin Management Plans.

It is noted that there remains a significant knowledge gap and a lack of investigation on the water quality status of coastal and estuarine waters. It is noted that this has resulted in a pronounced lack of any targeted actions to improve water quality specifically in these water bodies in the Draft Development Plan.

It is noted that the principal concern is that the failure to accurately assess the water quality status of coastal waters does not reflect the reality that the deterioration of land-based water bodies has resulted in the deterioration of coastal and estuarine water bodies. It is noted that this failure is replicated in policy making which regularly places coastal waters at the bottom of the list when it comes to drafting objectives, enforcing regulations and allocating investment for improvement.

It is noted that the improvement of land-based water bodies will have the most direct impact on improving coastal water bodies and that this is where the focus should remain. It is noted that a failure to account for how a particular land-based polluting activity affects coastal water quality undervalues the harmful impact of that polluting activity. It is stated that this fails to account for the economic, recreational and cultural loss of the people whose livelihoods depend on such coastal waters.

It is recommended that a more comprehensive and regular programme for coastal water quality monitoring, which would include a detailed account of the affect land-based pressures and polluting activities have on coastal water quality, is included in the County Development Plan.

It is requested to include a targeted action to mitigate against the specific challenges facing coastal waters. These actions noted include siltation, drainage works, storm water overflows and wastewater treatment.

It is noted that the opted solution for decision making on drainage works, flood relief programmes, storm water overflows and sewage discharges is to direct the resulting water from these activities to the sea. It is noted the pollutants and debris from these activities remain in the coastal environment for significant periods of time and present a substantial challenge for coastal marine life.

It is noted that the nutrients from agricultural fertilization and sewage treatment remain in the immediate coastal environment for a considerable period, and in substantial quantities. This presents a significant challenge to coastal marine life. It is noted that excessive freshwater inputs in coastal waters significantly lower salinity concentrations and deposit considerable amounts of suspended solids in coastal waters.

It is noted that water discharges also impact recreational coastal users and that 'bathing bans' are the favoured approach of the County Council as opposed to correcting the polluting activity.

It is proposed that targeted actions, to find alternative solutions to water discharges into coastal waters, need to be put in place and included in the County Development Plan.

It is proposed that the County Development Plan categorises the harmful effects that drainage works, flood relief works, storm water overflows and sewage discharges present to coastal waters and that targeted actions are put in place to find alternative solutions to water discharges from these activities into coastal waters.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority note the content of this submission with regard to water quality. The enhancement of water quality is addressed within **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities & Environmental Protection**. Section 7.5.3 Water Quality and Ground Water Protection Scheme sets out the Council's strategy in this regard. The Government published the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 in April 2021. This plan outlines a programme of actions which aim to meet the environmental objectives and requirements of the Water Framework Directive. The Council supports the development of Drinking Water Safety Plans in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the current and future cycles of River Basin Management Plans. The Council is committed to the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and groundwaters in the county in accordance with the WFD and the RBMP.

Section 7.5.3 includes a suite of Policy Objectives which collectively provide conditions to support the enhancement of water quality on a county wide basis which in turn will assist in addressing the concerns outlined in the submission.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Kinane stated that she would like to acknowledge the wonderful work this Group does for the whole area. She wished to acknowledge all the work they put into submission and requested that it would be reviewed over time and their findings looked at. Cllr. Byrne stated that he would also like to be associated with these comments.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Kinane, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-925 COISTE COMHAIRLEACH PLEAN GNIMH 5 BLIANA  
IORRAS AITHNEACH**

**Pg 387**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Coiste Comhairleach Plean Gnímh 5 Blíana Iorras Aithneach suggested narrative to be included in Development Plan.

It is proposed that Galway County Council should open discussions with the Department of the Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sports and Media with a view to “*lessening the impact of Special Areas of Conservation, and other environmental designations*” on the construction of essential housing, industrial and commercial development.

It is proposed that Galway County Council should apply the principle of de minimis in relation to SACs and permit housing, industrial and commercial developments onto small sections of SACs.

It is proposed that narrative should include Galway County Council’s strong support of the Údarás na Gaeltachta’s 5 Year Strategy for the Carna/Cill Chiaráin area, and that these benefits should extend to surrounding communities.

It is proposed that Table 6.1 should include the R336 from Screebe to Barna as a proposed route for upgrade.

It is proposed that Table 6.1 should include the R340 as a route for a total upgrade of carriageway as it is a vital link between the R336 and the N59.

It is noted that substantial improvements in infrastructure in the western part of the county is essential. It is proposed that a total upgrade of the N59 in Connemara is required.

It is proposed that a policy is adopted in Section 9.7 of the County Development Plan that would look favourably on planning applications for the development of marine related industries and activities along the coastline.

It is proposed to include a policy objective to develop Páirc na Mara on the site chosen by Údarás na Gaeltachta in Cill Chiaráin. It is proposed to include a policy objective to extend and upgrade the pier at Cill Chiaráin.

It is proposed in Section 8.5 to include an objective to increase the number of staff working on tourism.

It is proposed that the policy objectives for Rural Communities include that the continuation of farming and marine activities are vital to the socio-economic fabric of the county and to focus on keeping a young population in the rural communities. It is proposed that rural housing should be permitted on quarter-acre sites.

It is proposed that the narrative in RH4 also provides for nieces or nephews, of longstanding residents in the area and who require to establish a Substantiated Rural Housing Need.

It is also proposed to include narrative under RH4 to allow favourable consideration for applicants from outside the area who are providing employment, to applicants that are working on a long-term permanent basis in the area, and to returning emigrants.

It is noted that extra expenses are incurred during the planning process on account of the SACs, NHAs, Bird Protection areas and Landscape Sensitivity Areas 2,3 and 4. It is proposed that Galway County Council recompensate for a portion of the high costs in order for costs to match the costs of rural housing applications in other rural areas of Galway not under the same classifications.

It is proposed that Section 4.6.3, Rural Housing Development Strategy 2022-2028, include text allowing applicants construct a rural house with connections to an area who are providing employment, to applicants that are working on a long-term permanent basis in the area and to returning emigrants.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority note the comments with respect to lessening the "*impact of Special Areas of Conservation, and other environmental designations*" on the construction of essential housing, industrial and commercial development. The Planning Authority consider that no reasonable rationale has been provided for such an approach and furthermore, are satisfied that the Planning Authority have allocated sufficient zoned lands for such uses to ensure sufficient lands are available for such uses.

The Planning Authority have consulted with Údáras na Gaeltachta who have provided feedback on the plan to the Planning Authority. The Planning Authority are satisfied that sufficient support to this extremely important body has been provided within the plan.

All routes included within Table 6.1 have been included following consultation with the Council's Roads Office and the National Roads Project Office.

The Council are committed to the management and maintenance of the road network including the efficient and safe operation of the road network under its control, and will work with TII and NTA to identify locations on the national network where targeted improvements may be required to address specific issues.

The Planning Authority consider that ***Policy Objective MCE 1 Marine Economy*** supports development and growth of the maritime economy.

The Planning Authority consider that ***Policy Objective MRI 2 Marine Resource Innovation Park appropriately supports*** the development and expansion of strategic Marine Resource Innovation Parks including Páirc na Mara at Cill Chiarán. The addition of a further Policy Objective in this respect is not considered appropriate.

The County Development Plan is not an economic plan with the ability to create additional jobs. It is considered that with respect to tourism that the Policy Objectives as proposed within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** will assist in creating an environment which will enable the tourism sector to continue to grow and consequently create additional jobs.

The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes a host of Policy Objectives which support rural and coastal economies.

The Planning Authority do not consider the proposal for rural housing to be permitted on quarter acre sites to be reasonable for a number of reasons. These include the need to ensure minimum separation distances can be achieved in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice for wastewater treatment systems, appropriate setbacks from roads in accordance with DM Standard 30: Building Lines and also to ensure the proposal can adequately assimilate into the site without adversely impacting on the receiving landscape.

The Planning Authority note the request to amend the narrative within ***Policy Objective RH 4 Rural Housing Zone 4 (Landscape Classification 2,3 and 4)***. The amendments as requested would not be in accordance with the requirements of NPO 15 and 19 and the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005.

The request for the Council to recompensate for the higher costs associated with planning applications are noted. There is no provision for such a request within the Development Plan process.

The request with regard to text being added to section 4.6.3 is noted. The suggested text is not considered to be in accordance with NPO 15 and 19 or the Sustainable Rural Guidelines 2005

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

### **GLW C10-708 MARTINA BYRNE**

**Pg 390**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

It is noted that recent water quality testing results at Barna Pier have been the worst quality recorded. It is proposed that this needs to be addressed before any further planning permission is granted in the area.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Any development proposals would be required to be in accordance with all the required legislation to ensure water quality would not be adversely impacted upon.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-685 COUNTY GALWAY COMHAIRLE na nOG / YOUTH WORK IRELAND GALWAY**

### **Pg 390**

It is proposed that additional bins are provided at local amenities correctly labelled denoting recyclable, compost and general rubbish.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The provision of additional bins does not fall within the remit of the County Development Plan.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Killilea wished to acknowledge the effort taken by the Group into making this submission.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.*

## **GLW C10-466 MOR ACTION**

### **Pg 391**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

This comprehensive submission relates to the Maree-Oranmore area and was presented in two parts.

Part 1 of the submission relates to issues that the group considered absent from the Draft County Development Plan. Part 2 made specific submissions on referenced paragraphs, objectives and policies as set out in the Draft County Development Plan. This submission summarised the key points to be considered and these are noted below:

#### **Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)**

This submission notes that the Metropolitan Area Strategic (MASP) lacks a clear connection between Garraun and Oranmore. It notes that having a town centre in Garraun and another town centre in Oranmore, 2km away, goes against proper planning. It suggests that the settlement boundaries for Oranmore and Garraun should be merged and considered together. In addition, it suggests that the MASP boundary should be extended to include Maree and Rinville.

It further suggests that a Green Infrastructure Network should be formed in the context of MASP.

#### **Transportation Plan**

This submission suggests that a joint Transportation Plan should be prepared at the core of Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) linking Garraun and Oranmore. It notes that the Dept of Education has indicated that no new primary school will be

constructed at Garraun due to its proximity to Oranmore and it is concerned that this will have additional traffic implications for Oranmore. It notes that safe routes to schools are fundamental for Oranmore and Garraun.

### **Green Infrastructure & Ecological Corridors**

This submission states that there is a lack of mapping of green infrastructure and ecological corridors to form the baseline for understanding where the ecological corridors to be protected are located. It proposes that land use zoning of ecological and green corridors outside of the settlement boundaries are essential.

### **Flooding**

This submission states that there are no climate change flood risks from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to prevent future flood risk. It notes that the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management data did not include for any wave overtopping on the Coast Road. The submission notes that since 2013 the Coast Road has experienced wave overtopping.

It recommends that flood zones should be based on the latest data available and use future flood probability under climate change scenarios, and not present-day probability.

The submission further notes that there is no flood emergency response plan to manage flooding during rush hour at the Coast Road, along the access to the Railway Station and parts of Maree.

### **Land Use Zoning**

This submission notes that land Use zoning requirements should be specific to the zoned land parcel and include objectives that deliver infrastructure and amenities for cumulative existing and future development.

### **Cycling**

This submission recommends the implementation of segregated cycle lanes to encourage more cyclists in Oranmore. It suggests that there should be an active travel solution for all paths and cycleways for the duration of the County Development Plan and not just standalone projects. It also suggests the implementation of safe and segregated cycle routes and walking routes within Oranmore and Rinville to extend to Galway City.

### **Speed Limits**

It is stated that there is no consideration of the EU best practice for 30km speed limits in built-up areas and recommends that all routes have a 30km speed limit. It suggests that a trial one-way traffic system should have been implemented for Oranmore to gather information on traffic mobility in the village. It also notes that there is no enforcement of existing traffic and parking regulations in Oranmore.

### **Public Realm Improvements**

It notes that public realm improvements to Oranmore are required to make it more desirable and easier to visit the village.

Other issues addressed within Part 1 of this comprehensive submission include:

### **Culture and Community**

This submission proposes that additional facilities are provided for teenagers in the locality including a skate park, hockey pitches, basketball courts with safer access to pitches and playgrounds and safer cycle infrastructure.

### **Recreation**

The submission recommends that Rinville should be considered as a Special Area for Recreation (SAR), including park expansion and having social, cultural, recreational and environmental uses.

### **Settlement Boundary**

The submission notes that the material amendment to extend the settlement boundary for Oranmore to the south contradicts the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report. It notes that there are no reasonable grounds presented for this land to be zoned Residential (Phase 2). It states that it is unclear how this zoning achieves the core strategy vision and objective for compact growth, because there are no visible access points that allow for the zoned lands to be within 15 minutes' walk of the services and education facilities of Oranmore. It further notes that it would increase car dependency and traffic on the Maree Road and through Oranhill.

Part 2 of the submission relates to the specific policy objectives in Chapter 7 of the Draft County Development Plan. The submission welcomes Section 7.5.5 **WW2 Delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure** and the proposed improvements to network capacity. It recommends that a retrofitting of the Sustainable Urban Drainage is included in the County Development Plan to increase capacity.

This submission recommends under Section 7.6 Waste Management that there is an opportunity to develop a Community Repair Hub that would be a place for people to upskill and be utilised as a community resource. It suggests that this is included in the County Development Plan. In addition, it recommends that neighbouring properties are engaged with when Construction and Environmental Management Plans are being prepared.

Under Section 7.9.1 Air Quality it proposes that an air quality monitoring programme is established for Oranmore Town Centre.

The submission notes under Section 7.9.5 Major Accidents and Seveso Sites that the community is made aware of the risks and actions within any emergency response plans from existing Seveso sites.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The settlement plans for Garraun and Oranmore have been prepared concurrently and with consideration of each other. It is considered that both plans will complement each other.

The MASP boundary has been set in the Regional Spatial and Economic Plan for Galway. The Planning Authority cannot amend this plan boundary to include Maree and Rinville.

Green infrastructure is supported within the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 particularly within **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement. Policy Objectives GBW 1 Greenways** and **Policy Objectives GBW 2 Future**

**Development of Network of Greenways** would support the provision of future greenways which may come forward at this location.

The Galway Transportation Strategy promotes the integration of land use and transportation within Galway City and suburbs and environs of Galway County. This plan is a joint Galway City Council and Galway County Council 20-year strategy prepared in partnership with the National Transport Authority. The GTS in conjunction with the new Galway County Transport and Planning Strategy is considered to set out a significant number of measures which will be support enhancements in sustainable transport measures into the future. With respect to school's infrastructure the Council regularly consult with bodies such as the Department of Education to ensure appropriate conditions are in place to facilitate new and enhanced educational facilities.

All ecological sites within the County are protected within the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028. **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** includes policy objectives which supports Green Infrastructure and Ecological Corridors. **Policy Objective NBH 5 Ecological Connectivity and Corridors** and **NHB 7 Mitigation Measures** provide specific details in this regard. **Policy Objective GBI 2 Green/Blue Infrastructure Network** is considered to address Green Infrastructure appropriately.

Noted. Climate change and coastal change have been considered in the preparation of and have informed both the SFRA and Plan.

The SFRA GIS layers, including those relating to predictive indicators and Future Scenario mapping, will be made available for use in assessing individual planning applications as part of the Council's development management functions.

The provision of infrastructure and amenities has been taken into consideration with respect to Land Use Zoning.

The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 supports the provision of segregated cycle lanes where possible. This is outlined within **Policy Objective WC 5 Traffic Free Cycle Routes**.

The designation of speed limits does not fall within the remit of the development plan process.

The Settlement Plan for Oranmore is considered to support the provision of public realm improvements. However, the inclusion of an additional Policy Objective is considered appropriate with respect to Town Centre Management.

The provision of facilities such as those outlined in the submission would be supported in the Oranmore Settlement Plan. Policy Objectives such as **OMSP 8 Community Facilities**, **OMSP 9 Community Facilities at Oranhill** and **OMSP 10 Recreational Facilities** would all apply in this instance.

The importance of Renville as an extremely valuable public space is acknowledged. However, the designation as requested is not considered appropriate in this instance.

The comments with regard to the settlement boundary of Oranmore are noted. The Planning Authority also note the comments with respect to compact growth and the rationale for designing the identified parcel of lands for Residential phase 2. The lands in question are being safeguarded for longer term growth and are not anticipated to be developed in the life of the proposed plan. The Planning Authority consider that Policy Objective **GCMA 1 Residential Development** will ensure lands will be developed in a sequential manner with lands closer to the town centre coming forward for development over the life of the plan.

The Planning Authority welcome the support for Section 7.5.5. of the Plan. The requested alteration to WW2 is noted. In this instance the wording as proposed in the plan is considered appropriate.

The request with respect Community Repair Hub is noted. There is insufficient detail with regard to this request and as such it is considered premature to include this as part of the plan in this instance.

The detail with regard to Construction and Environmental Management Plans would be considered during the Development Management process. Submissions can be made by members of the public during the application process where comments can be made in this regard.

The Environmental Protection Agency is the statutory body responsible for monitoring air quality in Ireland. The Council acknowledges the need to ensure the highest standards of air quality within the County and will collaborate with the Environmental Protection Agency as appropriate to ensure high standards of air quality are maintained and poor standards are addressed as appropriate.

The notification to the community of emergency response plans from Seveso Sites does not fall within the remit of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

Insert New Policy Objective into Oranmore Settlement Plan as follows:

**OMSP 16 Town Centre Management**

Subject to appropriate resources, the Council in collaboration with local stakeholders shall prepare a town centre management plan for Oranmore. The Management Plan will consider some or all of the following:

- (a) Upgrade of public lighting.
- (b) Connectivity of the Town centre including upgrade of paving.
- (c) Consider upgrade/redesign of Town Centre.
- (d) Scheme for façade improvement on identified priority streetscapes.
- (e) Upgrade and improvement of street furniture.
- (f) Consistent sustained signage design policy within the Town Centre.
- (g) Provision of appropriate quality soft landscaping and planting as well as functional public spaces.
- (h) Car parking management.
- (i) Consideration of reuse of backlands within the town centre for civic space/ other uses.
- (j) To facilitate the carrying out of streetscape enhancement works subject to resources being available.

Cllr. Herterich/Quinn welcomed CE Response on this submission. She wished to acknowledge their fantastic submission and all the work this Group have done. Cllr. Kinane asked to be associated with those comments also.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Herterich/Quinn, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-110 KILLARY ADVENTURE COMPANY**

### **Pg 397**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

This submission raised a number of issues in relation to Connemara, adventure tourism and making it a more attractive place for visitors to stay in. It noted the following:

#### **The Planning Process**

It noted that the cost of building or buying homes in local villages in Connemara has climbed to unsustainable levels for locals. It noted that it has become “increasingly fraught” to acquire planning permission on family lands. It noted that the Covid pandemic has started a trend whereby urban inhabitants are relocating to the west or to buy holiday homes in Connemara.

#### **Broadband**

The submission noted that it is essential that rural areas have access to good broadband connections. The submission noted that underground cabling was installed outside the gate of their property fourteen years ago and nothing has happened since.

#### **Agency Cooperation**

The submission noted that there is a contradiction between agencies and gave the example of Transport Infrastructure Ireland aiming to reduce traffic on national routes whereas the Wild Atlantic Way increases traffic on the West Coast routes.

#### **Public Toilets and Rubbish Collection**

The submission noted that the pandemic has particularly highlighted a major issue with access to public toilets and rubbish collection at popular areas in Connemara. It noted that it is now a major issue in rural areas of high scenic amenity.

#### **Innovation**

It noted that food trucks are now a major international phenomenon and it highlighted that a process needs to be established to allow for such use. The submission suggested that this is particularly relevant in the covid climate and its aftermath. It also noted that eco-style pods, as well as other typical traditional accommodation types, should be permissible for the benefit of rural areas.

#### **Renewable Energy**

The submission noted that consideration should be given to innovative renewable energy solutions for rural communities. It suggested small scale /micro renewable

energy projects utilising wind, hydro, solar and tidal energy and noted that localised power creation is essential for Connemara.

The submission also noted that new approaches to traditional farming methods on land and sea are required. It noted that other countries are using aquaponics and Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) as new systems of farming.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The concerns regarding the planning process are noted. It is also noted that no specific amendment to the Draft Galway County Development Plan has been suggested to address these concerns. The Policy Objectives contained within **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development**, regarding Rural Housing, are considered to be in accordance with Section 28 Guidelines particularly the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2005.

The Planning Authority agree that the continued development of broadband and ICT infrastructure within the County is essential and have included a suite of Policy Objectives to ensure the appropriate conditions are in place to ensure the enhancement of broadband provision across the county are provided.

The Planning Authority do not consider that Transport Infrastructure Ireland are aiming to reduce traffic on National Routes.

The provision of the Public Toilets and Rubbish Collection does not fall within the remit of the County Development.

The Planning Authority consider that there are appropriate Policy Objectives contained within the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 to support rural areas within **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development**, such as Policy Objective CD 1 Rural Enterprises.

The Planning Authority consider that there are appropriate Policy Objectives contained within the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 to support innovative renewable energy solutions for rural communities within **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** and the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-160 CONNEMARA DARK SKIES**

**Pg 398**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

This submission supports Galway County Council's inclusion of Policy Objectives on light pollution and dark skies in the Draft County Development Plan (Sections 7.9.3 and 8.10.4).

**Policy Objective LP1 Lighting Schemes:**

To require that all developments shall ensure lighting schemes are designed so that ~~so that excessive light spillage~~ is minimised to ensure light pollution in the surrounding environment including residential amenity, wildlife and near public roads is limited. **Lighting schemes should consider dimming or switching off lighting during the night where appropriate.** Such lighting schemes shall be submitted and agreed with the Planning Authority.

**Policy Objective LP2 Lightening and Climate Action**

To require the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting in support of Climate Action. **Lighting should be limited to warmer correlated colour temperatures (CCT) of 3000 Kelvin or below to be of an environmentally sensitive manner.**

**Policy Objective LP3 Dark Skies**

To encourage the maintenance of dark skies in rural areas, **and to limit light pollution in urban and rural areas to actively reduce existing sources of light pollution from public infrastructure in strategic dark sky areas by upgrading to dark sky friendly lighting and to limit light pollution in urban and rural areas.**

The submission concluded with a recommendation that Appendix 5 on the Guidelines for the Single Rural House should be amended to include recommendations on outdoor lighting in line with the dark sky friendly principles.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The amended wording as suggested is not considered appropriate in this instance.

The wording as proposed is noted. The wording of **Policy Objective LP2 Lightening and Climate Action** as proposed in the Draft Galway County Development Plan in this instance is considered acceptable.

The wording as proposed is noted. The wording of **Policy Objective LP3 Dark Skies** as proposed in the Draft Galway County Development Plan in this instance is considered acceptable.

Any proposals for rural housing will need to have regard to the Policy Objectives as proposed with regard to Dark Skies. No change is considered necessary in this instance.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

**Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion:**

*To change Policy Objective LP2 Dark Skies*

*To encourage the maintenance of dark skies in rural areas, and to limit light pollution in urban and rural areas Lighting should be limited to warmer correlated colour temperatures (CCT) of 3000 Kelvin or below to be of an environmentally sensitive manner.*

***This was proposed by Cllr. McKinstry, seconded by An Comh. O Cualáin and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-196 DONNCHA O SULLIVAN**

### **Pg 400**

This submission noted that they reviewed the Draft Development Plan and was pleased to advise that it had no comments to make.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***Submission was noted.***

## **GLW C10-431 MKO ON BEHALF OF CREGGS RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**

### **Pg 400**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

This submission relates to Creggs and has highlighted four main issues.

#### **1.The Deficiency of Sewerage Infrastructure in Creggs**

The submission noted that the lack of sewerage infrastructure is creating a barrier for development in the village centre. It noted that the current sewage system is based on septic tank storage, collection and disposal with no water treatment facilities. The submission further noted that for the village to grow, an improved sewage and treatment system is required. The submission proposed that public waste water facilities must be implemented in Creggs.

The submission supported Policy RH14, Policy WS1. Policy WS 5 of the Draft County Development Plan.

The submission noted that Policy Objective WW5 "Waste Water Treatment Associated with Development in Un-Serviced Areas" in the current County Development Plan has not been included in the Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028. It is proposed in this submission to include this policy in the Draft County Development Plan for the benefit of the village of Creggs. It is noted that this is supported by National Policy Objective 18b and National Strategic Outcome 9 Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Policy Objectives 8.15 and 8.17.

#### **2.The Potential for a Remote Working Hub**

The submission suggests that the provision of Co-working space in Creggs would allow workers to live and work locally. It is noted that national policy on remote working supports the establishment of a co-working hub in the village. It is noted that

an area within the Heritage Centre has been identified as suitable for the re-purposing and utilising as a co-working space/evening study area. It is highlighted that the establishment of a Co-working hub at Creggs is supported by Policy CWH1 Co-Working Hubs, and Policy RD4 Remote Working of the Draft County Development Plan.

### **3. Rural Housing and Development**

The submission supports Policy RC3 and Policy RC5 in the Draft County Development Plan which supports development of new homes in small towns and villages. The submission welcomed the evidence in the Draft County Development Plan that the Council has set out policies to aid development in areas that have deficiencies in wastewater infrastructure. It is noted that growth within the village of Creggs is critical and it has the potential to be achieved through this policy. It is noted that Policy RC6 Residential Development Potential of Villages is welcomed.

### **4. Public Realm Improvements**

It is noted in this submission that there are a number of issues and concerns that fall within the realm of public realm maintenance such as cobble repairs, gully maintenance and street lighting. Detailed plans for the Public Realm Framework Plan were outlined in the Creggs Village Plan (Appendix 1) accompanying this submission. It is noted that Policy CGR9 Delivering Improved Public Realm of the Draft County Development Plan and Policy CGR10 Public Realm Strategy are welcomed. It is noted that improvements to the public realm have the opportunity to assist the growth of Creggs, making it a desirable place to live with a high quality of life.

This submission included the “*Creggs Village Plan - Creggs Collaborative Workshop and Village Plan Urban Design*” as prepared by MKO Ireland, Planning and Environmental Consultants.

#### **Chief Executive’s Response:**

The provision of new wastewater treatment infrastructure falls under the remit of Irish Water. The Planning Authority have consulted with Irish Water and have proposed Policy Objectives contained for the most part within **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities and Environmental Protection** which supports the enhancement of wastewater infrastructure in accordance with the Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 and the Natural Water Resources Plan (NWRP).

Noted.

The inclusion of the suggested Policy Objective titled Waste Water Treatment Associated with Development in Un-Serviced Areas is not considered appropriate.

The Planning Authority note that as per the DHPLG National Taking in Charge Initiative Report, 2018, there were 74 housing estates with developer provided water services infrastructure in County Galway, the third highest number in the country at this time. Many of these are not functioning properly, or are poorly maintained, giving rise to public health and environmental risks. Due to the risks to public health, water quality and environmental risks the Planning Authority are not in favour of the provision of developer provided water services infrastructure. The Planning Authority consider that the provision of wastewater treatment provision across the county of the scale requested would be better served under the remit of Irish Water.

The Draft County Development Plan supports, where appropriate, the establishment of remote working hubs in towns and villages across the county. **Policy Objective SCO 8 Hubs and Remote Working** contained in **Chapter 5 Economic Development, Enterprise and Retail Development** is considered to support the provision of remote working hubs similar to the type of project highlighted in this submission.

The comments with respect to rural housing including policy objectives RC3, RC 5 and RC 6 are welcomed.

The comments with respect to public realm improvements including policy objectives CGR 9 and CGR 10 are welcomed.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Geraghty requested that Creggs would be looked at favourably at in terms of provision of WWTP. He referred to €25m grant aid land use. Cllrs. D. Connolly M. Connolly & P. Keaveney agreed by with these comments.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-439 MARK COFFEY – COFFEY CONSTRUCTION**

**Pg 402**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

This submission relates to Athenry and raised a number of issues. It is suggested that the population estimation growth of 18,655 “*should be doubled for zoning purposes to allow for enough land to come to market*”. Otherwise, this submission suggested, land prices will increase and there will be very little land available to develop during the life of the Plan.

It is suggested that Athenry should be treated as a key town with a proposed density of 30 units per hectare. It noted that “*540 units is not enough for life of next plan*”. This submission recommended 1,540 additional units for Athenry; the rationale outlined is that Athenry is serviced by a motorway and can cater for demand from Briarhill and Garraun.

This submission noted that planning applications have been made by Coffey Construction which could potentially bring 275 units to Athenry over the next 5 years if permitted.

It is requested that a meeting is held with Forward Planning to discuss plans.

This submission requested that the Council include criteria in the County Development Plan that will allow planning amendments be made to waste water

plants, to allow for improved water infrastructure. This submission noted that private treatment plants and water supply at locations that Irish Water are unable to provide services, should be considered and supported in the County Development Plan.

This submission noted that additional lands require zoning in Oranmore. It is considered in this submission that not all of the zoned lands in Oranmore will become available on the market. This submission noted that 20 acres of land are in their ownership on the East side of Oranmore. It is proposed that these lands are considered for zoning owing to their proximity to services, and because they are within walking distance of the town centre (GLW-C10-439-1309).

The final issue raised related to road safety. This submission suggested that part of the N67, adjacent to Oranmore, should be changed to a regional road with a reduced speed limit. This submission noted that new houses, on the southern side of the town, exit onto a roundabout which it considers are designed for a much slower speed limit (highlighted on GLW-C10-439-1308). This submission noted that traffic exiting an estate at 50kph has to merge with traffic travelling at 100kph, which is a road safety concern. This submission further indicated on an attached map (GLW-C10-439-1308) additional road traffic concerns at alternative existing junctions in Oranmore.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

As part of the review of the Draft Galway County Development Plan population allocation for the County were considered. **Chapter 2 Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and Housing Strategy** has outlined the population projections for the settlements as included in the Settlement Hierarchy. The population projections as allocated to Athenry are considered appropriate.

The designation of Ballinasloe and Tuam as Key Towns is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region and are considered appropriate. Athenry's importance is considered to be suitably addressed with the designation of Strategic Potential as outlined in **Chapter 2 Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and Housing Strategy**.

There have been a number of public consultation events and periods to make submissions to date as part of the Development Plan process to enable all stakeholders to engage with the Forward Planning and Policy Unit of Galway County Council to provide input into the Draft Plan.

The Planning Authority note that as per the DHPLG National Taking in Charge Initiative Report, 2018, there were 74 housing estates with developer provided water services infrastructure in County Galway, the third highest number in the country at this time. Many of these are not functioning properly, or are poorly maintained, giving rise to public health and environmental risks. Due to the risks to public health, water quality and environmental risks the Planning Authority are not in favour of the provision of developer provided water services infrastructure. The Planning Authority consider that the provision of wastewater treatment provision across the county of the scale requested would be better served under the remit of Irish Water.

As part of the review of the Oranmore Settlement Plan the quantum of Residential Phase 1 lands were examined. There is a requirement of 20.53 hectares of Residential Phase 1 lands. The Planning Authority has zoned accordingly. The

quantum of Phase 1 Residential Lands in Oranmore is in full compliance with the Core Strategy of the Draft Galway County Development Plan. It is considered that the proposed zoning contained in the Plan for the site is acceptable in this instance. The reclassification of National Roads to Regional Roads does not fall within the remit of the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.*

**THIS CONCLUDED CHAPTER 7**  
**It was agreed to move on to Chapter 8**  
**CHAPTER 8 – TOURISM AND LANDSCAPE**

**GLW C10-1326 CLLR. HOADE**

**Pg 405**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

The wording of policy objective **UGG 1 UNESCO Global Geopark Status** is supported.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted. It is considered that the wording supports the UNESCO Global Geopark status.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.*

**GLW C10-1368 CLLR. KINNANE**

**Pg 405**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that it was requested in this submission that the following is included:

The tourism sector is extremely important to the economic development Clarinbridge and South Galway. Recent Feasibility Study (carried out by Tourism International Ireland) recognises, Clarinbridge/South Galway has untapped tourism potential and the Oyster Theme Experience could have a potentially transforming effect on how

Clarinbridge/South Galway could re-position itself as serious tourism destination internationally.

A New Policy Objective is proposed:

Objective CTB 6: Support and facilitate the development of a masterplan for The World is Your Oyster Tourism/Heritage Experience for Clarinbridge/South Galway.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

**Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** supports the tourism sector throughout the County and the spirit of the proposed new policy objective is already underpinned in the existing policy objectives of the Draft County Development Plan. The inclusion of specific projects as proposed may create an issue with respect to the SEA and AA. Therefore, it is considered that the existing policy objectives are sufficient.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Mr. Dunne advised against the proposed wording in this motion. Cllr. Kinane advised that they were looking for support to facilitate the development of a Master Plan. However, she was now aware that it would be dealt with under Tourism Strategy. Mr. Hanrahan, Director of Services advised that this and a number of other submissions made by Members were being included into Tourism Strategy. He advised that Consultants had been appointed and he had requested Tourism Officer to take into account all relevant submissions into the Tourism Strategy. He further stated that engagement and consultation with all parties was due to commence in the next couple of weeks.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Kinane, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1260 CLLR. KING**

**Pg 406**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that in this submission additional text is proposed as highlighted below:

**8.12.1 Wild Atlantic Way**

The Wild Atlantic Way has been a transformational tourism initiative led by Fáilte Ireland, for the West of Ireland. It showcases the natural assets and outstanding scenery of the West and has been an important economic driver for the county. The Galway stage of the Wild Atlantic Way is 300km long starting from the village of Kinvara near the County Clare border and finishing at Leenane near the County Mayo border. The route encompasses numerous visitor attractions including Dunguaire Castle, ferry crossings to the Aran Islands and Inisbofin, the wider Conamara area including villages such as Roundstone and Ballyconneely, and Kylemore Abbey. The Council recognises the importance of the branding of the Wild Atlantic Way and its positive impact on the tourism sector and the economic growth of the county. **Galway County Council should be part funded by Failte Ireland to**

advance the services along the Wild Atlantic Way route in the county which is 300km long. These services include, Picnic areas, Rubbish bins, Toilets, and also assist in funding for hedges and roads as traffic has increased immensely.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Draft County Development Plan is not a funding Plan but seeks to support the tourism sector throughout the county. The Draft outlines the importance of the Wild Atlantic Way and contains therein Policy objectives supporting this and other tourism initiatives. The inclusion of the text is not appropriate given the reasons outlined above.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. King requested that his concerns were noted in Minutes.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-1122 CLLR. DR. PARSONS

### Pg 406

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that a detailed submission was received which requested the following:

#### 8.2 Strategic Aims

Galway County Council shall work with the appropriate agencies and state bodies to ensure that the tourism industry is promoted and supported and that our landscapes are suitably protected and will accord with the following strategic aims:

- To safeguard and augment County Galway's extensive tourism sector;
- To maximise the potential of sustainable tourism thereby contributing to the balanced economic development of the County;
- To work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, and other agencies to develop tourism in county Galway;
- To support the preparation and implementation of a Tourism Strategy for County Galway;
- To develop and enhance new and existing tourism products, attractions and tourism infrastructure;
- To develop and enhance access to natural swimming resources and water sports recreation within the county such as the Suck River;

• To capitalise on the distinct tourist attractions that County Galway has to offer including Destination Towns, natural, built and cultural heritage, scenic landscapes and natural amenities;

- Accessibility Friendly Towns

To support and designate a pilot town for Accessibility Friendly Tourism and Respite Tourism within the county as an innovative pilot for Enhanced Accessibility Friendly Tourism and Respite Holiday Breaks.

- To work to improve the visitor experience and to support Visitor Experience Development Plans between neighbouring counties/ local authorities and other agencies, including consideration of phased developments planning with Cross border bodies, to ensure that all visitors may in time enjoy the unique experience of the Aughrim to Antrim Boyne via Athlone Castle historic battlefield and cultural tourist trail.
- To work to improve the visitor experience and to support Visitor Experience Development
- Plans across the county to ensure that all visitors enjoy the unique experience of County Galway;
- To capitalise on the County's identified nodes along the Wild Atlantic Way and Irelands Hidden Heartlands;
- To support the development of Sports Tourism within the county and capitalise on existing and developing nodes of accessible sporting infrastructure, ie gyms, running tracks, pitches, courts, swimming pools, natural swimming locations & watersports and greenway access
- To protect the landscape categories within the County and avoid negative impacts upon the natural environment.

#### New Policy Objective Heritage Tourism

- HT4 Historic Sites

To support the development and enhancement of the historic battlefields, historic O'Kelly Clan built heritage and ecclesiastical sister abbey sites and the Aughrim Interpretive Centre as very important cultural and tourism asset

#### 8.12.2 Irelands Hidden Heartlands

The development of bathing areas and accessible water-based recreation on the River Suck should be examined further and supported as part of the tourism product within Irelands Hidden Heartlands and to spread evenly accessible recreational and sporting tourism product throughout the county.

#### Chief Executive's Response:

Submission Noted.

The Ballinasloe Local Area Plan is currently on display and this policy objective is best placed at that level as opposed to the Draft County Development Plan.

See Recommendation with respect to **Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure**.

Policy Objective VEDP 1 covers the spirit of the submission.

Section 8.9 of the Draft Plan deals with outdoor tourism pursuits and there are a number of policy objectives that relate to this type of tourism.

HT 2 supports heritage assets within the county and promotes such assets as a focus for tourism. Individual tourism products are not appropriate at County Development Plan level.

There is a section outlined in the plan that supports and includes this text. Section 8.12.3 gives a comprehensive assessment of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

**8.2 Strategic Aims**

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**New Policy Objective – Heritage Tourism - HT 4 Historic Sites**

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**8.12.2 Irelands Hidden Heartlands**

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1377 CLLR. BYRNE**

**Pg 409**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that the submission states that the current Landscape Sensitivity Map LCM 2 is now replaced by Map 8.2.

Landscape Sensitivity Ratings Class 1 to Class 5 are now replaced by 1-4. In my locality some areas currently in Classes 3-5 are now replaced by proposed Class 2.

The submission proposes that the Class 2 is similar to current Class 3 and not an onerous current Class 4/5.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Section 4, p 20, of the Landscape Character Assessment describes the sensitivity classes as:

- 1 Low: Unlikely to be adversely affected by change
- 2 High: Elevated sensitivity to change
- 3 Special: High sensitivity to change
- 4 Iconic: Unique landscape with high sensitivity to change

The sensitivity rating is provided to supply potential developers with prior notification of the likely findings of a landscape and visual impact assessment of developments in each area. These are generalisations and the sensitivity rating need to be read in the full context of the rest of the section which addresses this issue (4.6 Limitation to Landscape Sensitivity Mapping).

It should be noted that individual projects in any landscape area, notwithstanding its dominant sensitivity rating, may have greater or lesser impacts on the visual quality and character of the landscape depending on the details of the project design and the specific characteristics of the site and its context.

The Planning Authority will consider this sensitivity rating and may, depending on the nature of the site and development, require the applicants to demonstrate that the proposed development addresses the sensitivities identified for each relevant landscape type.

Seen in this context, there is discretion to consider each project on a case-by-case basis '*depending on the details of the project design and the specific characteristics of the site and its context*'. This ensures that any designations are not unduly 'onerous' and that sufficient discretion remains for the development management process to take account of local circumstances.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Byrne welcomed the fact that they were proposing a new Landscape Assessment for county. Mr. Dunne advised that a complete review of Landscape Sensitivity had been carried out and the last one was done in 2001. He outlined the new proposals and stated there were very few differences between Classes 2 and 3.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

As these are linked, it was prudent to consider the DM Standard to do with Landscape as this point. This was agreed by the Members.

Cllr. Byrne proposed the following amendment to DM 47:

Amend DM Standard 47 as follows:

15.7.2 Landscape Sensitivity DM Standard 47: Compliance with Landscape Sensitivity Designations

Subject to the provisions of the plan but in particular the settlement policies of Chapters 2, 3 & 4 and the consequent restriction on development in rural areas, the control of permissible development shall be in accordance with the policies as they relate to the four sensitivity classes of landscape in Section 8.13.2 of this plan. It will deem the following types of development generally to be acceptable in the various areas of sensitivity as follows: 319

Class 1 –All developments which are of appropriate scale and design and are consistent with settlement policies.

**Class 2 –** Few developments, including those with substantiated cases for such a specific location and which are in compliance with settlement policies. **Restricted to essential residential needs of local households and various developments (subject to site suitability and appropriate scale and design), including those with substantiated cases for such a specific location and which are in compliance with settlement policies.**

**Class 3 –** Restricted to essential residential needs of local households, family farm business and locally resourced enterprises. **(subject to site suitability and appropriate scale and design) including those with substantiated cases for such a specific location and which are in compliance with settlement policies.**

Class 4 –Negligible alterations will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

Table 15.6: Landscape Sensitivity Designations

The Council shall provide for the consideration of strategic infrastructure in all Classes. It is accepted that the Islands around our coastline are special and

require protection while at the same time accommodating local needs. Currently the landscape sensitivity rating for the Aran Islands is Class 4 – Iconic. However, consideration will be given to accommodating local housing needs, where the development would be in conformity with the provisions of the plan

***The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-1830 CLLR. SHERIDAN**

### **Pg 410**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that it is proposed in this submission to amend the following policy objective:

### **TOU 2 Key Economic Pillars**

To promote and facilitate tourism as an economic pillar of the County's economy and to support the provision of appropriate visitor attractions and improvement in public spaces to promote attractive and vibrant town centres as key places for tourists. **To promote climate forums and tourism thru the connected hub network in the county.**

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

All Chapters of the Draft County Development Plan support the Climate Action Agenda with **Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource** specifically dealing with climate change, energy and renewable resource. Table 14.3 Climate Action Policy Objectives was incorporated into the County Development Plan for the different sectors outlining the Policy objectives chapter by chapter. **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** have several policy objectives which cover this additional text proposed, therefore, no change is required as the spirit of the text is already stated in the Draft County Development Plan.

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Sheridan, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-1520 DONNCHA O hEALLAITHE**

### **Pg 411**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this submission relates to map 8.3 Landscape Sensitivity Map; it is requested that the stretch of road on both sides of the R336, between Na Forbacha and Baile na hAbhann, is amended to Landscape Sensitivity Class 2, currently at

Sensitivity Class 3. The rationale noted is that it is prohibiting applicants from obtaining planning permission.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority note the concerns with regard to landscape designation. The Draft Galway County Development Plan is accompanied by a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Appendix 4). This LCA for Galway has been prepared having regard to the *National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015 – 2025* as produced by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. All landscape designations have been set out in accordance with this document. The request to amend the classification has not set out any rationale in support of the requested change other than to highlight difficulties for applicants obtaining planning permission. The Planning Authority consider the landscape designations as proposed to be appropriate in this instance. The Planning Authority will consider this sensitivity rating and may, depending on the nature of the site and development, require the applicants to demonstrate that the proposed development addresses the sensitivities identified for each relevant landscape type.

Seen in this context, there is discretion to consider each project on a case-by-case basis '*depending on the details of the project design and the specific characteristics of the site and its context*'. This ensures that any designations are not unduly 'onerous' and that sufficient discretion remains for the development management process to take account of local circumstances.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by An Comh. O Cualáin, seconded by An Comh. O Curraoin and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-932 COISTE COMHAIRLEACH PLEAN 5 BHLIANA  
IORRAS AITHNEACH**

**Pg 412**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission requests that the following policy objective is included in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 in Section 8.5:

- *Tourism is a major industry and a means of producing real foreign earnings in County Galway. It is the policy of Galway County Council to increase the number of staff assigned to assist in the promotion of tourism. Galway Council aspires to appoint three of its staff to the development of the tourism potential of this county with one of those specifically assigned to South Connemara.*

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The County Development Plan is not an economic plan with the provision of financial budget to facilitate the employment of staff to carry out specific rolls, including the suggested appointment of three staff members for the development of tourism potential, as requested in this submission.

The Planning Authority would like to reference Policy Objective **GCTS 1 Galway County Tourism Strategy** within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**. The Plan will support the preparation and implementation of this strategy which will support the existing tourism sector whilst also ensuring the county is maximising its tourism potential.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-930 CUAN BEO**

**Pg 412**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this submission relates to the need for the development of tourism facilities and coastal infrastructure. It recommends the refurbishment of piers, coastguards, toilets, parking, showering facilities, additional bicycle racks etc at inland waterways, beaches, and coastal areas in support of more bicycle use.

It notes that local tourism such as Air B&B and more localised and rural tourism facilities need to be promoted.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority can confirm that within **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**, policy objective **PH 2 Sustainable Development of Ports, Harbours, Piers and Slipways** supports coastal infrastructure such as piers etc. Within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**, policy objective **TI 1 Tourist Infrastructure** seeks to encourage and promote tourism related facilities in the county.

The marketing of individual Air B&B, or rural tourism facilities, does not fall within the remit of the Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Kinane stated that this was a very important submission. She advised that she was at a presentation by Cuan Beo in which it stated of the 24 piers in place that there was on 1 or 2 that had toilet facilities which was note-worthy. She suggested that as a minimum, toilet facilities were required. She agreed with sentiment of submission and was something that needed to be worked on. Cllr. Mannion also want to be associated with sentiments expressed.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Kinane, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-926 – COISTE COMHAIRLEACH PLEAN 5 BHLIANA IORRAS AITHNEACH

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this submission requests the following policy objective is included in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 in Section 8.5:

*- Tourism is a major industry and a means of producing real foreign earnings in County Galway. It is the policy of Galway County Council to increase the number of staff assigned to assist in the promotion of tourism. Galway Council aspires to appoint three of its staff to the development of the tourism potential of this county with one of those specifically assigned to South Connemara.*

### Chief Executive's Response:

The County Development Plan is not an economic plan with the provision of financial budget to facilitate the employment of staff to carry out specific rolls such as in the case of this submission, and three staff members for the development of tourism potential.

The Planning Authority would like to reference Policy Objective **GCTS 1 Galway County Tourism Strategy** within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**. The Plan will support the preparation and implementation of this strategy which will support the existing tourism sector whilst also ensuring the county is maximising its tourism potential.

### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No Change.

***It was advised that this was same as submission GLW C10-932. Noted by Members.***

## GLW C10-911 RONAN MAC GIOLLAPHARAIC

### Pg 413

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission relates to Section 8.10.4 Dark Skies. It is requested that the Aran Islands are designated as dark skies areas.

### Chief Executive's Response:

As per **Policy Objective DS 1 Dark Skies**, within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**, the potential for Dark Skies designations will be investigated at appropriate locations throughout the county.

### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-900 COILLTE**

### **Pg 413**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this comprehensive submission supports the policy objectives of Chapter 8. This submission provides information on woodland lodge tourism accommodation and requests that the Draft County Development Plan supports the provision of same at suitable locations in the Coillte estate. It is noted that the provision of woodland lodges at appropriate locations within the Coillte estate would fully support the continued growth of the tourism sector in line with **TI 1 Tourist Infrastructure** and **TI 2 Visitor Accommodation**.

This section of the submission relates to Portumna:

This submission requests that the following recommendations are incorporated into the County Development Plan, and that the Plan:

- *Supports the provision of forest based tourism accommodation such as woodland lodges and ancillary facilities at Portumna Forest Park*
- *Recognises that Portumna Forest Park is uniquely positioned to provide a recognised tourist product given the Park's strategic location and access to natural resources and amenities*

This submission requests that the County Development Plan:

- Supports the provision of accessible recreational, community and sporting facilities in the county.
- Supports the provision of tourism infrastructure, including tourism accommodation (woodland lodges) at appropriate locations in the Coillte estate.
- Supports the provision of tourism infrastructure, including tourism accommodation (woodland lodges) with ancillary facilities at Portumna Forest Park.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority welcome the support for the policy objectives contained within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**. It is noted that there are Policy Objectives contained within the Portumna Settlement Plan which would support the provision of tourism infrastructure as requested.

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-863 POBAL RUA

### Pg 415

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that in this submission it is recommended that green and blue infrastructure is prioritised due to its importance for tourism.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The Draft Galway County Development Plan specifically supports greenways which is detailed in **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** within Section 8.9.1 Greenways/Blueways and Policy Objectives **GBW 1 Greenways** and **GBW 2 Future Development of Network of Greenways**. The development of a greenway infrastructure in accordance with the Strategy for Future Development of National and Regional Greenways would be supported by the Plan.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.*

## GLW C10-835 KYLEMORE ABBEY

### Pg 415

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that in this comprehensive submission it is noted that Kylemore Abbey welcomes the policy aims for tourism in the Draft County Plan. It requests that the following specific tourism actions are incorporated into the County Development Plan:

Additional tourism support at local authority level; in welcoming the planned Tourism Strategy and Visitor Experience Development Plans, Kylemore would favour increased staffing number of Tourism officers to deliver and sustain this strategy.

Prioritise transport infrastructure, services and EV charge points for rural-based tourism areas, attractions, and centres particularly in Connemara to support sustainable tourism.

Encourage partnership with arts organisations. Creative Ireland and GCC Arts Office so that Kylemore can host cultural events, performance, and exhibitions, thereby providing a platform for cultural tourism, particularly in North West Connemara and providing incentive for increased visitor footfall during the off-peak and shoulder seasons.

Encourage the local authority to take a co-ordinating role in developing regional, multi-partner partnerships for new cultural and spiritual tourism products, in particular

a spiritual way walking trail/Camino from Connemara to Mayo, linking Kylemore Abbey, Mámean, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber and Knock.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority would like to reference Policy Objective **GCTS 1 Galway County Tourism Strategy** within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**. The Plan will support the preparation and implementation of this strategy which will support the existing tourism sector whilst also ensuring the county is maximising its tourism potential.

The Development Plan supports the provision of enhanced infrastructure and services across the county. EV charge points are supported within **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** within Section 6.5.2.3. Policy Objective **EV 1 Electric Vehicles Charging Infrastructure** seeks to support and facilitate the roll out of additional electric charging points.

The content of the submission with regard to arts organisations is noted. Section 12.8 and the associated policy objectives are considered to support creativity and the arts. The Council will endeavour to work with artists and designers and other stakeholders to develop strategies in relation to the Arts.

The Planning Authority would like to reference Policy Objective **GCTS 1 Galway County Tourism Strategy** within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**. The Plan will support the preparation and implementation of this strategy which will support the existing tourism sector whilst also ensuring the county is maximising its tourism potential. It is anticipated that further examination of tourism products, such as those referenced in the submission, will be carried out as part of this strategy.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-776 KILONLY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Pg 416**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this comprehensive submission relates to Castlegrove Woods in Kilconly. It includes detailed maps outlining proposed walkways and trails. A detailed plan was submitted for the further development of Castlegrove Woods and its surrounding area with recreational facilities. It is noted that Coillte and Inland Fisheries are on board for the redevelopment. This submission seeks support for the continued redevelopment and enhancement of Castlegrove Woods.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The purpose of the development plan is not to identify specific local projects. There is a suite of Policy Objectives located within **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** which would facilitate developments such as that mentioned in this submission. Specifically, Policy Objectives **WC 4 Modern Network of Walking and Cycling Infrastructure** and **WC 5 Traffic Free Cycle Routes** would be supportive of the proposal as detailed at Castlegrove Woods in Kilcony.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Reddington and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-741 EDDIE PHELAN**

**Pg 417**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this submission relates to camping provision and motorhome tourism. It is requested that camping facilities are open for consideration in land use zonings R, C1, TC1, C2, BT, BE, CF and OS. It is noted that this would allow the development of camping facilities if appropriate to the specific site.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority note the request with regard to the provision of motorhome tourism. Within Volume 2 and the Settlement Plans the Planning Authority are satisfied that sufficient lands would be available for the provision of such developments.

Such proposals would also be supported within **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** within Section 4.13 and policy objective **CD 1 Rural Enterprises**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-759 JOHN MORIARTY**

**Pg 417**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that it is noted in this submission that Galway County Council should investigate the policies of 'Aires' and 'Stellenplatz', of France and Germany, in relation to the importance of motorhome tourism.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority note the request with regard to the provision of motorhome tourism. Within Volume 2 and the Settlement Plans the Planning Authority are satisfied that sufficient lands would be available for the provision of such developments.

Such proposals would also be supported within **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** within Section 4.13 and policy objective **CD 1 Rural Enterprises**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.*

**GLW C10-735 PADDY BOYCE**

**Pg 418**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this submission relates to motorhome/campervan services. It is requested that additional provision is made for more facilities to encourage tourism of this type.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority note the request with regard to the provision of motorhome tourism. Within Volume 2 and the Settlement Plans the Planning Authority are satisfied that sufficient lands would be available for the provision of such developments.

Such proposals would also be supported within **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** within Section 4.13 and policy objective **CD 1 Rural Enterprises**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Killilea stated that there was a huge shortage of caravan sites within County Galway and there weren't enough areas identified for this. Cllrs. Mannion, Sheridan & Mac an lomaire agreed with comments.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.*

**GLW C10 689 UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA**

**Pg 418**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this comprehensive submission supports the aims and goals that are laid out in Chapter 8. During the period of the new Development Plan, it is noted that the Údarás will be building on the continuous cooperation between the Údarás, the County Council, the walkway officer and the employment schemes being administered by the Údarás to develop walkways and greenways. The Údarás strongly support the recommendations associated with the Joyce Country and Western Lakes project (GLW-C10-570) and continuous funding from the different parties will be needed to preserve this project. The submission supports the emanation action/infrastructure etc. which increase the likelihood of gaining planning permission for hotels and other accommodation in the Gaeltacht.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority notes the support for walkways and greenways. The Draft Galway County Development Plan specifically supports greenways which is detailed in **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** within Section 8.9.1 Greenways/Blueways and Policy Objectives **GBW 1 Greenways** and **GBW 2 Future Development of Network of Greenways**. The development of a greenway infrastructure in accordance with the Strategy for Future Development of National and Regional Greenways would be supported by the Plan.

The support for the Joyce Country and Western Lakes project and submission reference GLW-C10-570 is noted.

The development of infrastructure is a priority of the Council on a county wide basis. The Plan includes policy objectives which support such works including supports other stakeholders such as Irish Water and TII to name but a few.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-608 BAILE BHRUCHLAIN TEORANTA & BAILE EOMOINN TEORANTA**

**Pg 419**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this comprehensive submission recommends that tourism needs to be more at the forefront of this Draft Development Plan. It is noted that tourism is vital throughout the Connemara Region for the local community and economy. This submission welcomes the policies on Tourism in the Draft Plan however it requests that they are further developed.

It is requested that DM Standard 44, Tourism Infrastructure and Holiday Orientated Developments, is amended to state:

- *"The Council recognises that there is an untapped tourism potential in County Galway, particularly in the Connemara Region, which can be realised in different ways through the development of new tourism infrastructure facilities to enhance the tourism offerings of the region. Where the provision of such facilities complies with the other requirements of the County Development Plan as set out and the requirements of proper planning and sustainable development, the Council will consider the provision of same subject to the submission of the following:*
- *Comprehensive justification of need for the facility*
- *Overall master plan of the facility*
- *Documentary evidence of compliance with the other requirements of the Development Plan."*

It is requested under 15.7.1 Tourism Related Documents under a) Tourism Infrastructure Development that the first line reads as follows:

- *"The Council also recognises..."*

It is proposed that Policies CTB 1-5 and Policies SGV9 in Volume 1 are elaborated upon.

It is proposed that the Development Plan should align more with the *Fáilte Ireland Connemara Coast and Aran Islands Development Plan* for the provision of new projects and facilities.

It is recommended that the Development Plan should acknowledge potential opportunities that can bring tourism life in Connemara, such as the Celtic Camino/Camino Connemara, new greenways, blueways and cycle links between key towns and villages, South Connemara as an Adventure Tourism destination, new Heritage Piers, Geoparks and the designation of Designated Bathing Waters.

It is submitted that more needs to be done to develop parking and waste management facilities at beaches in South Connemara to increase their potential as local tourism assets.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority welcomes the support for the policy objectives for Tourism within the Draft Plan. The Planning Authority are satisfied that the Policy Objectives as proposed create conditions to ensure the tourism economy can continue to develop and grow over the life of the Plan.

The Planning Authority would like to reference Policy Objective **GCTS 1 Galway County Tourism Strategy** within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**. The plan will support the preparation and implementation of this strategy which will support the existing tourism sector whilst also ensuring the county is maximising its tourism potential.

The Planning Authority note the amended text as suggested to DM Standard 44. The amended text as suggested is not considered to be significantly different from the text as proposed in the Draft Plan. The text which makes specific reference to the Connemara region is noted however, the Planning Authority consider that the County as a whole should be treated equally with regard to this DM Standard, and as such the wording as proposed in the Draft Plan is considered appropriate in this instance.

The requested addition of the word “also” in the first line under DM Standard 44 is not considered necessary.

The Planning Authority are satisfied that the Policy Objectives including **CTB 1 – 5** as proposed are appropriate with respect to the County Tourism Brands. The wording within **SGV 9 Tourism**, which relates to tourism in the small growth villages, is also considered appropriate in this instance.

The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 supports the **Connemara Coast and Aran Islands Visitor Experience Development Plan (2017)** within **Section 8.7. The Council have consulted with Failte Ireland and there have been no concerns raised in terms of the alignment of the Draft Plan with this tourism document.**

The development plan has not listed every potential tourism development in the county but has included a suite of policy objectives that would support such projects as those listed in this submission for Connemara, and indeed elsewhere throughout County Galway.

The Planning Authority acknowledge the development of parking and waste management facilities at beaches. The enhancement of such facilities would be supported within the provision of the Draft Plan as proposed.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed.***

**GLW C10-584 - GLENLO ABBEY HOTEL AND ESTATE**

**Cllr. Mannion advised that she would be submitting a motion on this submission.**

***It was agreed to defer decision until motion is received.***

**GLW C10-570 JOYCE COUNTRY & WESTERN LAKES GEOPARK**

**Pg 423**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that it is noted in this submission that achieving UNESCO Global Geopark status for Joyce Country and Western Lakes (JCWL) area should be in one of the priorities of the County Development Plan.

It is noted that the JCWL Geopark Project has already made great progress towards satisfying the requirements for UNESCO Global Geopark status. The application to

UNESCO will be submitted in November 2021 and the outcome will be known by mid-2023. It is noted that the Geopark idea, and the six objectives of their Strategic Framework for Tourism Development, has relevance to Chapter 8.

It is noted that more visitors would be attracted to the Geopark region to explore the area.

It is requested that acknowledgement of this is included in the Development Plan as more visitors would be attracted to the Geopark region to explore, experience, and linger the area as a sustainable form of tourism.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted. It is considered that the wording within Policy Objective **UGG 1 UNESCO Global** supports the UNESCO Global Geopark status.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-552 COSTA GAELACH CHONAMARA AGUS ARANN**

**Pg 424**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission requested a number of recommendations for inclusion in the County Development Plan:

Support for sewerage plants across the Gaeltacht, especially in An Spidéal, to achieve blue flag status, and support for a hotel to attract visitors to the area.

Gaeltacht festivals, such as Féile na Ronnach, should be mentioned in the County Development Plan.

The tourism centres in the Gaeltacht should be mentioned.

The Arts and Crafts across the Gaeltacht should be mentioned.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The provision of new wastewater treatment infrastructure falls under the remit of Irish Water. The Planning Authority have consulted with Irish Water and have proposed Policy Objectives contained for the most part within **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities and Environmental Protection** which supports the enhancement of wastewater infrastructure in accordance with the Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 and the Natural Water Resources Plan (NWRP).

The specific mentioning/listing of local festivals is not considered appropriate in the County Development Plan. There are Policy Objectives within **Chapter 8 Tourism**

**and Landscape.** Section 8.10.3 specifically supports events and festivals across the county.

This specific mentioning/listing of tourism centres in the Gaeltacht is not considered appropriate in the County Development Plan.

This specific mentioning/listing of Arts and Crafts in the Gaeltacht is not considered appropriate in the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-466 MOR ACTION**

**Pg 425**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this comprehensive submission relates to the Maree-Oranmore area.

It is noted in relation to Chapter 8, Policy Objectives GBW1 and GBW2, that priority should be given to the connection between Oranmore to Galway City for safe travel by bicycle.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Draft Galway County Development Plan specifically supports greenways which is detailed in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** within Section 6.5.2.2 Greenways and Blueways and Policy Objectives **GBW 1 Greenways** and **GBW 2 Future Development of Network of Greenways**. The development of a greenway infrastructure in accordance with the Strategy for Future Development of National and Regional Greenways would be supported by the Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Carroll asked that their sentiments be noted.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Kinane and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-462 ELENOR KILMARTIN

### Pg 425

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

It is requested in this submission that a greenway is introduced from Oughterard to Clifden. It is proposed that the Wild Atlantic Way could be further boosted with the Wild Atlantic Blue Cycleway. It is noted that hotels, guesthouses, and nearby shops would benefit.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The Draft Galway County Development Plan specifically supports the Connemara Greenway and the Clifden to Oughterard section of this greenway is detailed in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** within Section 6.5.2.2 Greenways and Blueways and Policy Objective **GBW 1 Greenways**.

#### **Chief Executives Recommendation.**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.*

## GLW C10-160 CONNEMARA DARK SKIES

### Pg 426

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission supports Galway County Council's inclusion of Policy Objectives on light pollution and dark skies in the Draft County Development Plan (DS 1 Dark Skies).

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.*

## GLW C10-122 HILDA GANNON

### Pg 426

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission relates to Section 8.9.1 Greenway/Blueways. It is noted that progress needs to be made on the Connemara Greenway. It is requested that the section from Galway City to Moycullen and Oughterard is expedited.

It is requested that there is an integrated, holistic approach to how the Connemara Greenway passes through the parish of Moycullen that ensures accessibility and optimal use.

It is proposed that the plans for the Connemara Greenway need to bring the greenway users into Oughterard, with multiple access points from the Greenway into the village rather than having a main “stop” on the Clifden side of the village.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Draft Galway County Development Plan specifically supports the Connemara Greenway and the Clifden to Oughterard section of this greenway is detailed in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** within Section 6.5.2.2 Greenways and Blueways and Policy Objective **GBW 1 Greenways**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-13 DANIEL CURLEY**

**Pg 427**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission relates to the area known as Uí Maine Country and a proposal for an extensive heritage tourism project. A comprehensive feasibility study accompanied this submission. It is proposed in this submission that the medieval Gaelic heritage of South Roscommon and East Galway could be harnessed for social, sustainable employment and economic benefit of the latter rural regions. It is noted that this could potentially be undertaken as a collaborative long-term project supported by both local authorities.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Development Plan includes a suite of policy objectives within **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**. Section 8.10.1 Heritage Tourism would support the proposal outlined within the submission. The policy objectives within Section 8.10.1 are considered appropriate in this instance.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change

Cllr. Dr. Parsons stated that this was a very worthwhile submission and proposed it goes forward to Tourism Strategy.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

This Covered off Chapter 8 and it was agreed to move on to Chapter 9

## **CHAPTER 9 – MARINE AND COSTAL MANAGEMENT**

### **GLW C10-1251 CLLR. SHERIDAN**

**Pg 428**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that the following amendment was proposed to policy objective AF 1 Marine:

#### **Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management**

##### **AF 1 Marine Aquaculture**

To support the sustainable development of marine aquaculture and fishing industries, so as to maximise their contribution to jobs and growth in coastal communities where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment. **Positive consideration will be given to the provision and allocation of aquaculture and community-owned renewable permissions and infrastructure for the placement of beyond the foreshore aquatic installations ..... side of horizon developments such as offshore wind, solar, and other beyond foreshore installations for existing licenced and other community owned entities with county.**

##### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Upon review it is considered the policy objective as proposed in the submission is not appropriate as it is not considered necessary to refer to specific community groups.

##### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Sheridan, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

### **GLW C10-1260 – CLLR. KING**

**Pg 428**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that the submission is proposing to make the following amendment:

### **9.9 Aquaculture and Fishing**

Aquaculture relates to the farming of finfish, shellfish, seaweed species and aquatic food types. It is not exclusively related to sea-based fishing, although the marine environment on the foreshore makes up the majority of aquaculture activity. The fisheries industry plays an important role in maintaining the counties strong marine economy. In recent years the national employment figure in the fisheries industry was in excess of 14,000 people either directly or indirectly. Given the extensive coastline, number of existing fishing villages and the employment created from this industry requires recognition and protection in this plan.

The plan will seek to facilitate the development of this industry further in a sustainable manner, without detriment to the natural environment. It is also considered that the enabling infrastructure to facilitate a thriving aquacultural industry is of paramount importance. ~~The development and maintenance of harbours, piers and associated infrastructure will also be required to ensure the continued development of this industry.~~ **The development and maintenance of Harbours, Piers and associated infrastructure will be prioritised to ensure the continued development of the industry.**

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

It is considered that this is adequately addressed under Policy Objective **IS 3 Development of Pier Infrastructure**. Therefore, upon review, it is not considered necessary to amend as per the submission.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***This has already been dealt with. It was noted by Members.***

## **GLW C10-1696 GALWAY BAY AGAINST SALMON CAGES**

### **Pg 429**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised it is requested in submission that Galway County Council readopt Chapter 11 Fishing and Marine Resources Objectives that is contained in the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 into the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028. It is requested that Galway County Development Plan is fully consistent with EU and domestic environmental protection legislation and case law.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that the Draft County Development Plan is fully consistent with EU and domestic environmental protection legislation. **Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management** has been prepared in the context of national and regional plans, policies and guidance as outlined in Section 9.3 Strategic Context.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-932 COISTE COMHAIRLACH PLEAN 5 BLIANA IORRAS AITHNEACH**

**Pg 429**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

***(Two identical submissions made (incl. GLW-C10-928).*** The following summary is of the second submission. This submission suggested text to be included in Section 9.7.

This submission requests that Galway County Council include policy which encourages the utilisation of the marine resources along the coastline as a source of employment in communities that are contiguous to the Atlantic, and that planning applications for the development of marine-related industries and activities would be looked on favourably. It is requested that Galway County Council deploy more personnel to assist in energising marine based industries (i.e. industry, services, recreational/tourism facilities).

The submission requests that the Council support the development of Páirc na Mara on the site chosen by Údarás na Gaeltacht in Cill Chiaráin which has the potential for creating significant employment and has capacity to attain national and international significance.

It is requested that a policy objective be included to extend and upgrade Cill Chiaráin pier for the purposes of fishing, marine developments, climate change and tourism related activities.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that there are sufficient policy objectives to encourage the utilisation of the marine resources along the coastline as a source of employment. Policy Objective **MCE 1 Maritime Economy** supports the development and growth of the maritime economy. The Draft County Development Plan supports the proposals outlined in the submission, in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

***It was advised that this is same as submission GLW C10-928.***

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-930 CUAN BEO**

### **Pg 430**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised this submission requests that protection of water quality is mentioned specifically in the Strategic Aims and that improvements to water quality and water quality infrastructure are included in Policy SMT 1.

The submission notes that as Ros a Mhíl is a primary fishing port and there is potential to add value at local level through seafood processing. It is submitted that there is potential to develop viable businesses from coastal resources. The policy objectives on marine and coastal challenges should recognise opportunities also. The submission notes that significant improvements are needed in the collection, management and distribution of data and information in order to effectively manage the marine and coastal environment. Policy should be determined on the basis of good data.

Due to the shift in tourism patterns with an increased popularity of rural coastal locations, coastal infrastructure and sea access could be developed under Policy Objectives ***MCE 1 Marine Economy, MCT 1 Water Based Sports and Marine Recreation, MCT 2 Coastal Tourism and Recreation and MCT 3 Existing Coastal Walkways*** (specifically changing rooms, toilets, handrails, fresh water).

The submission notes that education has a role to play in the enrichment of marine coastal heritage. Specific sustainable actions could include a country wide education programme on aquatic biodiversity, integration of marine trades, and recreational activities.

Concrete and realistic actions should be included in Policy Objective ***MRE 1 Renewable Energy*** in relation to renewable energy. Policies should be included that would consider more natural flood management techniques and greater use of water as a resource.

Cuan Beo welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Policy Objective MCC4.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. The Draft County Development Plan acknowledges that the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the county requires water quality to be of the highest possible standard.

The Planning Authority considers that there are adequate policy objectives elsewhere in ***Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management*** to address opportunities. It is a Strategic Aim of this chapter '*to promote growth in the marine sector and deliver a thriving maritime economy harnessing; the opportunities that present themselves in a co-ordinated and sustainable manner.*'

Noted. The development plan is not an economic plan with the provision of financial budget to facilitate the development of coastal infrastructure and sea access. The plan is a land-use plan which supports the development of the area. The development plan would not prohibit any of the proposals outlined in this submission. The sustainable development of marine related infrastructure is also supported under Policy Objective **SMT 1 Marine Potential**.

The Planning Authority considers that Policy Objective **MRI 1 Marine Research and Innovation** supports marine development such as research and innovation facilities in the County.

The Planning Authority considers that there are appropriate policy objectives contained within **Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management** which have created the conditions to ensure the continuing development of the marine sector in County Galway in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. Policy Objective **MRE 1 Renewable Energy** supports future proposals for sustainable offshore renewable energy generation off the coast of County Galway.

This has been noted by the Planning Authority.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Byrne asked that it be noted that this was a group with incredible expertise that may be able to assist in the implementation of our objectives and wanted to note their contribution. Cllr. Kinane supported these comments and commended the wonderful work this group does.

***The Chief Executive Recommendation was approved by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Kinistry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-537 KILLARY ADVENTURE CO.**

**Pg. 432**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised the submission requests that criteria be outlined for expanding existing adventure businesses at Killary fjord. The submission requests guidance for the future development along the N59 road. In addition, clarification is requested on whether there is capacity to build on the side of the Killary fjord.

Fáilte Ireland are looking at future locations for wild swimming hubs. The submission requests clarification on the plans for Killary Harbour and its location as an outdoor adventure hub i.e. new marinas, piers, swimming pools.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that there are a suite of adequate and appropriate policy objectives contained in the

Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 which would support the expansion and development of existing adventure businesses at Killary fjord in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

## CHAPTER 7

### **GLW C10-966 J GRUPA POBAIL CHEIBH AN tSRUTHAIN, AN CHEATHRU RUA**

**Pg 381**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that the submission noted that Policy Objective Wastewater WW9 is welcomed (*There shall be a minimum 100m setback for all new waste water treatment plants in An Cheathrú Rua*) and it is proposed that this objective is not removed from the final Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. The group made a detailed submission outlining their views during the pre-draft stage.

It is noted that several other observations and submissions that they made during the pre-draft stages were not included in the Draft Plan. It is proposed that the following points are included in the Galway Development Plan 2022-2028 in relation to waste water treatment management:

- The incorporation of strict regulations in relation to wastewater treatment plants.
- Wastewater treatment plants should be strictly regulated on scenic seashore sites.
- Wastewater treatment plants should be strictly regulated in proximity to public piers.
- Wastewater treatment plants should be strictly regulated close to all public amenities.

It is noted that the proposal to locate a wastewater treatment plant at Céibh an tSrutháin is inappropriate and it is proposed that Céibh an tSrutháin should be designated as a public 'Recreation and Amenity Area'. It is proposed that the area could be developed for the community and developed as a fishing and sailing amenity.

It is proposed that strict regulations need to be implemented in relation to wastewater treatment plants on coastal and scenic areas. It is noted that such objectives need to be an integral part of the Development Plan to ensure sustainable environmental protection in line with climate change and its impact on coastal regions. It is proposed that Céibh an tSrutháin, and similar sites, should not be considered appropriate

locations for sewage plants. It is recommended that Céibh an tSrutháin would be eliminated as a site for a sewage plant.

The submission acknowledged that a 100m setback for all new wastewater treatment plants in An Cheathrú Rua is welcomed and it proposed that additional measures are required in order to safeguard sites along the coastline such as Céibh an tSrutháin. It is recommended that:

- Stricter objectives are required to protect the coast as a 100m buffer may not be enough.
- Climate change needs to be at the forefront of proposals for wastewater treatment plants at such coastal locations such as Céibh an tSrutháin.
- The public health implications associated with the development of sewage treatment plants needs to be highlighted.
- There needs to be a complete re-assessment of locating sewage treatment plants in proximity to dwellings and public amenity areas.
- Wastewater treatment plants should not be located at scenic sites.
- Scenic sites should be designated as “Recreation and Amenity”.

The submission included an Appendix A which recommended that Céibh an tSrutháin be zoned under the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 as a “*Recreation and Amenity Area*” and to have it designated as a public amenity for leisure, tourism and for community enjoyment. It further noted policy objectives in the Draft Development Plan that it considered that the submission falls in accordance with namely; 6.5.5 Ports, Harbours, Piers and Slipways; 8.9.2 Coastal and Marine Tourism; 9.11 Marine and Coastal Tourism; 12.7.3 The Gaeltacht and Linguistic Heritage; 13.6 Preserving and Promoting An Gaeltacht in the Planning Process.

It is noted that Céibh an tSrutháin is of high scenic amenity and a historic site.

**Chief Executive’s Response:**

Policy Objective ***WW9 Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants in An Cheathrú Rua*** was proposed by Elected Members at the Plenary Meeting in May 2021, the officials opposed this new policy objective, and this was conveyed at the meeting.

In the case of single house developments served by a domestic treatment system, these requirements are set out in the EPA Code of Practice for Waste Water Treatment Systems and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (2009).

The provision of new wastewater treatment infrastructure falls under the remit of Irish Water. The Planning Authority have consulted with Irish Water and have proposed Policy Objectives contained for the most part within **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities and Environmental Protection** which supports the enhancement of wastewater infrastructure in accordance with the Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 and the Natural Water Resources Plan (NWRP).

**Chief Executive’s Recommendation:**

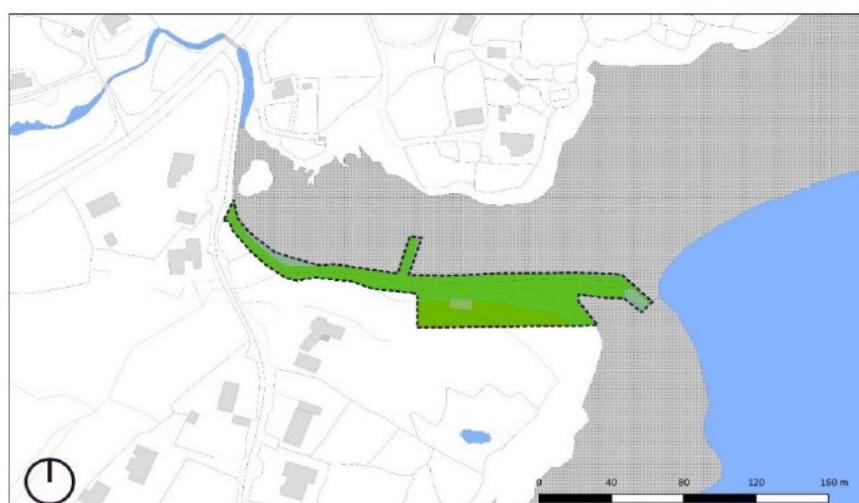
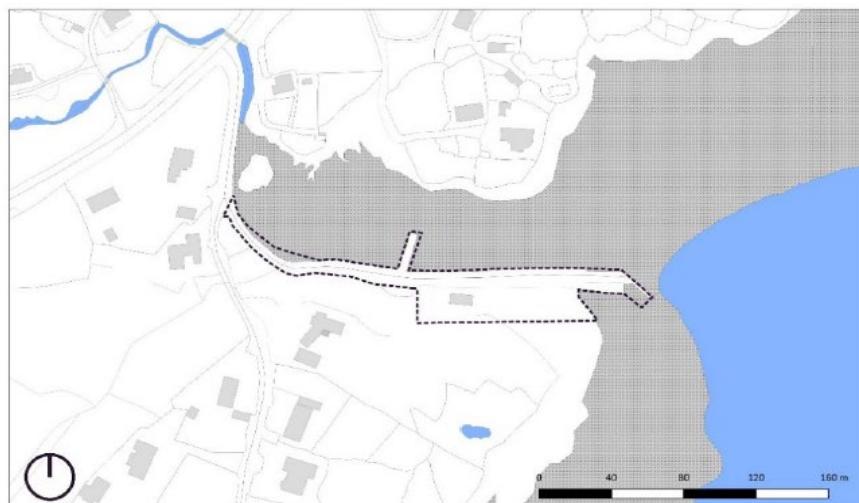
See OPR Recommendation 16 – An Cheathrú Rua.

**An Comh. O Cualáin submitted the following motion:**

*I propose that Céibh an tSrutháin be zoned under the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 as a “Recreation and Amenity Area” and to have it designated as a public amenity for leisure, tourism and for community enjoyment. It is noted that*

*Céibh an tSrutháin is of high scenic amenity and a historic site. (Zoning as per attached Map outlined in red).*

Material Alteration 19.1 - An Cheathrú Rua  
Rural Settlements / Rural Area - An Cheathrú Rua - Land Use Zoning Map  
Elected Members Amendments as a Result of Notice of Motion (GLW-C10- 966)  
From - Rural Countryside / To - Open Space/Recreation & Amenity  
Area - 0.459 Ha.



***The Motion was proposed by An Comh. O Cualáin, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-584 – GLENLO ABBEY HOTEL AND ESTATE**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this comprehensive submission relates to Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate. It is requested that the Development Plan include a specific policy in relation to the site as follows:

**- “It is a policy of the Planning Authority to work with and facilitate the enhanced development of the Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate to secure an integrated tourism**

***and recreational complex on the Estate grounds, including the enhancement of leisure, golf and hotel facilities, connection to the Connemara Greenway, enhanced connection to the Lough Corrib, and potential future development on the grounds of the Estate”***

It is noted that the Draft County Development Plan does not make any particular reference to the Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate nor is it included in any proposed zoning areas. It is considered that there is great potential to further develop the lands at Glenlo Abbey in the future, which would benefit from the guidance of a focused policy for the site in the Development Plan.

It is requested that the following text is included in support of the proposed policy above:

***- “Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate are situated on the foot of Lough Corrib, nestled between Galway City to the south and the vast Connemara Region surrounding on the north, west and east. Glenlo Abbey dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and is Galway County’s only 5 star hotel. It is recognised as a high quality tourism resource with an array of leisure and sporting facilities including fishing on Lough Corrib, walks and cycling through the grounds, falconry, horse riding, a 21 bay driving range and the unique championship 9 hole golf course on the grounds. The hotel, where old world charm meets contemporary elegance is also home to Ireland’s most unique destination dining experience, offering visitors the opportunity to dine aboard two of the original carriages of the Orient Express.***

***The Hotel and Estate are an important source of direct and indirect employment and tourism in the County and site specific policy and objectives to guide and secure the future direction of the development of the Estate are of great importance to Galway County”.***

In addition, the following objectives are proposed for inclusion in the Development Plan:

- “It is an objective of Galway County Council to support the protection and enhancement of the Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate grounds, its protected structures and high class landscape, and allow for its extension as appropriate.***
- It is an objective of Galway County Council to support and work with the Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of tourism, sporting, leisure, and related uses within the Estate grounds.***
- It is an objective of Galway County Council to support the development of facilities on the grounds such as a new mooring point on Lough Corrib, subject to detailed planning and environmental justification and consideration.***
- It is an objective of Galway County Council to support and work with the Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate to provide for the development of appropriate residential development on the grounds of the estate, subject to detailed discussion and consideration, without detracting from the Estate’s landscape character and built and natural heritage.”***

#### **Chief Executive’s Response:**

The Planning Authority note the content of the requested policy for inclusion in the County Development Plan. The specific nature of the requested policy is considered inappropriate for inclusion in the Development Plan. **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** would support the development of tourism proposals such as those outlined in the submission. Both the text and policy objectives within Section 8.8 Tourism Infrastructure are considered appropriate in this instance.

The submission is correct in its assertion that the plan does not make any particular reference to the Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate and that the lands are not within any landuse zoning area. The Plan does not intend to list or make references to specifics enterprises or business. The Plan intends to provide policy objectives which support economic development on a wider scale. The development of Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate is not considered disadvantaged by virtue of it not being specifically referenced in the Plan or being designated for specific land use zoning.

The requested inclusion of text and policy objectives are noted. However, the requested insertions are not considered appropriate to be included within the County Development Plan. As noted above, it is considered that the future development of Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate are sufficiently supported by virtue of the text and policy objectives as proposed within the Draft Galway County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Mr. Dunne outlined that Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate Grounds are recognized as important assets to the county. However, it is not considered necessary to include a policy objective for same. The Planning Authority have granted permission on the said lands over the years.

**Cllr. Mannion submitted the following Motion:**

*I propose the following policy be inserted into County Development Plan:  
"It is a policy objective of the Planning Authority to support the enhanced development of the Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate to secure an integrated tourism and recreational complex on the Estate grounds, including the enhancement of leisure, golf and hotel facilities, connection to the Connemara Greenway, enhanced connection to Lough Corrib, and potential future development on the grounds of the Estate"*

***The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed by the Members.***

**IT WAS AGREED TO MOVE TO CHAPTER 10 – NATURAL HERITAGE, BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN/BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**GLW C10-262 CLLR. ALISTAIR MCKINSTRY**

**Pg 433**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

**Chapter 10: Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure**

**The Connemara Greenway from the City to Oughterard via Maigh Cuilinn must be treated as critical transport infrastructure, not just a tourist amenity...and how it links with Moycullen and Oughterard.**

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Strategic projects in the county are outlined on Table 6.2 within **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**, which illustrates same. The plan also acknowledges the benefits of greenway infrastructure from a recreational amenity perspective which encourages an active and healthy lifestyle for our community.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McKinstry, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1281 – CLLR. NOEL THOMAS**

**Pg. 433**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

**Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure**

**PO 1 Delivery of All Ireland Pollinator Plan** To facilitate the delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan where possible.

**In the interest of preserving and enhancing biodiversity and working in conjunction with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan -**

It shall be the policy of the council to ensure that at least 20% of the green space on all housing estates being built will have to be dedicated, developed and maintained as a pollinator zone. The area dedicated can be confined to one single lot or various lots around the site providing that the total area of the lots meets the minimum requirement of 20%.

The pollinator zones should be planted with a mix of pollinator friendly-bulbs, self seeding annuals and biennials, perennials, shrubs, trees, fruit trees and fruit bushes and the majority of this planting should consist of native plants.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

In relation to Policy Objective **PO 1 Delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan**, the existing policy objective supports the delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This is a strategic plan which forms the basis of framework for future user navigating through the Development Management process. It is not considered appropriate to specify specific requirements for the Pollinator Plan, which is an overall strategy. Furthermore, there are specific requirements outlined in **Chapter 15 Development Management and Standards** that contain requirements for residential developments in terms of open space and other considerations.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Thomas proposed inserting new policy objective of allocating 20% of green open space in new housing estates would be designated as a Pollinator Zone and it didn't make it more difficult for developers. Ms. Loughnane suggested that this was not the appropriate place and suggested that maybe some of the DM Standards maybe more appropriate as it was an operational matter. Cllr. Thomas suggested that Local Authorities don't have expertise to be able to implement Pollinator Plan.

Cllr. Murphy stated that he agreed with sentiments of proposal and stated that there was a lot of training and education required for staff in relation to the effective implementation of the Pollinator Plan.

Mr. Owens suggested that the most appropriate place to include it would be with the DM Standard relating to landscaping. Cllr. Thomas said this was not enough and wished to go ahead with his proposal to include the provision as a policy objective.

***Motion as proposed by Cllr. Thomas was seconded by An Comh. O Curraoin and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-2126 CLLR. DR. PARSONS**

**Pg 434**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that it is requested that the following insertion of the adoption of the Principle of Environmental Justice - a 'fair' distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, including the application of environmental policy planning implementation and governance is incorporated into the Draft Plan:

### **7.9 Environmental Protection**

"The issue of Environmental discrimination is one that environmental justice measures should address with regard to the serial siting of old Landfill, Superdump, waste facilities in an area of heightened environmental sensitivity and/or community amenity importance close to residential communities.

Areas of heightened socio-economic deprivation indices should be protected from compounding environmental injustice and environmental discrimination and should be reflected in planning policies & operations in environmental decision making and implementation. Policy implementation and planning can stack the odds against attracting industry and investment to certain locations within the county and blight communities from attracting investment and high value job creation despite outstanding infrastructure, location, resources, skills and natural environmental beauty. This principle of environmental justice will ensure that all communities will be supported by contents of the CDP TO improve and maintain a clean and healthy environment, especially those who have traditionally lived, worked and played closest to sources of pollution, therefore in the interests of equity I call that this principle of environmental justice is named and inserted into the CDP. "

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted. Upon review of the proposed wording, and to ensure consistency with the County Development Plan, it is considered prudent to include reference to environmental protection. However it is considered **Chapter 10: Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** is a more appropriate Chapter to include the reference to environmental justice.

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

### Section 10.6.1 Context Paragraph 2

This biodiversity is under pressure from development and human activity. A sustainable approach is needed to protect and conserve the natural heritage. While it is inevitable that our landscape will continue to change in response to the needs of our society, it is essential that a balance is reached between development and ensuring that there are no detrimental impacts to the natural heritage and biodiversity of the County **through environmental considerations including environmental justice.**

Cllr. Dr. Parson welcomed the inclusion of this wording in the Development Plan and accepted it under biodiversity but suggested it wasn't going far enough.

**Cllr. Dr. Parson's submitted the following Motion:**

***I propose a motion that the CE response to my submission is accepted with capitalization of the term to Environmental Justice as underlined below in red and deletion of the yellow highlighted letters. Chief Executive's Recommendation: Section 10.6.1 Context Paragraph 2***

***This biodiversity is under pressure from development and human activity. A sustainable approach is needed to protect and conserve the natural heritage. While it is inevitable that our landscape will continue to change in response to the needs of our society, it essential that a balance is reached between development and ensuring that there are no detrimental impacts to the natural heritage and biodiversity of the County through environmental considerations including Environmental Justice.***

***I propose the following narrative in red is inserted in Chapter 7***

#### ***Narrative on Environmental Justice***

***Environmental Justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.***

***Socioeconomic justice is central to the issue of Environmental Justice. At its core, Environmental Justice guarantees that all people have equal access to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment, as well as equal protection from environmental harm.***

***I propose the following motion on adopting the Environmental Justice Principle for direct inclusion in the CDP under the following headings-***

#### ***7.6 Waste Management***

***Galway County Council supports principles of Environmental Justice in its application of environmental policy, planning, implementation and governance, including in recovery from past pollution inducing facilities, allowing communities reasonable and equitable opportunities to prosper and to ensure that no one town within Galway county is continually subjected to large-scale waste facility developments and commercial waste operations which can impact negatively upon that community in terms of environment, quality of life, health wellbeing, placemaking, and/or future economic growth opportunities including attracting investment & sustainable tourism.***

**7.9 Environmental Protection**

*Galway County Council adopts of the Principles of Environmental Justice in its decision-making processes and strives to ensure a 'fair' distribution of environmental benefits and burdens within the county in its application of environmental policy, planning, implementation and governance.*

Cllr. Dr. Parsons stated that it safeguards everything, and it ties in with sustainable goals. This was seconded by Cllr. Donohue who advised that she had sent in a motion in relation to this also.

Mr. Dunne stated that it was proposed to have this new text included in Chapter 7. The Principle of Environmental Justice is enshrined in the overall concept of proper planning and sustainable development and it is not considered warranted to include the additional text as proposed in the motion.

***It was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Donohue and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-948 SENATOR SEAN KYNE**

**Pg 435**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

10.16 Table BGP3

*"Recognise the potential of Greenways as commuting routes to work and college as well as social, leisure and tourism pursuits and ensure sufficient width of Greenway is achieved in areas closer to Galway City."*

**Chief Executive's Response:**

It is considered that the trust of the proposed wording is covered within Policy Objective **BGP 3 Greenways, Blueways, Peatways and Trails**, therefore it is not considered necessary to include this.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Collins and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-468 DONNA CARROLL**

**Pg 435**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission has attached a copy of **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** and has not provided any commentary on the chapter.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

There has been no commentary provided with this submission to allow the Planning Authority to form a response.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Collins and agreed by the Members.*

**GLW C10-854 IRISH ARCHITECTS DECLARE**

**Pg 435**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised a detailed submission has been made in relation to **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure**. The submission provides background information on the Architects Declare. The submission wishes to integrate the 'Green Factor Approach' into the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. The submission outlines the benefits of using green infrastructure. A detailed description of the 'Green Factor Approach' is provided, along with a number of case studies where the approach has been applied and a methodology study on how the 'Green Factor Approach' was developed in the city of Helsinki, Finland.

It is noted that the greening of the built environment is recognised as one of the key policy interventions required to increase urban resilience to climate change and to address other concerns such as poor air quality, flood management, increasing biodiversity and promoting active travel.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that there is sufficient mention of green infrastructure in **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure**. Policy Objective **GB1 1 New Developments** seeks to include proposals which protect, manage and enhance the development of green infrastructure resources in a sustainable manner. Policy Objective **CC 10 Green Infrastructure** seeks to promote the integration of green infrastructure/networks into new development and regeneration proposals. This has been noted by the Planning Authority.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Kinane and agreed by the Members.*

## **GLW C10-935 JOYCE COUNTY AND WESTERN LAKES GEO ENTERPRISE**

### **Pg 436**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission relates to gaining a UNESCO Global Geopark status for Joyce Country and Western Lakes Region. The submission outlines the benefits of the status to help drive sustainable tourism development. The submission refers to the Geopark idea and the six key objectives of their Strategic Framework for Tourism Development, which have special relevance to this chapter. The submission outlines a rationale for the region to gain UNESCO status and notes the benefits which would arise from supporting the establishment of UNESCO Global Geopark status for the Joyce Country and Western Lakes region.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. Policy Objective **UGG 1 UNESCO Global Geopark Status** supports the ongoing work of the Joyce Country and Western Lakes aspiring Geopark.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by An Comh. O Curraoin and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-1131 ROGER GARLAND**

### **Pg 437**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that a detailed and extensive submission has been made which relates a number of chapters in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. It provides a detailed comparison of the Draft County Development Plan with other Development Plans across the country. The submission states that the draft plan fails to comply with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032, DoECLG Guidelines, Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007), National Heritage Act 1995.

The submission has extracted policy objectives and guidance from various other Development Plans across the country and recommends they are included in the Draft County Development Plan. There is concern that the provisions of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 have not been carried forward to the Draft County Development Plan.

The issues raised include the following:

- **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development:**
  - It is suggested that additional policy objectives are included in relation to:
    - the role of farmers as custodians of the natural resources of the countryside;
    - Promote the adoption of a Land Use Strategy;
  - Protect and preserve rural amenities, archaeological and natural heritage, landscape and the environment generally, from adverse impacts of agricultural practices and development particularly in high amenity areas.
  - Amendments are recommended to Policy Objective **F2 Sustainable Development**.
  - It is recommended that Policy Objective **F3 Native Woodlands** is relocated to Chapter 10.
  - Additional policy objectives are proposed for Forestry.
  - Amendments are recommended for Policy Objective CD 1.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of paragraph 2 in Section 4.14 should be included as policy objectives.
  - Additional policy objectives recommended for mineral extraction and quarries, and public rights of way.
  -
- **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement:**
  - Amendments recommendation for Policy Objective **WC 4 Modern Network of Walking and Cycling Infrastructure**.
  - Include a table with maps of way-marked ways, and database should be available on the council website and updated as new trails emerge.
  - Additional policy objectives and recommendations proposed for walkways and promotion of walking.
  - It is recommended that a table of cycle routes is included with maps. Recommendations are made for policy objectives for the promotion, facilitation, support, improvement and encouragement for the development of cycle routes, and support for proposed greenways as part of the primary cycle network in the county.
  - It is recommended to actively encourage, support, promote and facilitate the development of the disused railway from Galway City to Clifden for a greenway, walkway and cycleway/other recreational activity.
  -
- **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities & Environmental Protection**
  - Addition proposed to Policy Objective **EG 2 Delivery of Electricity and Gas Infrastructure**.
  - Policy objective recommended for the undergrounding of transmission lines shall be considered first as part of a detailed consideration and evaluation of all available options.
  - Additional policy objective proposed to identify Public Rights of Way and established walking routes prior to any new telecommunication developments.
  - Take into account the impact of telecommunication developments on established walking routes and ensure that these are located to minimise and/or mitigate adverse impacts.
  -
- **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape:**
  - Suggests 'Landscape' is removed from the chapter title.
  - Additional policy objectives recommended for protection of landscape and tourism and recreational development shall be assessed against the nature and scale appropriate to the character of the area.

- Amendments proposed to **Policy Objective GPW 1 Walkways and Cycleways**.
  - It is recommended that Section 8.13 Landscape is relocated to **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure**

- **Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management**
  - The submission suggests amendments to policy objectives contained in Chapter 9 and recommends that additional policy objectives are developed from the existing commentary within the chapter.
  - Additional policy objectives are suggested for public access to the coast; to prohibit inappropriate development which would cause damage to beaches, estuaries, sand dunes, protected/designated landscapes, amenity areas; to prohibit mineral extraction along the coast; to prohibit development of facilities for fishing and leisure; Introduce bye-laws restricting or prohibiting jet-skiing and water skiing; protect established rights of way to coastal areas (policy objectives and text extracted from other plans)
  - Amendments proposed to Policy Objective **MCT 2 Coastal Tourism and Recreation** (suggested text extracted from other plans)
- **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Blue Infrastructure**
  - Text to be upgraded to policy objective – final sentence in Section 10.5 Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017 – 2022.
  - Additional policy objective suggested to review/update the County Heritage Plan (policy objective extracted from other plans)
  - Amendments proposed to Policy Objective **NHB 3 Protection of European Sites** (text and policy objectives extracted from other plans)
  - Additional policy objectives proposed to protect European Sites, NHAs, Ramsar sites and habitats (policy objectives and text extracted from other plans)
  - Amendments proposed to Policy Objective **WTHW 1 Wetland Sites** (policy objectives extracted from other plans)
  - Additional policy objective recommended to facilitate public access to wetlands in partnership with NPWS, WI and other stakeholders (policy objectives extracted from other plans)
  - Policy Objective P 3 Framework Plans to be replaced (policy objective text extracted from other plans)  
Additional policy objectives recommended for the protection of peatland landscapes, to plan and prepare for the future use of large industrial cutaway bog sites, to recognise the importance of raised bogland as a major natural, archaeological and amenity resource and liaise with relevant Government departments and NGOs to secure the conservation of original peatland areas (text extracted from other plans)
  - Policy Objective **TWHS 1 Trees, Hedgerows, Natural Boundaries and Stone** to be replaced (policy objective text extracted from other plans)
  - Additional policy objectives proposed for the preservation and retention of the existing network of native woodlands for their contribution to the environment; to protect mature trees not formally protected by TPOs; recognise the recreational potential of forestry.
  - Policy Objective **PG 1 Geological and Geo-Morphological Systems** to be replaced (policy objectives and text extracted from other plans)
  - Policy Objective **PG 3 Promotion of and Access to Geological Sites** to be replaced (policy objectives and text extracted from other plans)

- Additional policy objective proposed to co-ordinate the continuing development of strategic walking route, trails or other countryside recreational opportunities.
- Policy Objective ESK 1 Protection of Eskers Systems to be replaced (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)
- Additional policy objectives proposed for cycling and pedestrian access around esker heritage; and to ensure projects affecting eskers are adequately assessed.
- **Policy Objective IW 1 Inland Waterways (a) & (b)** to be merged and replaced; and (f) to be replaced (text and policy objectives extracted from other plans)
- It is suggested that a table of existing or potential riverside walk/cycle routes is included.
- Additional policy objectives proposed for access to the inland waterways; facilitate the creation of linear parks; support and facilitate the development of greenways and trails; specific policy objectives for River Corrib and River Shannon.
- Section 10.15 Green and Blue Infrastructure – upgrade text in paragraph 4 to policy objective; additional text to be included regarding public rights of way. The submission notes that the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) makes it mandatory that the preservation of public right way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank and other place of natural beauty or recreational utility which public right of way shall be identified both by marking them on a map forming part of the development plan and by indicating their location on a list appended to the development plan.
- Policy Objective PRW 1 Public Rights of Way to be replaced (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)
- Additional policy objectives proposed in relation to public rights of way (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)
- Title change proposed for Section 10.18 to remove 'World Heritage Sites' from the title as these are discussed under Section 10.19
- Additional policy objectives proposed for 'Heritage', and to publish a list with maps of heritage sites which are open to the public; and to prepare and implement a strategy for access to heritage routes (text and policy objective extracted from other plans).
- Additional policy objectives proposed for 'Islands in Rivers and Lakes' to protect the landscape character and promote public access to the islands (text and policy objective extracted from other plans).
- Additional policy objective proposed for the fencing of hitherto open land (text and policy objective extracted from other plans).
- Additional policy objectives proposed for the protection and management of landscapes and their amenity value (text and policy objective extracted from other plans).
- Additional policy objective proposed for Connemara to enhance and promote our National Parks; and propose the designation of local areas as Special Amenity Areas (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)
- 
- Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure
- Section 11.14 Sports, Recreation and Amenity – it is recommended that 'Amenity' is removed from the title.
- It is recommended that Policy Objective **SRA 2 Promote Public Access to Natural Amenities** is relocated to **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/ Blue Infrastructure** under Section 10.6 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity,

and merged with proposed additional policy objectives for outdoor recreational amenities (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)

- Policy Objective PWB 4 Heritage of Burial Grounds is relocated to Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage and merged with Policy Objective ARC 6.

- Amendments proposed to Policy Objectives **ARC 2 Archaeological Sites, ARC 4 Protection of Archaeological Sites, and ARC 6 Burial Grounds.**

- Additional policy objectives proposed for signage and access routes to publicly accessible archaeological sites and National Monuments listed in the RMP; protection and preservation by record of all archaeological remains and sites of historic importance; (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)

- Additional subsection is suggested, titled 'Mass Rocks' with an additional policy objective (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)

- **Chapter 13 The Gaeltacht and Islands**

- Additional policy objectives proposed for public access to sea islands; and ensure that new development is sympathetic to the individual form and traditional building patterns (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)

- Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resources

- Section 14.7 Energy and Renewable Resource should be relocated to **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities & Environmental Protection**

- Additional policy objectives proposed for renewable energy, wind energy, hydro power and solar power (text and policy objective extracted from other plans)

**Chief Executive's Response:**

❖ This is an extensive submission dealing with a wide range of issues relating to various chapters of the Draft Plan. The submission proposes additional text or the re-phrasing of policy objectives. Much of this text and the proposed additional policies objectives have been extrapolated from other Development Plans throughout Ireland. Where policy objectives have not been taken from other Development Plans, text has been extrapolated from within the chapters which the submission suggests to be included as policy objectives.

❖ Whilst the proposed additional text and associated policy objectives have been reviewed, it is considered that the narrative and associated policy objectives in the Draft County Development Plan provide sufficient background information, context, and policy platform to guide, support, and facilitate development proposals, in addition to protecting the environmental and built assets of the County. There are broad similarities between the proposed text and policy objectives in the submission to that set out in the Draft County Development Plan. Therefore, it is not considered that the changes are necessary as it would not result in a change in the policy direction of the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

❖ There is a strong emphasis in the submission in relation to walking and cycling. Much of the information proposed to be included e.g. details of walking and cycling trails and employing a walks and cycling officer do not fall within the remit of the Development Plan. Such information can be provided in other publications separate to the Development Plan.

❖ It is not clear where the map for these cycle routes would be located. The County Development Plan is a higher level strategic document which supports the development of cycling facilities.

❖ Policy Objective **WC 5 Traffic Free Cycle Routes** contained in **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** promotes traffic free pedestrian and cycle routes.

- ❖ The Draft County Development Plan is a strategic land use plan which provides policy objectives to support the development of such facilities. The plan does not prohibit the proposals/issues outlined in the submission.
- ❖ The Planning Authority notes that Policy Objective ***ICT 8 Underground Cabling*** seeks to co-operate with the relevant agencies to facilitate the undergrounding off all electricity, telephone and television cables in urban areas wherever possible.
- ❖ Policy Objective ***ICT 5 Siting and Design*** for Telecommunications Infrastructure requires best practice in both siting and design in relation to the erection of communication antennae and support infrastructure.
- ❖ It is not considered appropriate that landscape would be removed from the chapter title. Tourism and landscape are complementary to each other in the draft plan.
- ❖ The Planning Authority considers that there are a suite of policy objectives throughout the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 to address the protection of landscape and tourism, and it is noted that planning permission would only be permitted for recreational development in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- ❖ It is not considered appropriate to relocate Section 8.13 Landscape, as previously stated landscape and tourism complement each other in the Draft County Development Plan.
- ❖ There are a suite of policy objectives throughout to protect the coast from inappropriate development. Policy Objective ***MCD 1 Protection of the Coastline*** seeks to protect the special character of the coast by preventing inappropriate development. The Draft County Development Plan states that the development of new quarries would be strictly controlled in areas of high landscape value, in areas of significant archaeological potential, on European Sites, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Nature Reserves or other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna and development shall also have regard to the requirements of the EU guidance document Undertaking Non-Energy Extractive Activities in Accordance with Natura 2000 Requirements. Policy Objective ***MCT 1 Water Sports and Marine Recreation*** encourages proposals that promote the sustainable development of water-based sports and marine recreation.
- ❖ The County Heritage Plan is a separate document outside of the County Development Plan and will be reviewed in due course.
- ❖ Section 10.5 Heritage Ireland 2030 supports the implementation of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022 and any subsequent plan in partnership with relevant stakeholders subject to available resources. Policy Objective ***NHB 1 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of Designated Sites, Habitats and Species*** supports the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity, and seeks to protect and where possible enhance the natural heritage sites designated under EU Legislation and National Legislation.
- ❖ Policy Objective ***NHB 5 Ecological Connectivity and Corridors*** supports the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity in non-designated sites, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geomorphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife areas where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
- ❖ Policy Objective ***NHB 6 Implementation of Plans and Strategies*** supports the implantation of relevant recommendations in the National Peatlands Strategy.

Policy Objective **WTWF 1 Wetland Sites** seeks to protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites in the County.

❖ Policy Objective **TWHS 3 Protection of Forestry** seeks to protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest, other than areas of commercial forestry. The policy objectives outlined in **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** recognise the recreational potential of forestry through policy objectives to sustain, protect and enhance amenity, such as in Policy Objective **TWHS 2 Planting of Trees and Woodlands**.

❖ The Planning Authority considers that the policy objectives provided for geological sites support the development of countryside recreational activities.

❖ Every effort has been taken to ensure that the Draft County Development Plan is consistent with all relevant legislation, guidelines and other relevant plans and programmes. Policy Objective **PRW 1 Public Rights of Way** contained in **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** relates to public rights of way.

❖ **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** policy objectives support the mapping of agreed maps of public rights of way.

❖ It is not considered necessary or warranted to remove wording from the title of Section 10.18 UNESCO Global Geoparks and World Heritage Sites.

❖ The Planning Authority do not consider it appropriate to include such policy objectives on the fencing of open land. Development of fencing to open land is covered by numerous mechanisms throughout national legislation and policy.

❖ It is not considered appropriate to remove 'Amenity' from the title of Section 11.14 Sports, Recreation and Amenity.

❖ The Planning Authority considers there are sufficient policy objectives to support access to archaeological sites and monuments, as outlined in Policy Objective **ARC 2 Archaeological Sites**.

❖ It is considered that the policy objectives in **Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage** adequately reflect our cultural and built heritage assets.

❖ It is a Strategic Aim of the Council to support the transport network access to Oileán Árann and Inishbofin in terms or air and sea routes as appropriate.

❖ The Planning Authority considers that there are sufficient policy objectives outlined in **Appendix 1 Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy** in relation to wind, solar and hydro power. This appendix document provides a suite of policy objectives pertaining to each renewable energy source.

❖ It is considered that the policy objectives as existing in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 are appropriately located.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

❖ No Change.

#### **Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion:**

##### ***The council will set as policy objectives:***

***To Retain existing rights of way and identify them and established walking routes before planting commences and maintain them as rights of way/walking Routes.***

***• Ensure that existing public rights of way, traditional walking routes are not obstructed.***

***• Applications for new development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated processes, shall identify existing public rights of way and walking***

routes which may be impacted on or are adjacent to the development site. They shall be kept free from development as a Rights of Way/Walking Route

- Restrict development of aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production which could impinge or impact on **public rights of way** or walking routes and satisfactorily address the potential impact on recreational activities
- Establish walking routes **shall be identified** prior to any new forestry planting, new **infrastructural**, energy/telecommunications or golf course **developments**.
- Ensure that telecommunication structures are located to minimise and/or mitigate any adverse **impacts on public rights of way** and the natural environment
- **Protect established rights of way to coastal areas.**
- Recognizing the role played by natural amenities and landscapes as major resources as part of our heritage, identify, provide, support, maintain, actively promote, encourage, protect, preserve, improve, facilitate, safeguard and **enhance public access** to heritage sites and features, natural heritage and amenity areas that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation, including Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves, mountains, uplands, moorlands, forests, rivers, lakes, valleys, scenic areas, areas of natural beauty and other natural amenities for active recreational activities such as mountaineering and hill-walking, which have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation, and to the countryside generally, by creating a meaningful network of access routes as the opportunity or need arises. This will be done in co-operation, consultation and consensus with state agencies, landowners, community groups other interested bodies.

**Preserve the open character of commonage land and other hill land and secure access** over paths and tracks through consensus with landowners, particularly in mountain areas.

In partnership with the NPWS, WI, Councils, community groups, landowners and other relevant stakeholders, provide, protect, promote, encourage, develop, maintain, facilitate, increase and improve **public access** to the inland waterways including rivers and lakes. Riparian/waterway corridors.

Ensure the provision of, and improvement to **signposting** and waymarking on all public rights of way.

Ms. Loughnane advised that they had dealt with this motion already under OPR submission. She advised that they had a policy objective there already and an additional piece under OPR Recommendation 17.

**The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McKinstry, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.**

## CHAPTER 11 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### GLW C10-2245 – CLLR. DR. PARSONS

Pg 449

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

**YP4 Teenage recreational areas**

Support the provision where appropriate of designated teenage recreational areas with age appropriate facilities in Key Towns and towns/ areas with demonstrable need.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

On review of the policy objective proposed in this submission, the Planning Authority considers Policy Objectives **YP 1 Play Facilities** and **YP 3 Multi-Agency Approach** are sufficient and addresses the content of the submission.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1322 – SEAN CANNEY TD**

**Pg 449**

Mr. Dunne advised that was same as GLW C10-2245

**YP4 Teenage recreational areas**

Support the provision where appropriate of designated teenage recreational areas with age appropriate facilities in Key Towns and towns/ areas with demonstrable need.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Same as GLW-C10-2245 above.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

Same as GLW-C10-2245 above.

***This is the same as GLW C10-2445. Noted by Members.***

**GLW C10-1905 CLLR. BRODERICK**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

***EDU 6 Fast food outlets located close to schools***

It is the policy objective of the Council to give careful consideration to the appropriateness and location of fast food outlets in the vicinity of schools and, where considered appropriate, to restrict the opening or expansion of new fast food/takeaway outlets in close proximity to schools so as to protect the health and wellbeing of school-going children.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The submission does not suggest what wording to amend the policy objective to, and upon review it is considered appropriate to retain the policy objective as worded in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Broderick advised that he had raised this in Workshops regarding HSE Directive. He advised that he had a difficulty with numerous fast-food businesses being carried out close to schools. He recommended the removal of the distance as the suggestion of proximity was very open. He recommended the removal of PO EDU 6. Cllr. Killilea stated that he wasn't in agreement with this and wouldn't like to see this having an effect on planning applications or prohibit a planning application coming in. Cllr. M. Connolly asked for clarification on this and gave example of Milltown which had four schools in close proximity to each other. Cllr. Broderick stated that reference was for fast-food.

A vote was taken on Cllr. Broderick's motion and the result was as follows:

For – 10

Cllr. Broderick  
Cllr. Collins  
Cllr. McHugh/Farag  
Cllr. Roche

Cllr. Byrne  
Cllr. Kelly  
Cllr. Parsons

Cllr. Carroll  
Cllr. McClearn  
Cllr. Reddington

Against - 13

Cllr. Charity  
Cllr. Finnerty  
Cllr. Killilea  
Cllr. McKinstry  
Cllr. Walsh

Cllr. D. Connolly  
Cllr. Geraghty  
Cllr. Maher  
Cllr. Sheridan

Cllr. Curley  
Cllr. Hoade  
Cllr. Mannion  
Cllr. Thomas

Abstain – 11

Cllr. M. Connolly  
Comh. O Curraoin  
Cllr. P. Keaveney  
Cllr. Mac an Iomaire

Cllr. Cronnelly  
Cllr. Donohue  
Cllr. Kinane  
Cllr. Murphy

Cllr. Cuddy  
Cllr. Herterich/Quinn  
Cllr. King

No Reply - 5

***The Cathaoirleach declared the motion not carried.***

## GLW C10-233 CLLR. CUDDY

### Pg 450

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

He advised that submission is requesting that a public Library should be provided in the village. Services of Town. Bus Shelters for the village

#### Chief Executive's Response:

**Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** covers a suite of policy objectives which support the development of such facilities as those outlined in the submission.

#### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.*

## GLW C10-1387 DENIS NAUGHTON TD

### Pg 450

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Following Galway's designation as a European capital of culture and Tuam's Town status as a pilot for creative places Ireland. The following should be included in CDP: Creative Spaces

1. Facilitation of open-air creative performances and speciality events such as: Music concerts, drama performances, exhibitions, specialists events (vintage cars), other outdoor performances/creative endeavours that meet health and safety guidelines which could also be facilitated. This objective works in tandem with proposals put forward in documents such as the Tuam Master Plan to make the public realm more inclusive in its usages for creative and community means.
2. Work with arts and creative groups in facilitating co-operative use of council owned spaces where possible and which are currently underutilised. Many arts and culture groups have no dedicated spaces to create, this point was highlighted in submissions to the Tuam Master Plan and Tuam Town Area Plan.
3. Encourage a creative arts tourism corridor in the east of the County, promoting the well-established music, drama, and artistic communities.

#### Reference to access of OPW sites:

##### Access to OPW Sites in County Galway

At a time, when open space is regarded as an asset, we would like to include a clear commitment in the CDP, to making open spaces in the ownership of the OPW far easier for community groups, and private individuals to access for appropriate functions, that are not for profit. Focus especially on providing, not on prohibiting, these sites can be brought into vogue in a very positive way, and can be a source of inspiration for many groups, and individuals across the county.

Stronger reference to Ballinasloe and accessibility.

### **11.13 People with Disabilities and Universal Design**

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. For people with mobility impairments, ensuring level/ramped access to buildings, dished kerbs and the provision of appropriate parking **and fully accessible** toilet facilities **such as changing places** are important. For people with visual impairments, tactile paving and audible signals at pedestrian crossings are necessary. For persons with mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, it is important to ensure facilities such as quiet rooms and sensory gardens **and communication boards** are incorporated into development proposals where appropriate. The Irish Wheelchair Association and Sport Ireland's 'Great Outdoors - A Guide for Accessibility' (2018) provides guidance on accessible design to make specific outdoor environments more available and accessible for people with a disability. One of the Strategic Priorities of the National Disability Authority Strategic Plan 2019-2021 is to continue to build awareness and adoption of the concept of Universal Design, maximizing independence and participation for all. The Council will promote Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in all new developments. This type of housing allows for the future adaption of units as needs present throughout the life cycle of the occupier/owner. It is a proactive step in addressing the housing needs of people with a disability, older people and the diversity of the family unit as well as increasing the value and sustainability of buildings in the long-term.

#### **PDU 2 Recognised Special Needs**

(a) It is the Council's policy objective to consider all different levels of ability, in the location, layout and design of housing developments, communal facilities, public spaces and transport services. Proposals could include the appropriate mitigation of the built environment for example, through the selection of building materials; the provision of quiet rooms and sensory gardens where appropriate; and in **the design of pedestrian facilities for the visually impaired**.

(b) **To support the provision of public accessibility friendly toilets, maximum dependency adult changing facilities at all appropriate locations in our towns and villages and at transport connectivity nodes.**

(c) **To support the provision of universal access to water-based facilities (eg. marinas) recreational waterbased activities for all people, especially for those with additional needs, individuals who are differently abled, those with physical or/and sensory impairments, mobility difficulties and that overall the implementation of United Nations Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard.**

#### **PDU4**

**It is the Council's policy objective to support the designation of a pilot town as an Accessibility Friendly Town to develop comprehensively as a model of excellence for accessibility within the county**

#### **SRA 2 Promote Public Access to Natural Amenities**

Recognize the role played by natural amenities as a major resource for visitors and local people and support, protect and promote public access to natural amenities that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation **(waterbased facilities, recreational activities and marinas)**.

#### **SRA 3 High-quality cycle and walking network**

Identify and seek to implement a strategic, coherent and high-quality cycle and walking network across

the County that is integrated with **accessible** public transport where possible and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations, **access for all toilet facilities** and attractions.

**SRA9**

**It is the policy objective of the Council to facilitate development of an accessible swimming area/s on the Suck River to afford balanced development of natural swimming amenities and water-based sports within the county.**

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The County Development Plan zones appropriate lands for town centre. The holding of events such as those referenced in the submission are outside remit of the County Development Plan.

It is considered that reference to Tuam Masterplan is a specific document for the Tuam area and therefore, at county level, inclusion of same would not be appropriate.

The reference to specific groups is not a matter for the County Development Plan. Lands are zoned in accordance with the settlement hierarchy and appropriate zoning would facilitate community groups hosting events.

**Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** addresses the tourism aspect outlined in this submission. There are policy objectives contained in this chapter to support arts tourism, such as **HT 1 Stakeholders** which seeks to work with relevant stakeholders such as the Arts Council to support the development of heritage and cultural tourism in Galway.

The Planning Authority notes that the operations of OPW sites is a matter for the OPW and not the County Development Plan. Sites under the ownership of the OPW are not within the remit of the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. There are policy objectives contained which support the OPW.

It is considered that the wording as proposed in the narrative under **Section 11.13 People with Disabilities and Universal Design** is appropriate and warranted in this instance.

On review of the policy objective proposed in this submission, the Planning Authority consider it appropriate to include the amended policy objective as worded.

On review of the policy objective proposed in this submission, the Planning Authority consider that it is not appropriate to include the amended policy objective as worded.

It should be noted that a similar Policy Objective is included in the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028.

On review of the policy objective proposed in this submission, the Planning Authority consider it appropriate to include the amended policy objective as worded.

On review of the policy objective proposed in this submission, the Planning Authority consider it appropriate to include the amended policy objective as worded.

The proposed Policy Objective **SRA 9** specifically relates to the Suck River and it is noted that the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028, which is currently on public display, provides policy objective **BKT 63 Bathing Areas** and it is considered that this policy objective located in the LAP is the correct form to address this.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

**PDU 2 Recognised Special Needs**

(a) It is the Council's policy objective to consider all different levels of ability, in the location, layout and design of housing developments, communal facilities, public spaces and transport services. Proposals could include the appropriate mitigation of the built environment for example, through the selection of building materials; the provision of quiet rooms and sensory gardens where appropriate; and in the design of pedestrian facilities for the visually impaired.

(b) To support the provision of public accessibility friendly toilets, maximum dependency adult changing facilities at all appropriate locations in our towns and villages and at transport connectivity nodes.

(c) To support the provision of universal access to water-based facilities (e.g. marinas) recreational water-based activities for all people, especially for those with additional needs, individuals who are differently abled, those with physical or/and sensory impairments, mobility difficulties and that overall the implementation of United Nations Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard.

**SRA 2 Promote Public Access to Natural Amenities**

Recognize the role played by natural amenities as a major resource for visitors and local people and support, protect and promote public access to natural amenities that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation (water-based facilities, recreational activities and marinas).

**SRA 3 High-quality cycle and walking network**

Identify and seek to implement a strategic, coherent and high-quality cycle and walking network across the County that is integrated with accessible public transport where possible and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations, access for all toilet facilities and attractions.

**Creative Spaces**

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and was agreed by the Members.*

**Reference to access of OPW sites**

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.*

**11.13 People with Disabilities and Universal Design**

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed by the Members.*

**SRA 2 Promote Public Access to Natural Amenities**

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.*

**SRA 3 High-quality cycle and walking network**

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.*

**SRA 9 -it was agreed that this was covered in policy objective BKT 63 Bathing Areas in Ballinasloe Local Area Plan.**  
**The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed by the Members.**

## **GLW C10-1118 CLLR. PARSONS**

### **Pg 455**

Mr. Dunne advised this submission is the same as GLW-C10-1387.

Stronger reference to Ballinasloe and accessibility.

#### **11.13 People with Disabilities and Universal Design**

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. For people with mobility impairments, ensuring level/ramped access to buildings, dished kerbs and the provision of appropriate parking **and fully accessible** toilet facilities **such as changing places** are important. For people with visual impairments, tactile paving and audible signals at pedestrian crossings are necessary. For persons with mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, it is important to ensure facilities such as quiet rooms and sensory gardens **and communication boards** are incorporated into development proposals where appropriate. The Irish Wheelchair Association and Sport Ireland's 'Great Outdoors - A Guide for Accessibility' (2018) provides guidance on accessible design to make specific outdoor environments more available and accessible for people with a disability. One of the Strategic Priorities of the National Disability Authority Strategic Plan 2019-2021 is to continue to build awareness and adoption of the concept of Universal Design, maximizing independence and participation for all. The Council will promote Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in all new developments. This type of housing allows for the future adaption of units as needs present throughout the life cycle of the occupier/owner. It is a proactive step in addressing the housing needs of people with a disability, older people and the diversity of the family unit as well as increasing the value and sustainability of buildings in the long-term.

#### **Section 11.13 People with Disabilities and Universal Design**

##### **PDU 2 Recognised Special Needs**

**(a)** It is the Council's policy objective to consider all different levels of ability, in the location, layout and design of housing developments, communal facilities, public spaces and transport services. Proposals

could include the appropriate mitigation of the built environment for example, through the selection of building materials; the provision of quiet rooms and sensory gardens where appropriate; and in the design of pedestrian facilities for the visually impaired.

**(b) To support the provision of public accessibility friendly toilets, maximum dependency adult changing facilities at all appropriate locations in our towns and villages and at transport connectivity nodes.**

**(c) To support the provision of universal access to water-based facilities (e.g. marinas) recreational waterbased activities for all people, especially for those with additional needs, individuals who are differently abled, those with physical or/and sensory impairments, mobility difficulties and that overall the implementation of United Nations Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard.**

**PDU4**

It is the Council's policy objective to support the designation of a pilot town as an **Accessibility Friendly Town** to develop comprehensively as a model of excellence for accessibility within the county

**11.14 Sports, Recreation and Amenity**

**SRA 2 Promote Public Access to Natural Amenities**

Recognize the role played by natural amenities as a major resource for visitors and local people and

support, protect and promote public access to natural amenities that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation (**water-based facilities, recreational activities and marinas**).

**SRA 3 High-quality cycle and walking network**

Identify and seek to implement a strategic, coherent and high-quality cycle and walking network across

the County that is integrated with **accessible** public transport where possible and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations, **access for all toilet facilities** and attractions.

**SRA9**

It is the policy objective of the Council to facilitate development of an accessible swimming area/s on the Suck River to afford balanced development of natural swimming amenities and water-based sports within the county.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Same as GLW-C10-1397 above.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

Same as GLW-C10-1397 above.

***This was same as GLW C10-1387 already dealt with. Noted by Members.***

**GLW C10-1368 CLLR. KINANE**

**Pg 458**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

**SRA8.1 Objective:** Serious Consideration be given to the establishment of a designated bathing area and change facilities in Rinville, Oranmore within the life span of the Development Plan

**SRA8.2 Objective:** Consideration be given within the Development Plan for the installation of a Tidal Pool and changing facilities at Rinville, Oranmore

**Rinville Park**

Earnest consideration be given over the lifespan of proposed Development Plan 2022-2028 to the extension of Rinville Park.

**Policy Objective**

Galway County Council will collaborate with Galway City Council on the extension of Rinville Park, Oranmore, over the life span of the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

As outlined under Section 11.14 Sports, Recreation and Amenity the policy objectives **SRA 1 Sport, Amenity and Recreation** and **SRA 8 Swimming Facilities** supports the provision of sporting, leisure and recreational facilities within the county. The proposed projects outlined in this submission are generally supported under these policy objectives.

Policy objectives are contained in the Draft County Development Plan that support collaboration with Galway City Council on a range of issues however, it is not considered appropriate to include specific projects such as the extension of Rinville Park. The extension of parks or amenity areas is supported under policy objectives contained in the Plan. It is a mandatory objective outlined in Section 1.2.1 Mandatory Objectives to support the preservation, improvement and extension of amenities and recreational amenities.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Kinane advised that submission was in relation to a request for the installation of a tidal pool and changing facilities at Rinville Park, Oranmore. She stated that tidal pools would fit in as a recreational facility and wanted to know how this could be moved on and looked for direction on how they could develop this. Cllr. Cronnelly referenced possible floating pontoons being located within Rinville.

Mr. Hanrahan, Director of Services advised that in relation to projects that require funding including Rinville Park, these can be considered as part of the funding applications as opposed to action in Development Plan and could be included as a priority funding application.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Kinane, seconded by Cllr. Cronnelly and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1810 CLLR. DONOHUE**

**Pg 459**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that the submission recommends the following:

- That a public pitch suitable for Hockey be developed in the County
- That Skate Parks be developed as part of any future development of our larger parks in response by our Youth who also need to be catered for within public amenities in the County
- Public Toilets open and fully accessible for all abilities and ages.

**Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**

**New Objective under Chapter 6:**

**Section 6.5.5**

**PH 6 Rinville Pier/**

**Preparation of a traffic analysis of car parking and associated road infrastructure at the Pier**

**Chief Executive's Response:**

As outlined in **Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure**, and the Volume 2 settlement plans, there are a suite of policy objectives and appropriate zoning that facilitate the uses as outlined in the submission. The County Development Plan identifies appropriate land as per the zonings, however the mechanism to deliver on particular uses or infrastructure, such as public toilets, is not within the remit of the County Development Plan.

The County Development Plan is not an economic plan with the financial budget to carry out such an analysis, but it is a land-use plan which provides policy objectives to support the development of the area.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Donohue queried if an Expression of Interest of lands could be advertised that they may be willing to transfer for a hockey pitch? Mr. Dunne advised that Forward Planning had identified a site in Kinvara but this was rejected by the Elected Members and zoned R2 lands.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-970 SENATOR AISLING DOLAN**

**Pg 460**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

In the submission it is suggested that a Joint Local Authority Strategy would be prepared with Roscommon County Council on the development of the following;

- River Suck in terms of tourism and villages;
- Beara Breifne Way-Walks and Trails Tourism
- Strategy to link Regional Cycleways
- Develop towns along boundary for local community

**Regeneration of Towns and Villages**

Ballinasloe is a Key Town with a Local Area Plan

Ballygar, Dunmore & Glenamaddy are Small Growth Villages

•Tackle vacancy in urban areas and renewal for housing

•Pro-active management of derelict sites.

•Planning – development of quality housing with sufficient green spaces and access to services

•Increase population levels in East Galway towns – Placemaking

•Support of community centres and groups.

•Support roll-out of National Broadband Plan and connectivity

## **TRANSPORT**

- Increase public transport options and development of Local Links to connect towns and villages in East Galway including Mountbellew to Portiuncula University Hospital & rail & coach services. To ensure connectivity for an older population.
- Development of off-road dedicated Cycleways linked to the TII Galway to Athlone Cycleway to towns and villages in East Galway

## **EDUCATION**

- Develop safe routes to schools – primary & secondary
- Develop further hubs for third level regional outreach in towns such as Dunmore, Glenamaddy & Ballinasloe and expansion of Connacht Ulster Alliance – Technological University in Mountbellew. Opportunities with Shannon TÚS University.

## **TOURISM**

- Development of East Galway within the Hidden Heartlands
- Shannon Masterplan links with towns & villages on the River Suck

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

- Develop footpath/ cycleway access within our town and villages in East Galway especially to sports clubs in or adjacent to urban area under Active Travel. To have safe routes for children and teenagers – all ages to walk or cycle to sports clubs for training.

## **COMMUNITY CENTRES**

- Support the development and maintenance of Community Centres
- Work with Healthy Communities HSE & primary care access in regional areas with community centres
- Remote Working Hubs

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

- Prioritise areas of Special Protection and the boglands, woodlands, rivers in the area. Allow access public amenities.
- Protect flora and fauna and quality of waterways.
- Prioritise the support of group water schemes and treatment plants to assist with development in regional areas.

## **MOUNTBELLEW**

- Review Mountbellew as an area of strategic potential with the development of Connacht Ulster Alliance Campus as part of the Technological University with GMIT Mountbellew Agricultural College
- Strong Commuter Town for Galway city

## **BALLINASLOE – KEY TOWN TOWNSPARK ROAD**

- Urgently develop the Townspark Road and continue from the rear of Gullanes Hotel to the development of the new school for Scoil An Chroí Naofa
- Develop a park amenity to run along the Suck

## **SPORTS**

- Develop a multi-purpose sports hub adjacent to the Tennis Courts to accommodate sporting groups with an indoor facility and basketball court.

- Develop water sports – kayaking & paddleboarding in river stretch from marina to the lock in Poolboy as well as through the town and along the River Suck banks.
- Explore the possibilities of a safe swimming zone.
- Develop a boardwalk to allow a circular route walk to link the marina to lock on Poolboy and walks along the Grand Canal and the Beara Breifne Way
- Develop natural walkways in the Fair Green to encourage usage of green spaces
- Develop accessible areas and walkways along by the River Suck

### **BALLINASLOE FLOOD EMBANKMENT PROJECT**

- Local Authority to work with state agencies to develop a walkway & cycleway on the embankment

### **MARINA**

Develop marina to attract further tourism – electricity sockets on docks, small playground visible to families on boats,

- Signage to promote Ballinasloe in liaison with Waterways Ireland

### **BOGLANDS ADJACENT TO M6 MOTORWAY**

- Eco-Park Development in Poolboy & Kellysgrove Bog areas as well as the Suck River Callows
- Work with Bord na Móna for a licence in the area working with Ballinasloe Walks & Trails and BACD development association to develop as a public amenity.
- Protect wildlife and flora & fauna in the area
- Develop a public park and amenity for the community in Ballinasloe. Currently no public park in the town.

### **SUPPORT OTHER SUBMISSIONS**

- I support both submissions from Poolboy Community Development Council in relation to rezoning of lands adjacent to the landfill and at the Premier Proteins site.
- I support the submission from Mr. Kevin Dolan in relation to rezoning of his property to residential in the Poolboy area.

There is a large residential demand in Ballinasloe. The recently funded footpaths project in to Poolboy and down Old Mill Road provide safe routes for residents to access town especially in terms of accessibility. Ideal location to walk to town centre in 10-15 minutes as well as less than a km to M6 motorway. As a strong commuter town, many residents travel to Athlone, Tullamore, Galway & Dublin for work. Close access in the Poolboy area to healthcare supports with Portiuncula University Hospital, Day Hospital & GP services and frequent coach & rail transport links. Also a high demand for residential units in this location from Brothers of Charity.

In terms of the lands adjacent to the landfill, this is a low-lying site close to River Suck Callows Special Protected Area. Developments in this area impact underground waterways and the health of the local community as well as a devastating impact on wildlife and biodiversity protected by the SPA. An inappropriate location for any industrial development.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

It is policy of Galway County Council to collaborate with other councils. In relation to the issues outlined in this submission, Policy Objective ***BKT 5 Collaboration*** contained in the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028, which is currently on public display, supports the collaboration with other councils on a range of issues.

**Chapter 3 Placemaking, Regeneration and Urban Living**, and **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** have a suite of policy objectives to deal with the regeneration of towns and villages, such as **PM 2 Regeneration**.

**Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** contains policy objectives to deal with local transport links and cycleways/greenway. The provision of cycleways/greenways are covered under **GBW 1 Greenways** and **GBW 2 Future Provision of Greenways**.

**Chapter 10: Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** also supports the provision of greenways.

**Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** covers policy objectives that support the reference to education that has been raised in the submission.

**Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** supports the tourism proposals raised in this submission.

**Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** provides policy objectives to support the proposals raised in this submission in terms of footpath / cycleway access in towns and villages.

**Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** provides a suite of policy objectives to support the proposals outlined in this submission.

This is not matter for the County Development Plan, it is a matter for the NPWS who are the statutory body who are involved in the designation of SPAs and consults widely with stakeholders including non-government farming and conservation groups and other government departments. The County Development Plan maps and has policy objectives for SPAs.

**Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** covers the protection of flora and fauna under policy objective **NHB 1 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of Designated Sites, Habitats and Species**.

**Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities and Environmental Protection** addresses water schemes and treatment plans to assist with development in regional areas. Irish Water are the relevant statutory body that deals with water supply / wastewater treatment in the country.

Galway County Council supports the progression and advancement of Mountbellew Agricultural College. It recognises its importance in providing education facilities to the county and wider area.

The Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028 is currently on public display. The Planning Authority considers that this is the more appropriate form for the consideration of the issues raised rather than at county level.

It is considered that the development of water-based sports is adequately addressed under policy objective **MCT 1 Water Based Sports and Marine Recreation** contained in **Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management**. It is considered that the proposals outlined in the submission would be more appropriately located in the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan which is currently on public display.

It is considered that the proposals outlined in the submission would be more appropriately located in the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan which is currently on public display. The Planning Authority collaborates with all state agencies on an ongoing basis.

**Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** provides policy objectives for the protection of peatlands/boglands. **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** and **Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management** contains suite of policy objectives to support the proposals in this submission.

Noted. This has been addressed under **Chapter 2 Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and Housing Strategy**.

The Settlement Hierarchy as outlined in **Chapter 2 Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and Housing Strategy** identifies the population and residential requirement and it is considered Ballinasloe as a Key Town appropriately reflects the future demands for the town.

In terms of industrial potential, it is considered that this is a matter for the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028, which is currently on public display.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-948 SENATOR SEAN KYNE**

**Pg 465**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

**Section 11.11 Planning for Ageing**

**New Policy Objective Planning (PA6)**

Support the provision of "granny flats" in appropriate settings within rural sites to allow for care of older persons and those with special needs with connection to on-site waste-water infrastructure.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Policy Objective **RH 12 Adaptation of Existing Housing Stock** contained in **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** supports the principle of granny flats. It is not considered necessary to repeat policy objectives.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Reddington.***

**GLW C10-952 SENATOR SEAN KYNE**

Mr. Dunne advised that this submission is the same as GLW-C10-948

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Same as GLW-C10-948 above.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***Submission is same of GLW C10-948. Noted by Members.***

## GLW C10-1864 JOSEPH CORMICAN

### Pg 465

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Maintenance of existing housing estates needs to proceed along with new development. Churchview in Clarealway awaiting roads and lighting maintenance. North West quadrant of Claregalway has no development and has not been designated for protected green space.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The maintenance of housing estates is not within the remit of the Development Plan, which is a land-use plan that provides policy objectives to support the development of County Galway.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-965 CASTLEGAR ATHLETICS CLUB

### Pg 466

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that this submission requests that an athletic track is included in the plan for the Castlegar area. The athletics club is stated to be the fastest growing in Connacht therefore require an athletic track, however the Brierhill NS would also benefit. The submission requests a 4 lane 400m track, with 8 lane 100m sprint track.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers there are sufficient policy objectives contained in **Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** to support the development of social and community facilities, such as Policy Objective **SC 1 Social and Community Infrastructure** and **SC 2 Provision of lands for social and community facilities**. Policy Objective **SRA 1 Sport, Amenity and Recreation** also supports local sports groups and community groups in the development of authorised facilities for sporting.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-890 FORUM CONNEMARA CLG

### Pg 466

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that this submission emphasises the importance of making Connemara a more accessible place for people with all types of disabilities, older people and vulnerable people. The submission acknowledges the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was adopted in 2006, signed by Ireland in 2007.

The submission notes that FORUM, through its Rural Recreation Programme, continues to support Galway County Council in promoting community walks and trails to support the Greenway, Slí Chonamara and the Western Way.

#### Chief Executive's Response:

The contents of this submission have been noted. Section 11.13 People with Disabilities and Universal Design outlines policy objectives which promote Universal Design and to ensure that new social infrastructure and housing developments are accessible and inclusive for a range of users.

Policy Objective **PDU 2 Recognised Special Needs** seeks to consider all different levels of ability, in the location, layout and design of communal facilities and public spaces.

#### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. King and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-880 LACKAGH MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

### Pg 467

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that this submission requests that the recommendations contained in the 2021 Community Area Based Plan for Lackagh and Turloughmore and the Redevelopment Plan for Lackagh Museum be given consideration in any local area works by Galway County Council.

#### Chief Executive's Response:

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 does not prohibit the proposals outlined in this submission. The plan is a land-use plan which generally supports the development

of Lackagh, including Lackagh Museum, and Turloughmore in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. Works carried out by the Planning Authority are outside the remit of the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-835 KYLEMORE ABBEY & THE KYLEMORE TRUST**

**Pg 467**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that the submission notes that Kylemore Abbey plays an important role in enhancing the attractiveness and quality of life in rural Connemara in terms of community, natural and cultural amenity, faith/religious practice, and education. By providing cultural, heritage and amenity facilities (walking trails; heritage experiences, event and education venues) Kylemore acts as a community resource and cultural hub.

As part of its current strategic plan, Kylemore intends to further develop these activities, in line with its values-led ethos, specifically through:

- provision of new walking trails and a new cultural venue in the Castle building serving the Connemara area addressing policy objective **SRA 1 Sport Amenity and Recreation**

- the development of its new Monastery and Education/Retreat Centre, Kylemore will develop as a centre for faith based programmes for in line with CDP policy objective **EDU 1 Educational Facilities**

- Kylemore's new Monastery will enhance Kylemore as a place of worship, and act as a multi-faith facility for the area in line with CDP objective **PWB 1 Places of Worship**

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. King and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-829 LOUGHREA SPORTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

**Pg469**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that this submission seeks to demonstrate to Galway County Council the merit in providing an objective to provide a regional Community Recreation & Sports Campus at Loughrea. The submission requests the inclusion of an objective in the 2022-2028 Development Plan, as follows: *To support a regional standard multi-sports/recreational/community facility to service the current and future needs of South & East Galway and the wider county.* The submission used social demographics and an audit of existing sport and recreational facilities to demonstrate the need for such a facility. It is noted that the area is lacking a cluster of sport/recreational facilities. The existing community/sport/recreational facilities are sporadically located and no longer fit for purpose. Such a facility must be centrally located and would facilitate the clustering of multiple sports and recreational uses creating a facility of scale.

Loughrea has a diverse population of different nationalities, citizens and ethnicities when compared to Galway County and the State. A facility such as the proposed would provide a mechanism for social cohesion within a diverse community. In addition to social inclusion, such facility would have positive implications for employment in Loughrea. The facility would deliver on national and regional spatial policy by achieving compact growth while simultaneously driving regional growth, investment and prosperity. Provision of a Community Sports & Recreation Campus would have the potential to improve the health status of the residents of Loughrea and the wider community.

The submission seeks to include a strategic objective in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 to begin setting out a framework for the provision of community/recreational/sports facilities in the revised Loughrea LAP. The provision of a Community Recreation & Sports Campus would deliver on the Self Sustaining Town objective by providing the “catch-up” investment required to become more sustainable and would build on existing employment base in the town.

The Loughrea Sports & Community Development Group are keen to work with Galway County Council and Galway Sports Partnership as well as other relevant stakeholders to deliver the much needed Community Recreation and Sports Campus in Loughrea.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that Policy Objective ***MU 1 Multi-Use Community Facilities*** adequately addresses the matter of a multi-sports/recreational/community facility to service current and future needs of South & East Galway and the wider community. The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 is a land-use plan which provides policy objectives to support the development of such facilities. It should be noted that it is expected the Loughrea Local Area Plan will be reviewed mid-2022 and be put on public display thereafter. The form for making submissions on particular land use zonings would be more appropriate under this process. Notwithstanding this, as outlined above there is policy objectives contained in **Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** to support in principle the provision of facilities within the county.

The rationale provided for the provision of a multi-use community facility has been noted.

It is not considered necessary to include a specific policy objective as the Loughrea Local Area Plan will be reviewed next year and this would be the more appropriate form for such an objective.

Noted.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1414 CIARAN CANNON TD**

Mr. Dunne advised that this was the same as GLW-C10-829

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Same as GLW-C10-829 above.

**Chief Executive Recommendation:**

Same as GLW-C10-829 above.

Development of a regional sports campus in Loughrea

***Same as GLW C10-829. Noted by Members.***

**GLW C10-824 EILEEN NI THUATHAIL**

**Pg 470**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised the submission states that the consultation process was insufficient and that the process did not provide the time or guidance necessary to fully inform the public.

The submission states that it is incomprehensible that areas protected by the Natura 2000 network may be redesignated as areas with 'potential' for various projects. The submission requests that the Natura 2000 network is fully assessed and protected in accordance with the provisions of the relevant legislation.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The public consultation was carried out in accordance with Section 12 of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It should be noted that there were webinars during the summer, and the unprecedented level of submissions in excess of 2800 would indicate that the

public consultation process was sufficient. It is also noted that the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 was advertised on social media platforms and radio stations across the county.

The Planning Authority considers that there is sufficient policy objectives outlined in the Draft County Development Plan for the protection of the integrity of European sites that form part of the Natura 2000, such as in Policy Objective ***NHB 1 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of Designated Sites, Habitats and Species.***

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-816 KILTULLAGH**

**Pg 470**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission requests that Galway County Council actively engage and support, in collaboration with the local community, the sustainable development to extend the current footpath from Kiltullagh Cross intersection (L7182 / L3114 / R348) to an appropriate entrance in accordance with current best practice traffic and pedestrian management guidelines and general public Health and Safety regulations.

Several existing public services are within potential walking distance of Castlepark Community Park. The current Kiltullagh community business hub of Duane's family run business provides fuel, convenience and hardware supplies and is located 400m from Castlepark. Ward's thatched public house provides social and heritage value to the village and is within 400m to Castlepark.

A school car park (44 spaces, incl. 4 disability spaces) was developed off the busy public road intersection junction (L7182 / L3114 / R348) adjacent to the school and Kiltullagh community hall to cater for a safe Drop Off/Pick Up of children/senior citizens and general patrons attending the school/community hall/RC church events. This new car park also caters as a 'spill over' car park for the RC church that is located directly across the road. The existing church car park currently caters for approx. 35 car spaces. In recent years, in consultation and partnership with the local community, the council developed a footpath from Duane's Service store to the Kiltullagh Cross intersection (L7182 / L3114 / R348). This critical and excellent piece of local infrastructure, which is also street lit, allowed the capacity for the school goers and all users, including both local residential developments, to walk safely 24/7/365 to/from their local convenience store to the local school, church, public house, cemetery, Kiltullagh community hall facilities.

The proposed footpath/cycleway would create a fully inclusive and accessible Castlepark community recreational, social, environmental and potentially economic

facility that will provide sustainable health benefits and various other opportunities to the local and wider community for future generations to come.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. The County Development Plan is not an economic plan with the provision of a financial budget to facilitate the construction of footpaths. The plan is a land use plan that supports the development of the plan area. It is an objective of the Council to support new walking and cycling networks as the 'first choice' for shorter local journeys and to link settlements within the County and Galway City, as outlined in Policy Objective **GCTPS 4 Walking and Cycling.**

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-808 ACCESSIBILITY BALLINASLOE**

**Pg 472**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Accessibility Ballinasloe work closely with voluntary organisations, schools, businesses and clubs, local representatives and Galway County Council to identify areas where improvements can be made which will have a positive effect on the lives of people in our community. The organisation welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with Galway County Council to develop Ballinasloe as a Town of Excellence in leading the way for accessibility not just in the county but across the country.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted by the Planning Authority and the collaboration with Accessibility Galway is welcomed.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-781 GALWAY MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM**

**Pg 472**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission requests that Galway County Council consider referencing the important role that voluntary emergency services and rescue services play within the County. The submission notes that there has been no reference made to Voluntary Emergency and Rescue Organisations which provide vital lifesaving services to persons in County Galway. Many of these organisations operate as Registered Charities and are supported in part by grant funding from Galway County Council.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. Section 11.15 Emergency Services acknowledges the range of Coast Guard resources which include Volunteer Units. The Planning Authority considers it appropriate to include reference to voluntary units.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

Section 11.15 Emergency Services

**The Planning Authority recognises Volunteer Units and the important role that they play in the county.**

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-685 YOUTH WORK IRELAND GALWAY**

**Pg 473**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised the submission requests that Policy Objective YP3 is labelled as 'Youth Facilities' rather than 'Multi-Agency Approach'.

**Objective YP3 Multi-Agency Approach Youth Facilities**

*Facilitate a multi-agency approach to the provision of youth facilities such as Youth Clubs, Youth Cafés across the County, and encourage their integration into multi-purpose community facilities.*

The submission notes that it needs to be a specific heading as the need to improve and increase Galway County's youth facilities is important to Comhairle members. The submission requests community boards or spaces to exhibit youth art, and other non-sport related activities. The submission requests the provision of youth centres in Gaeltacht areas. It is requested that the provision of public parks in proximity to local amenities is included in Policy Objectives for Young People.

It is requested that there is an increase to public toilet facilities / changing facilities in public areas for families with young children / members of the public.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Upon review, the Planning Authority considers it appropriate to amend the policy objective title as worded in the submission.

The Planning Authority considers that the policy objectives outlined in **Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** adequate address the

proposals outlined in this submission. The County Development Plan is a land use plan which provides policy objectives to support the development of the plan area.

The County Development Plan identifies appropriate land as per the zonings, however the mechanism to deliver on particular uses or infrastructure such as toilets is not within the remit of the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

**Objective YP3 Multi-Agency Approach Youth Facilities**

*Facilitate a multi-agency approach to the provision of youth facilities such as Youth Clubs, Youth Cafés across the County, and encourage their integration into multi-purpose community facilities.*

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Herterich/Quinn and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-665 AUGHRIM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LTD.**

**Pg 474**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised the submission requests reference to the heritage at Aughrim to recognise the tourism potential of the region into the future. Aughrim Community Development would seek to work with Galway County Council into the future to allow Aughrim and its hinterland to reach its full potential as a sustainable rural tourism initiative in east Galway and a key destination in Fáilte Ireland's Hidden Heartlands tourism proposal.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that there is adequate reference to the heritage at Aughrim within the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** notes that Aughrim would be included in the 'walking hubs' of the Beara Breifne Way. This is recognised under Section 8.12.2 Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. The protection of the Battle of Aughrim site is outlined in Policy Objective **ARC 7 Battlefield Sites** contained in **Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the submission from Aughrim Community Development and stated that Aughrim was an area that needs focus and projects needs to be driven. Cllr. Dr. Parsons wanted to be associated with those comments.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Parsons and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-583 KAY MCCORMACK

### Pg 474

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Additional recreational amenities are requested for Oranmore to support the projected population growth – accessible by footpath or cycle lane. Funding to be made available for recreational amenities, parks, sports pitches, cultural centres in the area.

Mapping flood risk assessment and special area of conservation completed before any new development takes place.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that there are sufficient policy objectives outlined in the plan for Oranmore to support the development of recreational facilities. Policy Objective **OMSP 10 Recreational Facilities** supports the development of walkways and cycleways throughout the plan area where feasible. Policy Objective **OMSP 8 Community Facilities** seeks to provide additional community facilities as an integral part of proposals for new residential development in Oranmore.

The Stage 2 SFRA undertaken as part of the preparation of the undertaken at Plan level provides an appropriately strategic assessment of flood risk within the various settlements under the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. Screening for Appropriate Assessment will be required with all applications where it is considered the proposed development may impact on a Special Area of Conservation.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. C. Keaveney and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-570 JOYCE COUNTRY AND WESTERN LAKES GEOPARK PROJECT

### PG 475

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Establishing a UNESCO Global Geopark in Joyce Country and Western Lakes region will provide more locally generated businesses and job opportunities, which in turn will help sustain and grow local communities and the quality services they require. The Joyce Country Western Lakes Geopark Project's key goal is to achieve this UNESCO status by 2023.

The project's framework has six strategic objectives, a number of which have specific relevance to the following Draft Development Plan objectives:

Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure – **SCI 1 Community and Social development in the County, SCI 2 Galway Local Economic and Community Plan, SCI 3 Social Inclusion, SCI 4 Recreation, Amenity, Sports and Social Inclusion, SCI 5 Voluntary and Community Groups; MU 1 Multi-use Community Facilities; EDU 1 Educational Facilities, EDU 5 Shared use of educational and community facilities; YP 3 Multi-Agency Approach; SRA 1 Sport, Amenity and Recreation, SRA 2 Promote Public Access to Natural Amenities, SRA 3 High-quality cycle and walking network, SRA 4 Passive and Active Open Space; TLS 1 Traditional Local Services; and CWH 1 Co-Working Hubs.**

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted and the Planning Authority supports the Joyce Country Western Lakes Geopark Project's key goal to achieve UNESCO status.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-293 GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Pg 476**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised the submission suggests that it may be appropriate to include the mention of social enterprise in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority considers that the provision of social enterprises would be supported in the Draft County Development Plan as existing.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-264 GALWAY ROSCOMMON EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD**

**Pg 476**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised the submission notes that new school accommodation would not only benefit the students but creates a focal point in the community. GRETB school buildings are used for community use after school hours. The submission requests that, to allow for expansion in school numbers and services, consideration be given to land adjacent to Galway Roscommon Education & Training Board school buildings when zoning for educational and training use.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Volume 2 contains settlement plans with zoning maps and it is considered that Galway County Council has zoned lands adjacent to existing educational facilities.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-254 GUS MCCARTHY MKO**

**Pg 477**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne this submission requests that the Council consider the location of new burial grounds on Class II Restricted Roads (outside of the 100km/hr speed limit zone) in order to facilitate their development and to meet Policy Objective PWB2 of the Plan. Regional Roads have the capacity to facilitate burial grounds, with there being plenty of scope for car parking facilities to be developed, and a lower impact on causing traffic congestion therefore it is requested to introduce a policy objective that supports the development of burial grounds on these roads.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. The Planning Authority does not consider it appropriate to locate burial grounds on Class II Restricted Roads outside of the speed limit zone. This would raise serious traffic safety concerns.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Mr. Dunne advised that Chapter 10 has a policy objective to facilitate burial grounds in appropriate locations. He stated that to specify specific locations was not recommended. An Comh. Mac an lomaire stated that it was very difficult to find suitable lands for burial grounds and proposed that Galway County Council would consider introducing a policy objective that supports the development of burial

grounds on Class II Restricted Roads (outside of 100km/hr speed limit zone). This was supported by Cllrs. Carroll, Cuddy, Hoade, O Curraoin and O Cualáin. An Comh. O Cualáin stated that they had a major issue in Connemara area in relation to lack of suitable lands for Burial Grounds. Cllr. Roche queried why they were having this discussion as if there was land available, Galway County Council would engage with landowner and it would go from there. However, there was no solution if there was no site and suggested this discussion was futile. Cllr. M. Connolly acknowledged the comments made by Members. An Comh. Mac an Iomaire, referring to landscape/terrain and how difficult it was to find suitable ground in Connemara area, suggested that where there was suitable ground that Galway County Council would put in an objective to facilitate burial grounds on Class 11 Roads if land became available on such a road. This motion was motivated by lack of lands that are on roads that were not Class 11 roads. He advised that they had come across two sites in the last year but were not deemed suitable because of being on a Class 11 Road.

Mr. Cullen assured the Members that one of the major projects for Environment Section was finding sites for burial grounds in locations where they were needed. He advised there was a policy objective in place for finding and developing burial grounds. Where a site was located that was deemed suitable, it would be looked at from a Planning and Development perspective and would be brought before the Members as a Part 8. However, he advised that this would not be advanced on lines of what was being proposed here and what was wanted was already provided for in the Plan.

Cllr. Byrne said that he agreed with Chief Executive on this. An Comh. O Cualáin stated that if a site became available along a restricted road, would it be considered for a burial ground? Mr. Cullen stated that it would be considered in the same way as any application for development in accordance with the proper planning and development for the area. He stated that where suitable sites were located, they would be brought forward to Part 8 for consideration by the Members.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by An Comh. Mac an Iomaire, seconded by Cllr. C. Keaveney and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-229 COUNTY GALWAY TRAVELLER INTERAGENCY GROUP**

**Pg 477**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

**Social Inclusion and Community Development'** – The submission requests the inclusion of a specific objective for Intercultural Inclusion with reference to the implementation of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy in the County.

The submission suggests the inclusion of an objective relating to the Yellow Flag Programme.

The submission suggests strengthening digital infrastructure that Travellers have access to which would facilitate participation in economic and social life. Policy Objective CWH1 could pursue a more expansive approach given the links suggested

to public buildings, libraries, and community centres. This could include a function within such hubs to addressing the emerging issues of digital inequalities.

The Traveller Interagency Group is preparing to launch a “Framework for Good Practice on Traveller Ethnicity” and the submission requests that this framework is referenced alongside a commitment to support and encourage its full implementation across all areas covered by the County Development Plan.

The submission suggests implementing the public sector equality and human rights duty established under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.

**Chief Executive’s Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. Section 11.3 Strategic Context notes that this chapter has been prepared in the context of the National Strategy for Traveller and Roma Integration 2017-2021. Policy Objective **SH 3 Traveller Accommodation** in the Policy Objectives Specific Housing Need contained in **Chapter 2 Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and Housing Strategy** seeks to support and implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 for County Galway.

It is considered that **CWH1 Co-Working Hubs** is sufficient in the provision of the infrastructure mentioned in this submission. It is not considered necessary to amend this policy objective.

**Chief Executive’s Recommendation:**

No Change.

***This was already covered in a previous motion. Noted by Members.***

**CHAPTER 12 – ARCHITECTURAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**GLW C10-880 LACKAGH MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Pg 479**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised the submission requests that the recommendations contained in the 2021 Community Area Based Plan for Lackagh and Turloughmore and the redevelopment plan for Lackagh Museum be given consideration in any local area works by Galway County Council. The submission is accompanied by the Lackagh and Turloughmore Community Development Study 2021

**Chief Executive’s Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 does not prohibit the proposals outlined in this submission. The plan is a land-use plan which generally supports the development of Lackagh, including Lackagh Museum, and Turloughmore in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***This was previously discussed. Noted by Members.***

**GLW C10-835 KYLEMORE ABBEY 7 THE KYLEMORE TRUST**

Pg 479

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission raises issues on a number of chapters in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. In relation to Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage, the submission outlines the programme of heritage and conservation initiatives that the Kylemore Trust will undertake over the next 10 years. Phase 1 is the Kylemore Conservation and Heritage Programme 2021-2024 which will deliver a conservation programme focused on a number of items. It is stated that the conservation programme will specifically meet a number of policy objectives in relation to Architectural Heritage identified within the Draft County Development Plan.

The submission notes that Kylemore Abbey has begun discussions with stakeholders on creating taught programmes for heritage and conservation skills aimed at apprentices in the construction sector, with the Kylemore site acting as a 'living laboratory' for conservation and traditional building skills.

The submission requests recognition for the intrinsic cultural heritage of Kylemore Abbey as a national and international heritage locale within the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape** refers to Kylemore Abbey and its location along the Wild Atlantic Way. The Council recognises the importance of the branding of the Wild Atlantic Way and its positive impact on the tourism sector and the economic growth of the county. Section 8.10.1 recognises Kylemore Abbey as an example of the vibrancy of heritage tourism in the county.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. Mannion stated that this was a very good submission and requested that narrative was included in last paragraph in Cultural Heritage Section (Pg 242)

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-783 SEAI SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME GALWAY**

### **Pg 480**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne this submission raises issues on a number of chapters in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. In relation to Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage, the submission references Section 12.8 and suggests that the subsection fails to recognise the central role artists can play in supporting a Just Transition. The submission suggests the following amendment/inclusion:

- Galway County Council should adopt a more creative approach to policy making that encourages co-design with local communities, understands the need for experimental thinking and recognises storytelling as a core component of this process.
- To achieve this, the appropriate supports should be put in place to bring artists and designers into the process of policy making and encourage multidisciplinary networks to emerge across the county.

The submission outlines a rationale for the proposal.

This submission noted that it would welcome to see provision for a town park in each small settlement in County Galway. It is noted that this aligns with SDG's 3, 13 and 15 and the Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that there are sufficient policy objectives outlined for Creativity and The Arts in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 to encourage and recognise the importance of artists. Policy Objectives **CA 1 Development of Arts and Cultural Infrastructure, CA 2 Development of facilities, CA 3 Public Realm Works of Art and CA 4 Implementation of Plans and Programmes** support creativity and the arts in the county.

The Planning Authority welcome the provision of parks for every settlement. The Plan includes a number of Policy Objectives which would support public parks including Policy Objective **SRA 4 Passive and Active Open Space**.

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-775 AMICITIA

### Pg 481

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission raises issues on a number of chapters in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. In relation to Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage, the submission references Section 12.8 and suggests that the subsection fails to recognise the central role artists can play in supporting a Just Transition. The submission suggests the following amendment/inclusion:

- Galway County Council should adopt a more creative approach to policy making that encourages co-design with local communities, understands the need for experimental thinking and recognises storytelling as a core component of this process.
- To achieve this, the appropriate supports should be put in place to bring artists and designers into the process of policy making and encourage multidisciplinary networks to emerge across the county.

The submission outlines a rationale for the proposal.

### Chief Executive's Response:

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority considers that there are sufficient policy objectives outlined for Creativity and The Arts in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 to encourage and recognise the importance of artists. Policy Objective **CA 1 Development of Arts and Cultural Infrastructure, CA 2 Development of facilities, CA 3 Public Realm Works of Art and CA 4 Implementation of Plans and Programmes** support creativity and the arts in the county.

### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. King and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-665 AUGHRIM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LTD.

### Pg 482

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission outlines the aims, functions and project history of Aughrim Community Development Company Limited (ACD) and is accompanied by a marketing brief for Uí Mhaine – Traditional Homeland of the O'Kelly.

The submission seeks additional reference to its internationally significant cultural heritage and tourism potential. The tourism potential of the heritage assets in Aughrim are noted.

ACD wish to petition the Planning Authority to work with them to use the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre as a primary tourism hub in this area. ACD seek to work with the Planning Authority to bring Aughrim and its hinterland to reaching its potential as a sustainable rural tourism initiative in east Galway.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

A comprehensive submission has been made, the contents of which have been noted.

**Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage** makes reference to the battle site at Aughrim and the need to conserve and protect the significant battle sites in County Galway, as outlined in Section 12.6.9. Policy Objective **ARC 7 Battlefield Sites** specifically references the Battle of Aughrim site. The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 recognises the need to protect these sites and preserve them as places of historical interest. The plan does not prohibit any proposals outlined in the submission, and as a land-use plan promotes the protection and preservation of the Battle of Aughrim site as a place of historical interest and notes that consideration should be given to the conservation and protection of these significant sites.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-570 JOYCE COUNTRY AND WESTERN LAKES GEOPARK PROJECT**

**Pg 482**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

The Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark Project seeks to achieve UNESCO Global Geopark status by 2023. The geopark idea, and the six objectives of the Strategic Framework for Tourism Development which accompanies this submission, have special relevance to the following objectives outlined in Chapter 12:

Chapter 12 – Policy Objectives AH 1-13; ARC 1-12; CUH 1-4; CA 1-4

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. **Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** includes a policy objective specific to the Joyce Country and Western Lakes aspiring Geopark, outlined in Policy Objective **UGG 1 UNESCO Global Geopark Status**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. C. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. King and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-396 ALAN MCKENNA**

**Pg 483**

Mr. Dunne gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Mr. Dunne advised that the submission has raised concerns with regard to cillini sites / children's burial grounds and the need to protect these sites.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 recognises the need to protect these sites and preserve them as places of historical and cultural interest. However, the designation of protected sites is not within the remit of the County Development Plan, and is a function of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's National Monument Service.

**Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage** contained in the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 supports the protection of such sites, as per Policy Objective **ARC 5 Development Management, ARC 6 Burial Grounds, and ARC 9 Recorded Monuments.**

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. C. Keaveney and agreed by the Members.***

## **CHAPTER 13 – THE GALWAY GAELTACHT AND ISLANDS**

## **GLW C10-50 CONRADH NA GAEILGE**

**Pg 484**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

She advised this submission outlines the background of the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 and the Maigh Cuilinn Language Plan. The submission notes that the Draft County Development Plan should consider the pressure experienced by Gaeltacht areas as a result of the over-development of housing and the damage this has on Gaeltacht areas especially where there is a lack of sociolinguistic research conducted.

In relation to MSGT 11 Enurement Clause, the submission suggests that the language enurement clause is increased to 35% as opposed to the 20% outlined in the policy objective. This would be to ensure the objectives of the Maigh Cuilinn Language Plan are complied with. The submission recommends cooperating with Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Department of the Gaeltacht while defining a clear and transparent process through which the Enurement Clause will be managed and monitored to ensure the objective of the clause is achieved.

The submission suggests the following criteria to be included during in any Language Impact Statements, and impact statements not in compliance with the following recommended criteria should be rejected:

- *Ability in Irish of the (potential) residents;*
- *Language behaviour of the (potential) residents, i.e., the normal language(s) of the family home;*
- *Any connection the (potential) residents may have with the Irish speaking community;*
- *Any connection the (potential) residents may have with the institutions of the local community which function through Irish;*
- *In the case of business, the working language of that business;*
- *In the case of a business, the language policy of that business regarding the employment of people who are competent in Irish;*
- *In the case of a business, will it be providing all or any service in Irish.*

The submission concurs with the Strategic Aims outlined in Section 13.2 – it is noted that an Enurement Clause of 35% is central to the Maigh Cuilinn Language Plan and is imperative in achieving Development Plan objectives. A substantial proportion of the additional population projected for Maigh Cuilinn must be daily speakers of Irish to achieve the Strategic Aims outlined in Section 13.2 relating to the Irish language. The submission references Section 13.6 of the Development Plan and reinstates that housing development without an Enurement Clause of 35% would have a detrimental effect

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted.

It is considered appropriate in this instance to retain the Enurement Clause as existing. The Planning Authority notes that the Census will be carried out in 2022 and results released thereafter may reveal a change in demographics of Irish speakers in the Galway Gaeltacht, and accordingly this may be taken into account by the Council.

With regards to the requirement for the submission of Language Impact Statements, it is proposed to insert a new Policy Objective **GA 5 Linguistic Impact Statements** as follows: '*Galway County Council shall require the submission of a Linguistic Impact Statement for housing proposals for two or more houses in the Gaeltacht area in order to protect and strengthen the Irish language and cultural heritage of the Galway Gaeltacht areas. A Language Enurement Clause of 15 years duration shall apply to approved development, of two or more units.*'

This has been noted by the Planning Authority.

As previously stated, the Planning Authority consider the Enurement Clause as existing to be appropriate.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

Inclusion of new policy objective as follows:

**GA 5 Linguistic Impact Statements**

*'Galway County Council shall require the submission of a Linguistic Impact Statement for housing proposals for two or more houses in the Gaeltacht area in order to protect and strengthen the Irish language and cultural heritage of the Galway Gaeltacht areas. A Language Enurement Clause of 15 years duration shall apply to approved development, of two or more units.'*

the survival of Irish in Maigh Cuilinn and the Gaeltacht Status of Maigh Cuilinn.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. C. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-56 DARA O MAOILDHIA**

**Pg 486**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submitter is a Resident of Inis Mór. This submission requests specific housing policy for the islands, with a focus on renovating vacant and derelict buildings throughout each island.

It is noted that suitable accommodation is required for families to rent. The submission notes that c. 70-80 vacant/derelict houses are located on Inis Mór which could provide opportunity for the provision of new housing. The 14 named villages/hamlets on Inis Mór should be protected and kept alive through the provision of new housing to cater for families.

As tourism is the main industry on the island, there is also a demand for worker accommodation during the summer months and finding such accommodation is challenging when pitted against the demand for tourist accommodation.

The submission suggests that planning policy is loosened sufficiently to allow the development of housing on the islands to cater for all demand.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. Policy Objective **IS 4 Rural Housing on the Islands** supports permanent rural housing on the islands where the applicants can demonstrate that they have permanently lived on the island for a substantial and sustained period of time and can contribute to the long term viability of the islands. **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** outlines a suite of policy objectives to support rural housing. The policy objectives in relation to housing and rural housing are in accordance with the National Planning Framework.

Policy Objective **GICT 3 Tourism Development within An Gaeltacht and Islands** supports the provision of short-term guest accommodation facilities in appropriate locations.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**  
No Change.

Cllr. Sheridan wanted to note his support for this submission.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-570 JOYCE COUNTRY AND WESTERN LAKES GEOPARK PROJECT**

**Pg 487**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

The Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark Project seeks to achieve UNESCO Global Geopark status by 2023. The Irish language and Gaeltacht culture is celebrated, and is a defining and differentiating characteristic of the Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark idea. Achieving UNESCO Global Geopark status will help achieve the vision of these elements being a living and natural part of people's day-to-day lives in the area, integrated into visitor experiences and reflected daily in engagement with locals and other stakeholders.

The geopark idea and the six objectives of the Strategic Framework for Tourism Development (accompanying the submission) have special relevance to the following objectives outlined in Chapter 13:

Policy Objective **GA 1 Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of An Gaeltacht, GA 2 Development of Language Plans, GA 3 Support the Statutory Development Agencies, GA 5 Signage within the Gaeltacht; GIED 1 Economic Development in An Gaeltacht and the Islands, GIED 2 Development of Brownfield Sites within Gaeltacht Settlements, GIED 3 Development of Infrastructure within An Gaeltacht and Islands, GIED 5 Development of Digital Hubs within An Gaeltacht and Islands, GIED 6 Bus Services and Rural Transport Programme within An Gaeltacht and Islands; GICT 1 Development of Creative Industry, GICT 2 Development of Water-Based Leisure Sector, GICT 3 Tourism Development within An Gaeltacht and Islands and GICT 4 The Connemara Coast & Aran Islands Visitor Experience Development Plan.**

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted and the submission supports the policy objectives contained within this chapter.

No Change.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation**  
No Change

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Reddington and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-633 COLM O CINNSEALA**

### **Pg 488**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Residents of Na Forbacha.

The submission recognises the difficulty to acquire/build a dwelling in Na Forbacha due to price of property and lack of details regarding zoning in the area. The submission requests a Land Use Zoning Map for Na Forbacha.

This submission supports Policy Objective GA 4 – Language Enurement Clause.

The submission outlines general proposals as follows:

- The Council consult with local people to select a local indigenous placement in Irish for new housing schemes/estates.
- Any development to the south of the R336 would be low rise to preserve the views and preserve and develop tourism.
- The current requirement of 0.2 hectares for a single house is reduced to 0.14 hectares.
- That the County Council set a recognised standard of Irish, such as achieving at least a B2 proficiency grade in Irish on the Europass Self-Assessment Framework.
- Planning application forms to include a question regarding proficiency in Irish.
- Where any network of wind turbines is approved it is recommended that they include surfacing and walking and cycling facilities and that these facilities be open to the public.
- That the County Council's Irish Language Officer and the Language Planning Officer have a role in the process of proposing and approving wording in signage and housing estates in the Gaeltacht.

The submission outlines specific proposals as follows:

- Section 13.1 – Placenames misspelled: Cloch na Rón, Dúiche Sheoigheach, Iorras Aithneach, Ros a' Mhíl and Na Forbacha. Section should refer to Acht na Gaeltachta 2012.
- Section 13.5 – Suggested final wording: ***'These planning areas generally equate with the Language Planning Areas as laid out under Acht na Gaeltachta 2012. The Council recognises the linguistic benefits of inter-generational language transmission and, as a general rule, will look favourably on planning applications by applicants near to their parent's home.'***
- Policy Objective GA 5 - In all insistences where new signage on shopfronts in An Gaeltacht are proposed, the profession/type of business shall be in Irish ***only and not be of a smaller font size as the name of the business. Where roadside signage is erected signs must be in Irish or, if bilingual, the Irish text to be highlighted and/or given preference.***
- Include mention of intergenerational sustainability in Policy Objective RC 4 and 5.
- Include 'regattas featuring traditional Galway Hookers' in Section 8.10.3 relating to Events and Festivals.
- All instances of 'An Gaeltacht' should read 'An Ghaeltacht'.

- All instances of 'Colaisti' should read 'Coláistí'.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Na Forbacha is designated a level 7 settlement in the Settlement Hierarchy under the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. The settlement is also situated within District D of An Gaeltacht, Cois Fharraige. The Planning Authority does not consider it warranted to include a zoning map for this area.

Noted.

It is considered that the policy objectives as existing are appropriate. The proposals outlined in the submission are a matter outside the County Development Plan in terms of proficiency in Irish and the planning application form.

The site size for a single house is to be in accordance with EPA guidelines, therefore it is not considered appropriate to reduce this.

The Draft County Development Plan supports the proposals outlined in the submission and the policy objectives would not prohibit the provision of surfacing, walking and cycling facilities open to the public with any network of wind turbines. There are policy objectives outlined in **Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource** to address this.

This is not within the specific remit of the County Development Plan. Policy Objectives **GA 1 Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of An Gaeltacht, GA 2 Development of Language Plans and GA 3 Support the Statutory Development Agencies** are supporting of language plans. DM Standard 2 requires that new developments shall be required to consult with Coiste Logainmneacha Chontae na Gaillimhe, the Galway County Council Placename Committee, and to identify an appropriate name for new development shall reflect the local heritage and character of the area.

Any error in the spelling of placenames will be reviewed and amended.

**Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands** reflects and acknowledges the Language Planning Areas under Acht na Gaeltachta 2021. In relation to planning applications for individuals, **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** contains a suite of policy objectives that applicants would have to comply with, therefore it is not considered appropriate in this instance to reference the wording as proposed. As previously stated, any error in the spelling will be reviewed and amended.

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

### **GLW C10-696 CONRADH NA GAEILGE**

#### **Pg 490**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission notes the difficulty that local Irish-speaking people face when trying to acquire planning permission due to local need criteria. Planning for housing in the Gaeltacht areas should be focused on the permanence and strengthening of Gaeltacht communities and the submission suggests that a

person who speaks Irish has a local need. The submission states that planning for housing in the Gaeltacht should follow these objectives:

- *To reinstate the number of Gaeltacht inhabitants who are living within their own communities*
- *That fluent speakers of Irish should be given the opportunity to live in the Gaeltacht*
- *That local economies are strengthened and that Gaeltacht economies are developed*

The submission has regard to the Development Plan Guidelines, in particular the mandatory objective relating to Gaeltacht areas and suggests that these guidelines have not been implemented in the draft Development Plan. The submission suggests the implementation of an action plan to realise the aspirations of the NPF in relation to the importance of the Gaeltacht and Gaeltacht Islands.

The submission outlines a number of recommendations for the Development Plan:

- Persons who speak Irish are recognised as having a local need.
- Every proposal for a dwelling to be accompanied by a Language Impact Assessment, including the following criteria;
  - *Irish language ability of the residents (proposed)*
  - *The language profile of the residents (proposed) i.e. The everyday language/languages of the family*
  - *Any connection that the residents (proposed) have with the Irish speaking community*
  - *In the case of a business, the working language of that business*
  - *In the case of a business, the language policy of that business regarding the employment of people with the ability to speak Irish*
  - *In the case of a business, will all/any services be available through Irish*
- In relation to housing estates and language clauses, the submission recommends that a competency and level TEG B2 or higher in spoken Irish as an acceptable standard for people from outside of the constituency. People originally from the constituency do not need to demonstrate a competency in Irish. The submission recommends a language enurement clause of 90% in category A&B Gaeltacht areas, and 35% in category C Gaeltacht areas.
- Ensure that no more than 10% houses in any constituency are holiday homes.
- There should be a (separate) social housing scheme for the Gaeltacht community on their own land or their family's land. Implement a strategy in order to purchase houses/land where available and to build social housing or to convert houses to social housing. It is necessary to examine the most effective way of providing affordable housing in the Gaeltacht in such a way as to strengthen the use of Irish.
- To provide support to the Gaeltacht islands in relation to travel systems and infrastructure.
- To carry out research in areas of conservation on the islands in particular, and on the wind farms which have an influence on local planning.
- The submission recognises the importance of Gaeltacht co-ops, tourism and summer colleges in the Gaeltacht areas.

***This was already dealt with in previous motion. Noted by Members.***

## GLW C10-701 LABHRAS O FINNEADHA

### Pg 493

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised the submission notes the routes that relate to the R336 and constraints on development along these routes, suggesting that the housing zone in Spiddal could be expanded as these routes are no longer proposed. The submission argues that the 'language condition' being applied to housing development in the Gaeltacht is 'illegal'; and that it is against natural law to prohibit people from selling a house for a certain period of years.

The submission acknowledges ecological matters stating that a way to increase the number of pollinators is to allow the building of numerous individual houses which have gardens with trees/flowers. The submission wants Spiddal to grow and allow people to build houses regardless of 'culture'.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority notes the reference to the routes for the R336 and the constraints thereon. It should be noted that any prospective planning application is assessed against the policy objectives contained in the County Development Plan. The policy objectives relating to language enurement clauses are considered appropriate in maintaining and supporting the Irish language in the Gaeltacht area, such as **GA 4 Language Enurement Clause**.

The Planning Authority notes that the All Ireland Pollinator Plan has been adopted which is an all-island wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects. It is an objective of the Pollinator Plan to work together to create networks of biodiversity-friendly habitat across our landscape, from gardens to businesses, faith communities and sports clubs.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-769 ANNE MOONEY

### Pg 494

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane stated that the submission requests that the Council facilitate the urgent provision permanent homes and long-term rentals on the islands. The submission requests that the Council facilitate a study of existing housing on the island of Inis Meáin (other islands where necessary) and assess the ratio of vacant habitable dwellings/holiday homes/permanent dwellings/derelict dwellings. Where there is a demand for permanent dwellings and where the percentage of holiday

homes is deemed unsuitable, new-build holiday homes should not be permitted. Refurbishment of derelict dwellings should be encouraged.

The Planning Authority should designate areas that are suitable for dwellings based on their assessment of the existing housing stock and the ability of particular areas to assimilate further dwellings. The possible designation of areas for small clusters of houses at suitable locations for long-term rental or sale as permanent residences should be investigated.

The submission suggests that the local need policy that applies to other rural areas in the county should not apply to applications for single permanent dwellings on the islands. Priority should be given in no particular order to those who are:

- (i) from the island;
- (ii) have lived on the island permanently for X amount of years;
- (iii) are working on the island;
- (iv) have children in the island schools; and,
- (v) speak Irish (in the case of Gaeltacht islands).

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Policy objectives in relation to Islands in **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** and **Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands** to support housing on the Islands.

The Planning Authority considers the Islands to be a unique attribute to the county. The publishing of a specific chapter in relation to the Gaeltacht and Islands highlights the importance of this attribute.

It is considered that there are sufficient policy objectives contained in the draft plan to address this, such as Policy Objective **IS 4 Rural Housing on the Islands**.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-777 FORAM CHOIS GHARRAIGE UM PLEANAIL TEANGA  
CTR**

**Pg 495**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission supports the Gaeltacht objectives however states that method and definite strategies are needed to implement these objectives. Actions needed to facilitate the protection and promotion of Irish. The Development Plan should consider that the 26 Language Planning Areas (10 no. in Galway) in the Gaeltacht Act 2012 which were laid out by electoral division. Area D: Cois Fharraige should correspond with the LPT Cois Fharraige outlined in the Act, to include Furbo, Spiddal, Killanin, Sailearna and Kilcummin (Galway). The submission outlines recommendations including:

- Ensure regular contact with language planning officers in respect of protecting and promoting Irish;
- Zone residential land in Cois Fharraige in proximity to amenities and services where a small number of dwellings could share access to essential services;
- Recommends that the site requirement for a single dwelling is reduced from 0.5 acre to 0.33 acre;
- Language conditions should apply to standalone dwellings as in housing estates;
- Planning application form should include a question on Irish competency;
- Development Plan should state that the appropriate speaking standard is B2 as laid out in Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- Recommends the inclusion of policy that would protect Spiddal from development which could damage the standing of Irish in Spiddal.
- That a Development Plan be prepared for the Gaeltacht as a specific part of the County Development Plan, in which the distinctive needs of that area could be met, an area where there is a living, dynamic and strong Gaeltacht, in order to support the national campaign in relation to language planning. This will strengthen goal GA2.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted.

The site size for a single house is to be in accordance with EPA guidelines, therefore it is not considered appropriate to reduce this.

It is outside of the remit of the County Development Plan to require an Irish speaking standard of B2 as laid out in Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Policy Objective ***RH 5 Rural Housing Zone 5 (An Ghaeltacht)*** notes that A Language Enurement of 15 years duration will apply to approved developments in this category. Policy objectives such as this would protect areas within the Gaeltacht from development which could damage the standing of Irish.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-932 COISTE COMHAIRLEACH PLEAN 5 BLIANA IORRAS  
AITHNEACH**

**Pg 497**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that this submission outlines proposed amendments/inclusions for Chapter 13, summarised as follows:

- GCC acknowledges the extensive SACs in Connemara which makes it difficult to obtain planning permission in this area. While GCC supports the protection of the environment, the strengthening of rural and Gaeltacht areas is a central objective.
- Seek to open discussions with the Department of the Gaeltacht, Tourism, Culture, Arts and Sports with a view to lessening the impact of Special Areas of Conservation, and other environmental designations on the construction of essential housing and industrial and commercial developments that create employment in rural and Gaeltacht areas in the County, with the objective of ensuring the viability of rural and Gaeltacht areas.
- Look favourably on applying the principle of *de minimis* regarding SACs where housing/commercial/industrial developments extend onto small sections of SACs.
- The preservation and fostering of the Irish language is a primary objective of Galway County Council and it is equally acknowledged that our commitment to the language must be underpinned by the development of infrastructure in the Gaeltacht areas of this county.
- Galway County Council, while abiding with its total commitment to the preservation and fostering of the Irish language in its area of remit, acknowledges that practical measures are urgently needed to strengthen the economic and social fabric of Gaeltacht communities, particularly in peripheral area. A continuous decline in the population in some of those areas, allied to high unemployment and emigration, is acknowledged to be a huge threat to some Gaeltacht communities, and consequently a threat to the status of the Irish language in this county and this country.
- Galway County Council recognizes that a number of areas in the County have shown a continual decline in their socio-economic status as highlighted in successive Census. The South West Connemara Gaeltacht is a prime example of that decline as shown in Galway County Council publications based on examinations of Census reports. The continuing decline in population, employment opportunities, and the resultant demographic imbalance in South West Connemara, poses a threat to the bedrock of the Irish language.
- Galway County Council strongly supports the implementation of the *Údarás na Gaeltachta* 5 Year Plan for the Carna/Cill Chiaráin area, the benefits of which would also accrue to surrounding communities, through actions such as the development of the R340 and the upgrading of infrastructure in the local villages of Cill Chiaráin and Carna. It is recognized by Galway County Council that those villages are in need of public sewerage schemes and this matter will be stressed in contacts with Irish Water.
- Galway County Council supports the development of Páirc na Mara on the site chosen by *Údarás na Gaeltachta* in Cill Chiaráin and recognize it as an innovative project in utilizing the marine sector for the benefit of the community and acknowledges this to be a project which has the potential to be of national and international significance.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted.

This is outside the remit of the County Development Plan.

This is outside the remit of the County Development Plan.

All applications are assessed in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development, and associated environmental considerations. The Planning Authority

notes that de minimus principle cannot be applied regarding SACs where housing/commercial/industrial developments extend onto small sections of SACs.

**Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands** supports the promotion of the Irish language and culture in the narrative and supported further by a suite of policy objectives.

**Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands** contains a suite of policy objectives which, in combination with those outlined in **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** and **Chapter 5 Economic Development, Enterprise and Retail development**, support the development of necessary infrastructure in the Gaeltacht areas of the county. The County Development Plan is a land-use plan and the Planning Authority acknowledges that there will be an economic strategy prepared under **Chapter 5 Economic Development, Enterprise and Retail Development**. The Census is due to be carried out in 2022, and a review of the most up to date analysis from the census results will be conducted by the Council once the data is available.

Galway County Council supports Údarás na Gaeltachta and consults and collaborates with them on an ongoing basis. It is noted that the Council supports all plans and policies produced by the Údarás. The Planning Authority does not consider it warranted to note each individual plan or proposal produced by the Údarás.

Galway County Council are in constant contact with Irish water, who are the regulatory authority who deal with wastewater treatment and water supply.

The Planning Authority considers that there is sufficient mention of Páirc na Mara in **Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management**. Policy Objective **MRI 2 Marine Resource Innovation Park** supports the development and expansion of strategic Marine Resource Innovation Parks including Páirc na Mara.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-783 SEAI SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME GALWAY**

**Pg 499**

Ms. Loughnane advised that this submission is same as GLW-C10-932.

This submission outlines proposed amendments/inclusions for **Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands**, summarised as follows:

**- GCC acknowledges the extensive SACs in Connemara which makes it difficult to obtain planning permission in this area. While GCC supports the protection of the environment, the strengthening of rural and Gaeltacht areas is a central objective.**

- Seek to open discussions with the Department of the Gaeltacht, Tourism, Culture, Arts and Sports with a view to lessening the impact of Special Areas of Conservation, and other environmental designations on the construction of essential housing and industrial and commercial developments that create employment in rural and Gaeltacht areas in the County, with the objective of ensuring the viability of rural and Gaeltacht areas.
- Look favourably on applying the principle of *de minimis* regarding SACs where housing/commercial/industrial developments extend onto small sections of SACs.
- The preservation and fostering of the Irish language is a primary objective of Galway County Council and it is equally acknowledged that our commitment to the language must be underpinned by the development of infrastructure in the Gaeltacht areas of this county.
- Galway County Council, while abiding with its total commitment to the preservation and fostering of the Irish language in its area of remit, acknowledges that practical measures are urgently needed to strengthen the economic and social fabric of Gaeltacht communities, particularly in peripheral area. A continuous decline in the population in some of those areas, allied to high unemployment and emigration, is acknowledged to be a huge threat to some Gaeltacht communities, and consequently a threat to the status of the Irish language in this county and this country.
- Galway County Council recognizes that a number of areas in the County have shown a continual decline in their socio-economic status as highlighted in successive Census. The South West Connemara Gaeltacht is a prime example of that decline as shown in Galway County Council publications based on examinations of Census reports. The continuing decline in population, employment opportunities, and the resultant demographic imbalance in South West Connemara, poses a threat to the bedrock of the Irish language.
- Galway County Council strongly supports the implementation of the Údarás na Gaeltachta 5 Year Plan for the Carna/Cill Chiaráin area, the benefits of which would also accrue to surrounding communities.
- Galway County Council supports the development of Páirc na Mara on the site chosen by Údarás na Gaeltacht in Cill Chiaráin and recognize it as an innovative project in utilizing the marine sector for the benefit of the community and acknowledges this to be a project which has the potential to be of national and international significance.
- Galway County Council will continue to lend its practical help to Údarás na Gaeltachta 5 Year Development Plan for the Carna/Cill Chiaráin and west Connemara Gaeltacht area through actions such as the development of the R340 and the upgrading of infrastructure in the local villages of Cill Chiaráin and Carna. It is recognized by Galway County Council that those villages are in need of public sewerage schemes and this matter will be stressed in contacts with Irish Water.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Same as GLW-C10-932 above.

**Chief Executive' Recommendation:**

Same as GLW-C10-932 above.

**Submission same as GLW C10-932. Noted by Members.**

## GLW C10-821 COMHLACHT FORBARTHA INIS MEAIN CTR

### Pg 502

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission relates to Inis Meáin. The submission outlines how the Strategic Aims in **Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands** should be implemented in the case of Inis Meáin. The submission recommends that a housing plan for the island is funded, developed and implemented between 2022 and 2028. The submission recommends increased investment in the recycling system, in conservation and in heritage. It is recommended to provide all available support at County Council level for the implementation of the Aran Islands language plan. The submission requests the funding of a feasibility study on the development of a "Tidal Pool" on Inis Meáin, and to support the development of the initiative if the results of the feasibility study are positive. Further to this, the submission recommends providing funding for sports facilities on the island. Include an action to ensure that the island community is aware of the supports available, and to ensure that by supporting efforts to solve the housing problems on the island we can maintain and sustain a viable community on the island. The submission recommends supporting cultural initiatives and adult education in the community. It is recommended that Phase 3 of the development on the Caladh Mór Pier is promoted and built by 2028.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The Planning Authority notes that the County Development Plan is a strategic land-use plan and not an economic plan with the budget to fund the proposals outlined. The County Development Plan provides policy objectives which support the development of the area.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-863 POBAL RUA

### Pg 503

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission is recommending that An Cheathrú Rua be developed as a language services centre for the Connemara Gaeltacht and that the village of An Cheathrú Rua be the main village in the Connemara Gaeltacht offering language services. It is recommended that priority be given to green and blue infrastructure in the context of their importance for tourism, the environment and public wellbeing. It is recommended that the appropriate recognition and support be given to proposals such as the Connemara Way, Cycle Paths in South Connemara and public walking facilities, and that their importance be recognised.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

It is considered that An Cheathrú Rua is appropriately identified on the settlement hierarchy as a small growth village, with the appropriate residential yield and population allocations.

**Chapter 6 Transport and Movement, Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape and Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** actively support the provision of cycleways and walkways in the context of tourism, the environment and public wellbeing.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members. It was noted there were amendments made previously.*

**GLW C10-865 POBAL RUA**

**Pg 503**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission recommends that Policy Objective **MSGT 12** specifically states that the Language Impact Statement is to be prepared by an expert in the field of sociolinguistics or language planning. The Language Impact Statement must prove that this development would benefit the Irish language locally.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The premise of a Linguistic Impact Statement, like any technical document submitted ancillary to a planning application, would have to be prepared by a qualified professional of their field. The Planning Authority considers Policy Objective **MSGT 12 Language Impact Statements** to be appropriate in this instance.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Kililea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.*

**GLW C10-868 MAIRE NI CHIONNA**

**Pg 504**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission notes that due to young people leaving rural areas for work, pupil numbers are falling in local schools. The submission proposes that, in the case of the Gaeltacht, the Council be in favour of granting planning permission to families where Irish is their spoken language, on the basis that the children will increase the number of pupils in the local school.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority supports the development of housing where Irish is the applicants spoken language. Policy Objective **RH 5 Rural Housing 5 (An Ghaeltacht)** notes that it is a policy objective of the Council that consideration will be given to Irish speakers who can prove their competence to speak Irish in accordance with Galway County Council's requirements and who can demonstrate their ability to be a long term asset to the traditional, cultural and language networks of vibrant Gaeltacht communities.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Kinane and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-910 COMHARCHUMANN FUINNEAMH OILEAIN ARANN TEO**

**Pg 504**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission outlines the background and objectives of Comharchumann Funnimh Oileáin Árann Teo (CFOAT). The submission recommends that the Aran Islands should have their own Local Area Plan and should be considered a small growth town for the purposes of the Development Plan. This is recommended due to the need to protect and preserve these areas while promoting sustainable development. The Islands are a tourist attraction therefore should have a suitable status in the Development Plan to facilitate the promotion of the area for the benefit of the entire county.

**Marine and Fishing** - Supports the plan to develop Inis Oírr harbour. Second phase of Inis Meain harbour should be completed. Wheelchair access required at Inishmore from ferries/make the pier more accessible. Pontoons at Inishmore would benefit small boats, fishermen, and visiting boats. Kilronan pier facilities need upgrading due to the number of users during summer months – toilet facility required. Galway County Council should consider the islands and Rossaveel harbour when planning for offshore wind developments as these are ideally located to facilitate these developments before, during and after they have been erected. These are to be considered in order to future proof these coastal communities and to be ready for such development to begin.

**Islands and Town Planning** - It is suggested that Galway County Council carry out traffic surveys at peak times on the islands to identify and witness the traffic issues

and solutions. The submission raises the issue of traffic in Kilronan village, particularly during summer months. Cutting and maintenance of grass verges on the roadside may give additional space to road users when the summer months bring additional pedestrians and cyclists to the islands.

The submission suggests renovating derelict/inhabited buildings to increase the existing housing stock on the islands. An overview of existing housing stock on the islands is needed to get a clear overview of what already exists and to identify gaps and opportunities for future planning. Plans need to be made in order to assist the upgrade of existing inhabited old buildings in order to avoid them becoming derelict in the future as well as focusing on making already derelict buildings habitable again. **Climate Change** - The submission outlines the need for futureproofing of the Islands and mitigating the effects of climate change. The submission notes that the Islands can lead the way in renewable energy transition for the County and offer an ideal location to aid in implementing and planning climate policies. The designation of the Aran Islands as a 'designated decarbonisation zone' is welcomed, but it must be followed with tangible supports, plans and funding in order to achieve results.

The submission requests that GCC become signatories of the Covenant of Mayors.

**Energy Independence** - It is requested that suitable locations on the Islands are identified for renewable energy generation, and that the Council has regard to the Energy Masterplans completed for the Islands, along with the Clean Energy Transition Agenda for the Aran Islands.

They also suggest that GCC supports the proposal from TD Eamon Ó Cuiv, to install a new sub-sea cable to the islands, and connect them to Co. Clare in order to form a loop and a back-up option for power import and export.

Due to the shift to remote working as a result of Covid-19 it is important that the Islands are included in the rollout of fibre optic broadband.

**Septic System** - It is noted that Kilronan is in need of a public septic system.

**Waste and Recycling** - In relation to recycling on the Islands, it is recommended that the Athchursail Árann operation should be included in the Development Plan. The submission also proposes that the landfill site at Árainn/Inishmore is repurposed for an environmentally friendly green project, such as a solar park. More public bins are required over the Islands and across the County.

**Water** - GCC should support a means to resolve the water issues on all three islands and the current system is not meeting the needs of the islanders and its visitors. Water refilling stations should be considered in popular locations on the Islands.

**Tourism** – GMIT study on tourism should be considered in the Plan. Devise a plan for traffic management at Dun Aonghasa on Inishmore. Signage required for accessing Poll na bPéist which is a growing tourist attraction. Measures to discourage visitors from swimming/diving at Poll na bPéist required to relieve pressure on emergency services.

**Dark sky area** - Potential for the Aran Islands to be designated as a dark sky reserve similar to that at Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

**Greenway** - The submission notes that consideration should be given to developing a greenway on the 'high road' from Lower Cill Ronán to Gort na gCapall and then via 'An Caiseal road' to Cill Mhuirbhigh.

**Buses** – Submission recommends GCC work to ensure that buses operating on the Islands are appropriate for the existing road network.

**Public toilets** – All public toilets on the Islands should be assessed to see if they are fit for purpose.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

A comprehensive and detailed submission has been made, the contents of which have been noted. It is not considered appropriate to consider the Aran Islands as a small growth town. There are a suite of policy objectives contained in **Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands** to support development of the Islands while ensuring their protection from unsuitable development.

The support shown towards the development of Inis Oírr harbour is noted. The Council supports the development of new pier infrastructure under Policy Objective **IS 3 Development of Pier Infrastructure**. The plan supports the provision of facilities outlined in this submission and does not prohibit the proposals made.

The preparation of traffic surveys is outside the remit of the County Development Plan. The plan is a land-use plan which provides policy objectives to support the development of the area. This would be a reserved function of the Infrastructure and Operations Unit in Galway County Council.

It is a policy objective of the Planning Authority to maximise the sustainable regeneration of underutilised/vacant lands and/or buildings for potential residential development in the Gaeltacht area. Policy Objective **GIED 2 Development of Brownfield Sites within Gaeltacht Settlements** encourages this.

The plan aims to protect and enhance the Galway Gaeltacht over the lifetime of the plan while also ensuring these communities can be developed in a way to ensure the county's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. **Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource** addresses in more detail Climate Change and the interrelationship between the policy objectives of this chapter and the transition to a resilient society. The Planning Authority notes that the development plan is not an economic plan with the financial budget to provide funding to achieve the stated results. The plan is a land-use plan which provides policy objectives to support the sustainable development of the Islands and the wider county.

The County Development Plan supports the proposals outlined in relation to energy independence. The Renewable Energy Strategy in Appendix 1 identifies areas of Wind and Solar Potential in the county.

This is a function of Irish Water who are the regulatory body that deal with water supply / wastewater treatment throughout the country. This is not a matter for the County Development Plan.

This is a function of Irish Water who are the regulatory body that deal with water supply / wastewater treatment throughout the country. This is not a matter for the County Development Plan.

The preparation of traffic surveys/traffic management plans is outside the remit of the County Development Plan. The plan is a land-use plan which provides policy objectives to support the development of the area. This would be a reserved function of the Infrastructure and Operations Unit in Galway County Council.

The Planning Authority notes that it is a policy objective to investigate the potential for dark skies designated areas at appropriate locations throughout the county. Policy Objective **GBW 2 Future Development of Network of Greenways** supports the delivery of sustainable greenway projects.

The provision of new bus routes/services is outside the remit of the County Development Plan and is a function of the associated prescribed authorities such as the National Transport Authority.

This is outside the remit of the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

Cllr. McKinstry congratulated Comharchumann Fuinneamh Oileain Arann Teo on the work they are doing and on their very comprehensive submission.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-929 COMHARCHUMANN FORBARTHA ARANN**

**Pg 509**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that this submission raised a number of issues relating to the Islands. The issues were raised under the following headings:

- Population decline
- Implementation of island policy
- Social housing on the Islands
- Assurance and high quality services available
- Disability access to ferries
- Sewerage systems
- Youth supports, and investment in facilities and supports for the sporting industry
- Parking facilities for Cill Mhuirbhigh
- Investment in infrastructure for the Islands
- Plan for additional bins, cleaning schedules, maintenance of roads/verges and need for public toilets on the Islands

- Services and pontoons required at the harbour to facilitate wheelchair access at Cill Ronáin
- Recognition status to be given to Coiste Calafort Árainn
- Assistance in the development of the Language Plan and implementation of signage, events & festivals
- Recognition and supports for co-operatives/community groups and their work
- Education/schools on the Islands
- Incentives to attract families/business to the Islands
- Tax incentives
- Implement a Health Publication on Islands Primary Care Services (April 2017)
- Funding for tourism
- Employment and services for sustaining vitality of the Islands
- Social enterprises on the Islands
- Requirement of high quality broadband
- Specific island policy to address the issues relating to the Islands and residents
- Interdepartmental committee dealing with the Islands in the provision of policies and supports
- Early childhood care and education, subsidiary program and capital supports
- Budget/funding for the Islands to address the challenges offshore islands face
- Climate change
- Fisheries
- Provide supports for the dissemination of Arts, Culture and Language services to the public and visitors to the Islands

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of the submission have been noted. In relation to population decline, Policy Objective ***IS 2 Development Proposals on the Islands*** gives priority to development that contributes to retention of the year-round population on the islands.

Appropriately zoned land and Housing Need Demand Assessment addresses the specific requirements for social and affordable housing in the county and the housing strategy and HNDA have addressed the provision of this.

The Council supports the development of new pier infrastructure under Policy Objective ***IS 3 Development of Pier Infrastructure***. The plan supports the provision of facilities outlined in this submission and does not prohibit the proposals made.

The provision of new bus routes/services is outside the remit of the County Development Plan and is a function of the associated prescribed authorities such as the National Transport Authority.

The County Development Plan is a not an economic plan with the financial budget to provide funding for facilities on the Islands. The plan is a land-use plan which provides supportive policy objectives for development of the area.

The provision of bins, cleaning of roads, public areas and amenities as well as public toilets is not within the remit of the County Development Plan.

**Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** provides policy objectives that support the development of such facilities in accordance with proper

planning and sustainable development. Section 11.13 People with Disabilities and Universal Design contains policy objectives to ensure all new developments and public open spaces are accessible for people with disabilities. The plan does not prohibit any proposals outlined in the submission.

Policy Objective **GA 2 Development of Language Plans** supports the development and implementation of languages plans in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas, Gaeltacht Service Towns and Irish Language Networks.

There are policy objectives contained in **Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** to support voluntary and community groups.

The Planning Authority considers that there are sufficient policy objectives contained in **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** and **Chapter 9 Marine and Coastal Management** to support the fishing sector.

The submission mentions on a number of occasions that funding should be made available for projects for tourism, sports/youth clubs, challenges for offshore islands, childcare and climate change. The Planning Authority notes that the County Development Plan is a land-use plan which does not have the financial budget to supply funding. This function is outside the remit of the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-980 RONAN MAC GIOLLAPHARAIC**

**Pg 511**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

To aid in future planning and development, this submission suggests that the Islands should be classed as units as they operate as such rather than village hamlets.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The Planning Authority considers that the current wording is appropriate in this instance.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1258 COLM O CINNSEALA**

**Pg 511**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that this submission relates to Furbo. The following issues are raised and discussed in the submission:

- Intergenerational continuity
- Details of the residential zoning in Furbo
- In support of Policy Objective GA 4
- Large scale dwellings on R336 obscures the view and impacts on tourist experience

The submission recommends the following:

- Zoning map included for Furbo.
- Consult with local people for naming of new housing estates.
- Permit low-level development on R336 to preserve the sea view.
- Reduce requirement of 0.5 acre for one-off dwelling to 0.14 hectare.
- Set a recognized standard of Irish, such as achieving at least a B2 proficiency grade in Irish in the Europass Self - Assessment Framework. Include a question on this in the planning application form.
- Wind turbine developments to include walk/cycling facilities open to the public.
- That the County Council's Irish Language Officer and the Language Planning Officers have a role in the process of proposing, approving and permitting the wording on any signage & names for new housing estates.
- Section 8.10.3 - Include '**Regattas featuring traditional Galway Hookers'**
- 13.5
  - Cloch na Rón misspelled. Ditto Dúiche Sheoigheach, loras Aithneach, Ros a' Mhíl and Na Forbacha. All placenames need to be edited and corrected throughout this chapter.
  - Section 13.1 should contain a reference to Acht na Gaeltachta 2012.
- Additional final sentence 1. ***These planning areas generally equate with the Language Planning Areas as laid out under Acht na Gaeltachta 2012.***
- Additional final sentence 2. ***The Council recognises the linguistic benefits of inter-generational language transmission and, as a general rule, will look favourably on planning applications by applicants near to their parent's home.***
- GA 5 - New signage to shopfronts in An Gaeltacht shall be in Irish only.
- Roadside signage must be in Irish or, if bilingual, the Irish text to be highlighted and/or given preference.
- All instances of 'An Gaeltacht' should read 'An Ghaeltacht'.
- All instances of 'Colaisti' should read 'Coláistí'.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The contents of this submission have been noted. The County Development Plan acknowledges that the Gaeltacht area has unique landscape and there are a suite of policy objectives provided to support this.

The site size for a single house is to be in accordance with EPA guidelines, therefore it is not considered appropriate to reduce this.

The proficiency in the Irish Language is a separate process from the County Development Plan and as such it is not considered appropriate to include reference to a category of Irish in the policy objectives.

DM Standard 2 requires that new developments shall be required to consult with Coiste Logainmneacha Chontae na Gaillimhe, the Galway County Council

Placename Committee, and to identify an appropriate name for new development that shall reflect the local heritage and character of the area.

Any errors will be reviewed and amended.

Policy Objective **GA 5 Signage within An Gaeltacht** requires signage on shopfronts to be in Irish.

All errors will be reviewed and amended.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. King and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1264 PATSY CLANCY & AILEEN CUNNINGHAM**

**Pg 513**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission raises items from the Draft Plan which they feel are keen to be adhered to. The submission notes that it is important to protect the coastline and coastal views, while having tourism-related economic development in mind (Section 4.2; 8.3.1; Map 8.1; 8.13.3 including Map 8.3). Disrupting coastal views with large buildings not in keeping with our landscape is detrimental to the sustainability of our tourism industry. The submission refers to Policy Objective RH 14 in respect of development along the R336, stating that housing developments on the south side of this road does not reflect the village quality that Na Forbacha represents. The submission refers to Policy Objective SS7 stating that houses should be sympathetically designed in response to the environment and views protected. The submission acknowledges that the Wild Atlantic Way is central to the economic development of coastal regions in the County and the quality of this tourism concept should not be impaired or degraded by coastal developments which may impair sea views on the R336.

In support of Policy Objective RH 4 and RH 5.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The County Development Plan acknowledges that the Gaeltacht area has unique landscape and there are a suite of policy objectives provided to support this.

Noted.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. King and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-1281 CLLR. NOEL THOMAS

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

### **GIED 1 Economic Development in An Gaeltacht and the Islands**

To promote and support developments that contribute to the economic development of the Gaeltacht and Islands in a sustainable manner at suitable locations. of services, industries and businesses such as media businesses, public services, translation companies, publishing, educational services, translation, Coláistí Samhraidh, tourism etc. that use Irish as the lingua franca of daily business and provide important Irish language services locally, nationally and globally. These businesses are particularly important as they sustain and grow the Irish language base of the Gaeltacht and also help the growth of strong linguistic Irish speaking communities.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

It is considered that the proposed wording in relation to **GIED 1 Economic Development in An Ghaeltacht and the Islands** is not required as it would not be appropriate to include a selected list of industries and businesses which may perceive to limit or exclude others. Policy Objective **GIED 1 Economic Development in An Ghaeltacht and the Islands** as set out within the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 is concise, open and inclusive to all development that contribute to economic development of the Gaeltacht.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***This was already dealt with. Noted by Members.***

## GLW C10-1437 – COMHARCHUMANN SHAILEARNA

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

In summary, this submission raises the following issues:

- Planning permission should be made readily available for the people/families of the Gaeltacht and for employees in the area.
- The new Development Plan should have options to overcome the challenges of building houses in the Connemara area. The submission requests that GCC would provide a the Comharchumann with a list of any properties in their possession suitable for affordable housing projects as a first phase of affordable housing development.
- Land zoning to be used for affordable housing in An Spidéal and other locations in the Comharchumann's functional area. The submission requests additional residential zoned land to the north of An Spidéal for Residential (Phase 1) with which could be used for affordable housing and the Comharchumann would be

supportive of a condition added to the zoning of this land. A Language Condition would apply to the proposed housing development.

The development of sewerage systems from west of An Spidéal to meet the housing and development needs of Comharchumann Shailearna's operative area. The Comharchumann calls for the objective of the Development Plan to provide local sewerage systems to meet the needs of the local community in Cois Fharraige.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

There are a suite of policy objectives contained in **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** and **Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands** to deal with rural housing in Gaeltacht.

Appropriately zoned land and Housing Need Demand Assessment addresses the specific requirements for social and affordable housing in the county and the housing strategy and HNDA have addressed the provision of this.

Irish water are the regulatory authority in relation to provision of wastewater treatment and water supply in the country. This is not a matter for the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

An Comh. O Cualain stated that big issue here is Udaras na Gaeltachta – have a number of WWTP's. This needs joint up thinking between Udaras na Gaeltachta and Irish Water and is something that needs to be looked at going forward.

***The CE Recommendation was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. C. Keaveney and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1484 CUMANN FORBARTHA COIS FARRAIGE**

**Pg 515**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submissions raises a number of issues in relation to the Gaeltacht including Language Protection, roads, economic and social development, housing, renewable energy and heritage and environmental protection.

In relation to Section 13.5.4, the submission notes that the area of Cois Fharraige outlined in the Draft Plan should be in line with the Language Planning Area that consists of Na Forbacha, An Spidéal, Killanin, Sailcarnagh and Kilcummin. It is recommended that the lands north of the R336 are changed to Level 2 and south of the R336 changed to Level 2 where housing have already been built, at least 200m offshore. An objective of the Council will be to meet housing demand in a way that is understanding of the housing needs of the local community, in support of government policy, that Irish speakers will be able to live in the Gaeltacht. Sewerage treatment services to be developed in Cois Fharraige to support housing in the area.

Amendment to Policy Objective GA 4 – *specify that B2 standard of Irish is required to satisfy the Language Enurement Clause in the case of any house development with a language condition in the Gaeltacht.* Amendment to Policy Objective GA 4 – subparagraph ‘*Strengthening the Gaeltacht*’ to give favourable consideration to granting planning permission to people with fluent Irish to build a house in the Gaeltacht area, where the language is widely used and seek at least CEFR B1 standard from the applicant and that a Language Clause of 20 years would be attached. Amendment to Policy Objective GA 6 – *Housing needs in the Gaeltacht cannot be met in the identified villages and favourable consideration be given to housing applications in South Connemara for native speakers/fluent Irish speakers (B1 TEG) outside the identified villages, subject to the availability of necessary services/facilities.* Amendment to Policy Objective GA 5 to ensure *roadside signage is in Irish only or bilingual with Irish predominating; place names and new housing names in Irish only; business signage in Irish or bilingual with Irish taking precedence; Irish Language Officers and Irish Planning Officers to have a roll in proposing, approving and accepting signage wording and housing estatae names.*

Additional policy recommended for An Ghaeltacht to include an objective for fluent Irish speaking planning officers to operate the South Connemara / Aran Gaeltacht area. Additional policy recommended for An Ghaeltacht so that planning application forms seek information about applicant’s Irish language ability and background in the case of detached houses in the South Connemara / Aran Gaeltacht area.

Increase safety and eliminate congestion on the R336. Provide bus shelters, pedestrian crossings, lay-bys, ‘cat-eyes’ and improvements to the footpath on the R336. Include an objective to develop a Park&Ride facility to the west of the city on the R336, near Bearna.

The submission recommends providing a cemetery in the Indreabhán area. The submission recommends development a Community Wood in Cois Fharraige as an educational, recreational, and environmental conservation facility. It is recommended that the Development Plan recognises Irish language colleges in South Connemara / Aran as an important element to the Gaeltacht economy. It is stated that the development of rural windmills in Connemara would assist in the economic and social development of the area.

**CHAPTER 4** - In relation to housing, the submission notes that there is an urgent needs to increase housing supply in the rural area of Cois Fharraige. The submission notes the increasing shift to remote working and that there will be a corresponding demand for additional housing in rural areas. The submission to amend DM Standard 9 so the requirement of 0.2 hectares for a single dwelling would to be reduced to 0.14-0.175 hectares. The submission proposes to amend DM Standard 13 to allow a cluster of five or less dwellings to be served by a single sewerage system.

The submission recommends policies for wind turbine developments in Cois Fharraige. It is noted that renewable energy developments should not cause detriment to the health of residents in the vicinity, and should be located appropriate distances from houses of normal residence. It is requested that favourable consideration be given to solar panel developments.

The submissions recommends objectives for the protection of archaeological heritage on the coast, the preservation of the waterways, and control of invasive species.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The proficiency in the Irish Language is a separate process from the County Development Plan and as such it is not considered appropriate to include reference to a category of Irish in the policy objectives.

Specific separating of policy objectives to address a particular sector of the community is not considered appropriate. Upon review of the policy objectives in **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development** and **Chapter 13 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands**, it is considered that there is sufficient policy objectives to support Gaeltacht communities therefore not considered appropriate to amend.

**Chapter 6 Transport and Movement** provides policy objectives to support the development of transport infrastructure, however it is noted that this is not a matter for the County Development Plan.

There are policy objectives contained in **Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure** to support burial grounds, such as **PWB 2 Burial Grounds**. However, it is outside the remit of the County Development Plan to provide lands for a cemetery.

The site size for a single house is to be in accordance with EPA guidelines, therefore it is not considered appropriate to amend DM Standard 9.

There are a suite of policy objectives contained in **Chapter 12 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage**, **Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape**, and **Chapter 10: Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure** which address the recommendations outlined.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, Seconded by Cllr. C. Keaveney and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-1520 DONNCHA O hEALLAITHE**

Pg 519

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

She advised this submission offers recommendations in relation to a range of issues concerning the Gaeltacht, as follows:

- Amendment to Policy Objective GA 6 – *All proposals for rural housing in the Gaeltacht shall be mindful of the high levels of employment in some Gaeltacht areas outside agriculture, fishing and forestry and the need to facilitate Gaeltacht Irish speakers in staying in Gaeltacht areas, in accordance with national policies.*

- Standard of spoken Irish Level B2 (CEFR) to satisfy the Language Enurement Clause.
- Question on the planning application form on the linguistic background of the applicant who is seeking permission in the Gaeltacht.

Amendment to Policy Objective GA 4 to state that Language Enurement Clause will not be a condition of planning permission for houses built in the electoral areas of Gaeltacht Area F or in Moycullen, Barna and Claregalway if the local primary schools do not have Gaeltacht Recognition.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The proficiency in the Irish Language is a separate process from the County Development Plan and as such it is not considered appropriate to include reference to a category of Irish in the policy objectives.

It is considered that the Language Enurement Clause plays a significant role in protecting and enhancing the Irish language in Gaeltacht communities.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***This has already been dealt with. Noted by Members.***

**GLW C10-2253 POBAL RUA**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission is from a Cheathrú Rua Language Planning Officer. The following recommendations were made:

- Develop An Cheathrú Rua as a service centre for the Connemara Gaeltacht.
- The Development Plan should state that Language Impact Statements are to be prepared by an expert in the field of Sociolinguistics or Language Planning; that the Statement proves that such a development would benefit the Irish language locally; and that the appointee be independent from the County Council to avoid a conflict of interest.
- Implement a Language Enurement Clause be implemented as per the 2015-2021 Development Plan.
- A B2 or higher proficiency in spoken Irish (CEFR) shall be the acceptable standard.
- Priority given to green and blue infrastructure in the context of tourism. Appropriate recognition and support be given to projects such as the Connemara Way, Cycle Routes in South Connemara and walking facilities for the community.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

It is considered that An Cheathrú Rua is appropriately identified on the settlement hierarchy as a small growth village, with the appropriate residential yield and population allocations.

As previously stated, a new policy objective is to be included to require Language Impact Statements to be prepared, as follows:

**GA 5 Linguistic Impact Statements**

*'Galway County Council shall require the submission of a Linguistic Impact Statement for housing proposals for two or more houses in the Gaeltacht area in order to protect and strengthen the Irish language and cultural heritage of the Galway Gaeltacht areas. A Language Enurement Clause of 15 years duration shall apply to approved development, of two or more units.'*

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

**GA 5 Linguistic Impact Statements**

*'Galway County Council shall require the submission of a Linguistic Impact Statement for housing proposals for two or more houses in the Gaeltacht area in order to protect and strengthen the Irish language and cultural heritage of the Galway Gaeltacht areas. A Language Enurement Clause of 15 years duration shall apply to approved development, of two or more units.'*

***This has already been dealt with. Noted by Members.***

## **CHAPTER 14 AND LARES: CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES**

**Section 1: Summary of Submissions and CE Response in relation to Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Energy**

### **GLW C10-1810 CLLR. DONOHUE**

**Pg 522**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Cognisance and reference for the inclusion of greywater harvesting and attenuation should be included in Draft Plan.

Bio gas facilities - they should not be located in town centres or residential areas

**Chief Executive's Response:**

**Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities and Environmental Protection**, policy objective **CWS 1 Water Conservation with all Developments** supports water conservation.

In relation to Bio Gas facilities **LARES Policy Objective 21 Commercial Bioenergy** outlines that commercial proposals should be located in rural area.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea and seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-377 THE PORT OF GALWAY**

**Pg 522**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that a detailed submission was received. It is requested to insert a new policy objective: **"Support the research, development and commercialisation of green hydrogen as a fuel for power generation, manufacturing, energy storage and transport."**

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Green Hydrogen has the potential to contribute to achieving energy targets. It is more appropriate for a planning authority to facilitate, rather than support developments. Accordingly, it is considered that a new policy objective with revised wording can be inserted.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

**Policy Objective RE8 Green Hydrogen**

**The research, development and commercialization of green hydrogen as a fuel for power generation, manufacturing, energy storage and transport will be facilitated, subject to compliance with all other relevant policies and objectives."**

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Sheridan and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-465 NOT HERE NOT ANYWHERE**

**Pg 523**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that in submission It is stated that the Plan should ensure a rapid phasing out of all fossil fuels including gas, by banning expansion of the gas grid, the construction of both on-shore and floating LNG infrastructure, fracked gas in its energy mix.

It is submitted that any new large scale fossil fuel infrastructure projects must be mandated to undertake climate impact assessment.

It is submitted that new data centres in Galway must be powered entirely by onsite or new off-site renewable energy and that existing centres in Galway should be required to transition rapidly to onsite or new off-site renewables.

It is submitted that where technically possible, heat generated from a data centre should be utilised for district heating systems.

It is submitted that the establishment of community energy projects should be supported throughout the lifetime of the County Development Plan.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Development Plan policies to ban particular classes of development have been found to be unlawful. Development Plan policies are framed to indicate the objectives and policies that new development must comply with. In this regard, **Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Energy** indicates how the implementation of this Plan will support relevant national, sectoral and regional objectives. In particular, the plan notes the need to avoid duplication with other strategies and policy documents, including the Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy, the Plan addresses climate change only in so far as it relates to spatial planning.

EIAR Regulations require all new large scale fossil fuel infrastructure project are currently mandated to undertake climate impact assessment.

There is no legal provision to compel developments to operate other than to comply with relevant regulations and standards. The assessment of all new large new developments, such as data centres, are assessed to ensure compliance with all relevant national and county policy objectives and plans, including those for energy and emission standards.

**LARES Policy Objective 34** Colocation currently addresses this submission, where it states:

*"To advocate for the co-location of renewable energy developments and technologies to ensure the most efficient use of land identified as suitable for renewable energy generation in this LARES".*

**LARES Policy Objective 38** Community Ownership, currently addresses this submission, where it states:

*"To encourage the local community to become active participants in renewable energy generation to help drive an energy transition from the bottom up.*

*To consider favourably renewable energy proposals involving Community Ownership, subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, Floods and EIA Directives".*

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-597 ANDREW O GRADY**

**Pg 524**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission is requesting to consider extending the designations to cover the proposed site area of a potential wind farm site east of Maam Cross and west of Oughterard.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The area identified was not included in the previous [2015 Wind Strategy]. The area is classified as being 'Not Normally Permissible' in the current designations on account of the factors set out in Appendix 1 of the LARES. It should also be noted that there has been a considerable volume of submissions received in relation to the nearby Derroura Forestry Submissions.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No Change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-685 YOUTH WORK IRELAND GALWAY**

**Pg 525**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

It is noted that the provision of e-charging points for e-bikes is not referenced in this chapter or under Chapter 6 Transport and Movement.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

It is acknowledged that e-charging points for e-bikes are a relevant consideration so that development management can better facilitate sustainable transport.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

**Chapter 15 Development Management Standards Renewable Energy Proposals should be amended to include:**

***Provisions for e-charging points for e-bikes should be facilitated in suitable areas, subject to compliance with other relevant development management standards.***

Cllr. Killilea acknowledged the excellent submission made by this Group.

**Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion:**

***Extend Policy Objective EV 1 Electric Vehicles Charging Infrastructure:***

***Suitable locations for charging e-bikes and scooters will be identified, cognizant that such locations will require secure parking and signage from relevant Greenways and cyclepaths.***

Mr. Dunne stated that the wording is very similar to the CE Recommendation in Chapter 15 that we will get to later. Cllr. McKinstry agreed and withdrew his motion.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-689 UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA**

### **Pg 525**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission seeks, a project-by-project EIAR-based approach to the permitting of commercial-scale wind and solar energy developments in areas identified as 'Open for Consideration' and 'Generally to be Discouraged', where constraints and challenges detailed within Section 5 and 9 of the LARES are adequately addressed and where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment.

Submission seeks to strengthen Micro-Energy and Auto-Production Policy Framework – Encouraging the use of Micro-Energy and Auto-Production technologies in appropriate settings.

Submission seeks to establish Údarás na Gaeltachta as a key stakeholder for facilitating renewable energy

### **Chief Executive Response:**

The proposed change would constitute a piecemeal case-by-case approach that would lack any strategic co-ordination. This would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Moreover, as recognised both by the most and all previous recent Landscape Character Assessments, much of the area of interest to Údarás na Gaeltachta contain some of Ireland's most iconic landscapes that are also designated as some of the most sensitive to change in County Galway. The proposed changes would significantly increase the vulnerability of these areas to unsustainable levels of effects on nationally significant scenic, cultural and heritage resources.

It is recommended that Draft Policy Objective 28 be amended to include the underlined words:

*To recognise, facilitate and favourably consider auto production as a renewable energy contributor, with particular focus on retrofitting / expanding existing developments where appropriate, and in accordance with the LARES and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.*

The LARES Policy already makes provision for community engagement and ownership, at Policy Objective 38 by making provision for Community Ownership:

*To encourage the local community to become active participants in renewable energy generation to help drive an energy transition from the bottom up.*

*To consider favourably renewable energy proposals involving Community Ownership, subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, Floods and EIA Directives.*

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

### **LARES Policy Objective 28**

To recognise, facilitate and favourably consider auto production as a renewable energy contributor, with ***particular focus on retrofitting / expanding existing developments*** where appropriate, and in accordance with the LARES and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

### **GLW C10-693 EVE MCDOWALL**

#### **Pg 526**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised the submission notes the need to support the switch to cleaner energy and utilise our resources such as coastal and wind energies and put them to use on a much larger scale to power homes and businesses.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Renewable Energy Strategy at Appendix 1 provides substantial policy proposals to address these issues.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

### **GLW C10-719 HEADFORD ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

#### **PG 527**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission proposes that to maintain up to date adherence to global agreements and international scientific advice by adding the word 'international', and reducing the timeframe to 2030, so that it reads: "***To reduce the County's CO2 emissions by achieving international, national, regional and any local targets for achieving a low carbon economy by 2030***".

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The target dates are aligned with national goals.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

**Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion:**

*To reduce the county's CO2 emissions by achieving international, national and regional targets for achieving a reduction in Greenhouse gas emissions of at least 51% by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050.*

Mr. Dunne stated that the wording in Development Plan and LARES were reflective of National targets. He requested to stick with wording in current policy.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated to go along with CE recommendation. We should stick with what National Guidelines are and note that this was brought up.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McKinstry, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-731 SSE**

**Pg 527**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission is suggesting that that Galway County Council should include the following planning policy / objective in its County Development Plan: *“Support the research, development and commercialisation of green hydrogen as a fuel for power generation, manufacturing, energy storage and transport”.*

It is stated that County Development Plan should reflect Action 64 in the Climate Action Plan which seeks to increase the energy efficiency of Local Authority social housing stock.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Green Hydrogen has the potential to contribute to achieving energy targets. It is more appropriate for a planning authority to facilitate, rather than support developments. Accordingly, the submission can be accepted subject to the revised wording below.

LARES at Section 9.9 draws attention to the fact that *the Building Regulations will require all new builds occupied after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (31st December 2018 for public sector buildings) to be in compliance with a Near Zero Energy Building Standard 15, which will help to achieve greater levels of energy efficiency. The challenge, however, will be to encourage retrofitting existing private developments which will need to be supported by appropriate financial mechanisms. This is beyond the scope of this LARES, and is addressed in greater detail in the County Galway CDP 2022-2028.*

### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-783 SEAI SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME**

Pg 528

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission is recommending that Land should be zoned for infrastructure that might be available in the future to support all renewable energy projects in all the towns and villages of County Galway.

Support the provision and installation of hybrid and constructive technological and generational facilities on community owned solar array sites in Galway.

To promote, disseminate, and exemplify low carbon circular economies by use of good citizen Community examples through the RESS, SEC and low carbon communities .

This submission urges the need to improve the grid structure in order to allow the feed-in of new renewable generated electricity supplies.

It is suggested that the Local Authority consider signing up to a “Local hinterland Climate Action Charter”.

It is suggested that the provision of more electric vehicles/bikes and charge points within the town and outside in villages would be promoted.

### **Chief Executive's Response**

Attention is drawn to LARES Policy Objective 4 -Prioritisation of ‘Strategic Areas’ for renewable energy development “*The areas that are identified as ‘Strategic Areas’ for renewable energy development will be prioritised for renewable energy uses over other uses, in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area*”.

LARES recognises the role of micro-renewable energy development – such as hybrid solar array sites as a key contributor to renewable energy generation targets, particularly where it is community led.

LARES Policy Objective 26 makes specific provision for Community-led micro-renewable developments and off-grid developments.

The LARES Policy Objective 38 on Community Ownership proposes to encourage the local community to become active participants in renewable energy generation to help drive an energy transition from the bottom up and to consider favourably renewable energy proposals involving Community Ownership, subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, Floods and EIA Directives. Chapter 14 at Policy Objective **EG 2 (a) Electricity Transmission Networks** specifically states an objective:

*To support the development of the transmission grid network in order to sustainably accommodate both consistent and variable flows of renewable energy generated in County Galway.*

**LARES Policy Objective 38 Community Ownership**, currently addresses this submission, where it states:

*To encourage the local community to become active participants in renewable energy generation to help drive an energy transition from the bottom up.*

*To consider favourably renewable energy proposals involving Community Ownership, subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, Floods and EIA.*

It is acknowledged that e-charging points for e-bikes are a relevant consideration so that development management can better facilitate sustainable transport.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

**Chapter 15 Development Management Standards**

**It is recommended that the Development Management Standards Renewable Energy Proposals should be amended to include:**

**DM Standard 72: E-Charging Points**

**Provisions for of e-charging points for e-bikes should be facilitated in suitable areas, subject to compliance with other relevant development management standards.**

**This was already dealt with. Noted by Members.**

## **GLW C10-789 BALLINASLOE TOWN TEAM**

**Pg 530**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that it is suggested that the Local Authority should consider signing up to a “Local hinterland Climate Action Charter” with member SEC’s to deliver local adaption strategies and measures.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

**LARES Policy Objective 38 Community Ownership**, currently addresses this submission, where it states:

*To encourage the local community to become active participants in renewable energy generation to help drive an energy transition from the bottom up.*

*To consider favourably renewable energy proposals involving Community Ownership, subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, Floods and EIA*

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-792 MARK GREEN**

### **Pg 530**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission is recommending that the use of animal waste products e.g., slurry, for biomass should not be encouraged as this incentivises the further intensification of animal agriculture which is detrimental to animal welfare, biodiversity, CO2 emissions and both animal and human health.

LARES Policy Objective 21 Commercial Bioenergy - All bioenergy facilities should also be assessed against their impact on biodiversity, animal welfare and CO2 reduction requirements. Rather than encouraging the use of land to grow biomass, preference should be given, where appropriate, to organic horticulture.

Micro-renewables, particularly solar, hydro and heat pumps, should be actively encouraged through the planning process by minimising planning constraints, educating and enabling individuals and communities to implement projects, and collaborating with other stakeholders to provide a one-stop shop.

Marine renewables - The National Marine Planning Framework was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. It is questioned if the LARES will be revised in light of this.

Notes that Landscape Character Assessment (Appendix 4) Coastal landscape includes inner Galway Bay and south side of Galway Bay, are limestone and different in character to Connemara granite coastal. This is completely ignored in the landscape type summary (p33).

Recommend view west from Clarinbridge pier, looking at Dunbulcan bay and toward Galway Bay.

### **Chief Executive's Response:**

Appendix 1 at 9.3, page 10 draws attention to the fact that "*the remit of the planning process does not generally cover agricultural practices such as planting or harvesting, so energy crop production cannot realistically be guided by this strategy or the wider planning process*".

The Development Management process, as a matter of course, includes consideration of impacts on biodiversity and climate targets. Appendix 1 at 9.3, page 10 draws attention to the fact that the remit of the planning process does not generally cover agricultural practices such as planting or harvesting, so energy crop production cannot realistically be guided by this strategy or the wider planning process.

Attention is drawn to three policies objectives that address this submission, namely ***LARES Policy Objective 25 Micro-renewable energy developments:***

*To facilitate and recognise micro-renewable energy developments as effective contributors to the generation of renewable energy in County Galway.*

**LARES Policy Objective 26 Community-led micro-renewable developments and off-grid developments:**

*To favourably consider community-led micro-renewable developments and off-grid developments appropriate, and in accordance with the LARES and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.*

**LARES Policy Objective 27 Micro-renewable technologies:**

*To actively promote and encourage the uptake of micro-renewable technologies, with particular focus on retrofitting existing developments where appropriate, and in accordance with the LARES and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area*

The publication is noted and is of relevance.

The submission is correct, the text quoted refers only to the coasts of west Galway.

The limestone origins of the inner and southern Bay need to be described.

The proposed view does not sufficiently comply with the Attributes of Protected Views set out in 6.2

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

- It is recommended that relevant sections of the LARES be reviewed and revised, if necessary, to have regard to the recently published national marine planning framework
- The text currently only refers to the coastal landscape of west Galway is dominated by a series enclosed bodies of sea water. It is recommended that the text be augmented by inserting the sentence in the landscape type summary (p33) to include **'The coastal landscapes of Inner Galway Bay [Unit 1b] are formed by limestone which gives rise to different features, appearance and character.'**

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Donohue and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-800 EDF RENEWABLES IRELAND**

**Pg 532**

Ms. Loughnane gave an overview of the contents of the submission and read CE Recommendation & Response.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission requests that areas be reassessed and considered for inclusion within LARES that have been consistently designated AIP in both the 2011-16 and 2015-21 Wind Energy Strategy for Galway.

This submission requests the use of site-specific and targeted Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes.

This submission requests policy objectives to ensure that the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to facilitate both on- and offshore renewable energy development is directly referenced and supported, subject to appropriate design measures being implemented.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The proposed designations are the result of a re-appraisal that examined the reason why previous planning applications failed [Section 4 of LARES]. The reasons for differences between previous and new deployment zones are set out in detail at LARES Section 14. The reappraisal was also required to take account of new and updated ecological designations as well as related case law. For these reasons areas that were identified in previous strategies were omitted. Notwithstanding these adjustments, the County will continue to have nationally significant areas of areas for potential wind energy development.

The proposed change would constitute a piecemeal case-by-case approach that would lack any strategic co-ordination. This would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource** at Policy Objective **EG 2 (a) Electricity Transmission Networks** specifically states an objective:

*To support the development of the transmission grid network in order to sustainably accommodate both consistent and variable flows of renewable energy generated in County Galway.*

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-927 NUIG**

**Pg 533**

Ms. Loughnane advised that this is as per CE Recommendation in GLW-C10-377.

Confirm full support for the submission regarding Green Hydrogen to the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Support is noted.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

As per CE Recommendation to GLW-C10-377.

***This was Noted by Members.***

**Section 2: High Level Summary of Submissions received and CE Recommendation in relation to Cois Fharraige area and the wind designations as illustrated on Appendix 1 Draft Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES)**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

**High Level Summary of Issues:**

It is noted that there are objections to:

- zoning of area in Cois Fharraige as being 'Acceptable in Principle' or 'Open to Consideration'
- zoning in densely populated areas in close proximity to houses will give rise to nuisance
- adverse effects on landscape and tourism
- adverse effects on property value and/or future housing development potential

It is noted that these submissions request that lands from An Spidéal to na Minna in Cois Fharraige be removed from designation as being 'Acceptable in Principle' or 'Open to Consideration' for wind energy.

**Summary of issues raised in Submission:**

Zoning in densely populated areas in close proximity to houses will give rise to nuisance

Adverse effects on landscape and tourism

Adverse effects on property value and/or future housing development potential

**Chief Executive Response:**

It is noted, and acknowledged, that the referenced area of Cois Fharraige between An Spidéal to na Minna is an area of concentrated residential development.

It is further noted that this area of dense population is almost entirely concentrated in areas that lies within 4km of the shore. It is acknowledged that for much of this area, this density would give rise to challenges to comply with normal requirements for wind energy developments to protect health and safety and to avoid nuisance.

There is good evidence about effects of wind energy on landscape and tourism from two sources.

1. The existing windfarm north-east of Furbo – located about 4 km from the coast is not visible from most of the houses and roads along coastal plain between An Spidéal to na Minna because of the local topography.
2. Fáilte Ireland have conducted very large-scale surveys of visitor attitudes to wind energy that have conclusively demonstrated that there are no adverse effects on visitor perceptions.

Effects on property value arise from specific impacts due to visibility, proximity or pathways. The development management process examines each application to ensure that these adverse effects will not occur. This protection is also provided by compliance with the Plan's policies, objectives and guidelines of the Plan, as set out above.

**Chief Executive Recommendation:**  
**LARES Recommendation No.5**

**It is recommended that mapping be amended to ensure that for a distance of 4km inland from the coast there will be no designation of lands as being either "Acceptable in Principle" or "Open to Consideration" for wind energy development between An Spidéal to na Minna in Cois Fharraige.**

Cllr. Thomas submitted the following Motion:

*It is noted that there are objections to:*

*Zoning of area in Cois Fharraige as being "Acceptable in principle" or "open to consideration"*

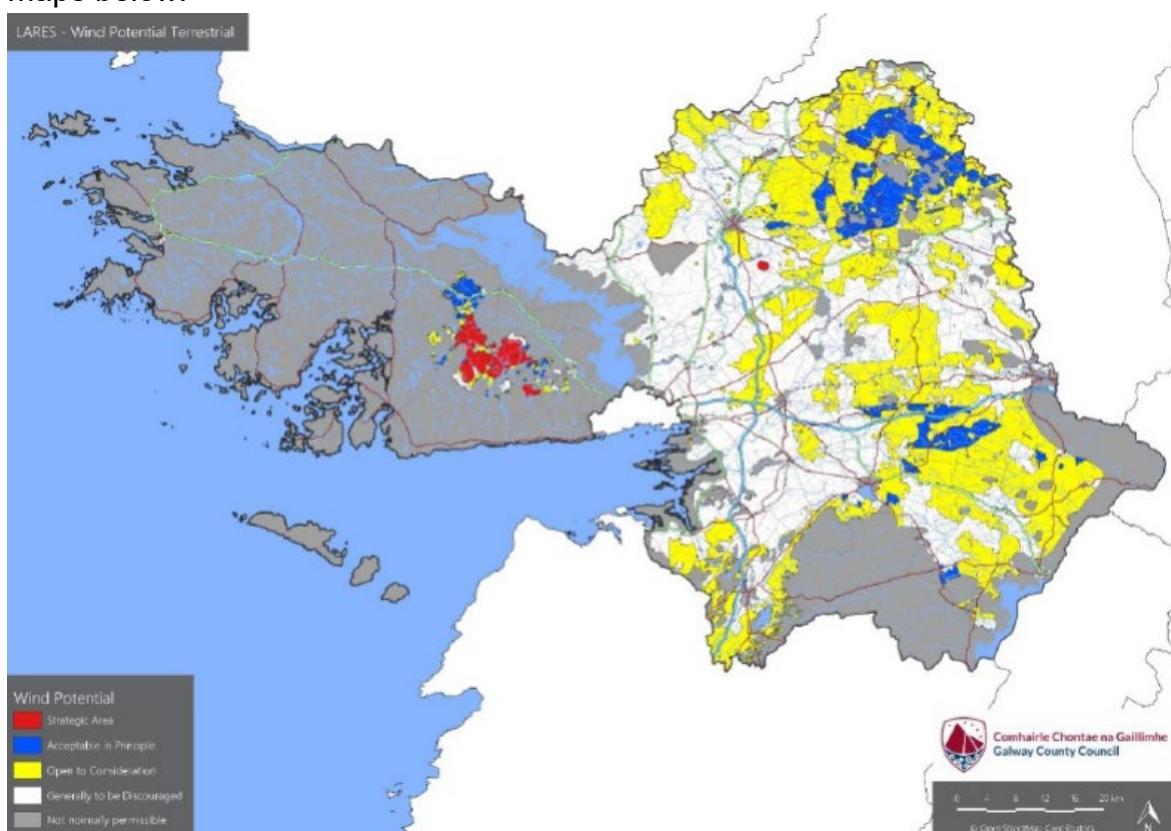
*Zoning in densely populated areas in close proximity to houses will give rise to nuisance.*

*Adverse affects on landscape and tourism*

*Adverse affects on property value and/or future housing development potential*

*It is noted that these submissions request that lands from An Spideal to na Minna in Cois Fharraige for a distance of 6km from the coast to inland be removed from the designation as "Acceptable in principle" or "open to consideration" for wind energy.*

Mr. Dunne advised it was agreed to extend the buffer zone from 4km to 6km – see maps below.





Ms. Loughnane advised that Mr. Dunne had done a huge amount of work on this and wanted this acknowledged. An Comh. O Cualáin echoed those sentiments.

***The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by An Comh. O Cualáin and agreed by the Members.***

**Section 3 – High Level Summary of Submissions and CE Report in relation to Cois Fharraige who raised other issues rather than the main topic.**

**GLW-C10-577 GLW C10-580 GLW C10-799 GLW C10-871  
GLW C10-884 GLW C10-1295 GLW C10-1394 GLW C10-1401  
GLW C10-1443 GLW C10-1454 GLW C10-1464 GLW C10 1473  
GLW C10-1476 GLW C10-1487 GLW C10-1491 GLW C10-1492  
GLW C10-1493 GLW C10-1507 GLW C10-1758 GLW C10-2244  
GLW C10-2252 GLW C10-2325**

Mr. Dunne said that a significant number of submissions came in on these topics and outlined the High Level Summary of Issues as follows:

**High Level Summary of Issues:**

- That more windfarms are located in South Connemara compared to East Galway.
- Too many windfarms in the area - overconcentration.
- The increased number of identified potential sites for wind energy generation.
- No evidence that setback distances from dwellings were considered in the mapping.
- Concern about the adverse effect that the proposed designations will have on the Gaeltacht area.
- Irish speakers will be forced out of an Irish speaking area due to a lack of available housing sites.

- No language impact assessment.
- Section 12.7.3 of the Draft Plan conflicting with the wind energy designations, in this regard.
- Mapping not being clear enough.
- Decommissioning plans should be required for windfarms.

### **Summary of Issues Raised in Submission**

That more windfarms are located in South Connemara compared to East Galway.  
Too many windfarms in the area - overconcentration.  
The increased number of identified potential sites for wind energy generation.  
No evidence that setback distances from dwellings were considered in the mapping.  
Concern about the adverse effect that the proposed designations will have on the Gaeltacht area.  
Conflict with Section 12.7.3 of the Draft Plan [the Gaeltacht and Linguistic Heritage]  
Mapping not being clear enough  
Decommissioning plans should be required for windfarms.

### **Chief Executive Response:**

To date wind energy developments have been developed by the private sector in response to favourable wind energy conditions – mostly wind speed and available large tracts of unoccupied lands. These assets are most concentrated in elevated and western parts of the county.

Technological developments now mean that such developments are increasingly viable on lower energy sites. The revised wind energy potential mapping reflects this with most of the areas now concentrated in the eastern part of the county.

The current draft uses population density as a proxy for the presence of dwellings. In addition, any planning application will be in accordance with National Guidance. There is no significant increase in designations of new wind potential areas in Gaeltacht areas – most increases are in the eastern part of the county.

Housing policy is assessed in **Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development**.

Mapping is limited to the level of detail of county-wide data used. This generally allows recognition of features of approximately 300m in length. Further detail would not be supported by available data.

Planning permissions generally specify the duration of the permission and include a requirement that the lands be returned to specific, sustainable conditions.

### **Chief Executive Recommendation:**

It is recommended that **Chapter 15 Development Management Standards**

**DM Standard 70: Wind Energy** and **DM Standard 71: Solar Energy** should include the following bullet point respectively:

*Proposals for the decommissioning of the project following cessation of use or expiry of the permitted duration of use.*

**CE Recommendation was proposed by An Comh. O'Cualáin, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.**

### **Section 4 – Summary of Submissions and CE Report by Organisation received in relation to Appendix 1 Draft Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES)**

## GLW C10-10/724 KEELDERRY COMMONAGE SHAREHOLDERS – ANDY DUNNE

Cllr. Murphy declared that he had a Conflict of Interest and withdrew from the meeting.

Mr. Dunne advised that this Motion had been withdrawn.

The Keelderry Commonage area to be reconsidered as an area suitable for wind energy development.

### Chief Executive Response:

As stated by the submission '*The site is located within the Slieve Aughty SPA which is of particular importance for hen harriers.*' This factor, combined with the nearby Slieve Aughtey Scenic route, and a landscape sensitivity as 'Special' means that the site has been excluded for consideration as being suitable for wind energy development.

### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No change.

***This Motion was withdrawn. Noted by Members.***

## GLW C10-43/44 GORT TIDY TOWN

### Pg 543

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Mr. Dunne advised that the submission is recommending that the Local Authority should have a requirement that the amount of energy that can be produced by a development be quantified by the developer taking ALL factors (build, transport, etc) into account to show the EROI of the development.

### Chief Executive's Response:

Impact assessment of projects require an assessment of cumulative effects.

### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

## GLW C10-256 GRANGE SOLAR LTD

### Pg 543

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

He advised this submission highlights the need for small-scale ground mounted solar installations to be considered as part of the LARES.

#### Chief Executive's Response:

The LARES Section 19 Policy Objectives provide ample support for the development of solar energy in a wide range of locations at a wide range of scale.

#### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.*

## GLW C10-440 ESB SMART ENERGY SERVICES

### Pg 544

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission highlights the need for small-scale ground mounted solar installations to be considered as part of the LARES.

#### Chief Executive's Response:

The LARES Section 19 Policy Objectives provide ample support for the development of solar energy in a wide range of locations at a wide range of scale.

#### Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.*

## GLW C10-505 KYLEMORE ABBEY

### Pg 544

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Ms. Dunne advised that the submission is querying whether development of a small-scale solar project in the grounds of the Abbey would be permissible under proposed policy.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The proposed development will be constructed solely to serve the needs of Kylemore Abbey, the auto-production policy within the LARES should be applied. **[LARES Policy Objective 28]** *To recognise, facilitate and favourably consider auto production as a renewable energy contributor where appropriate, and in accordance with the LARES and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.*

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. King and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-742 WIND ENERGY IRELAND**

**Pg 544**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

WEI submit that the LARES lacks renewable energy targets and suggests that a specific objective should be included in the final LARES and County Plan to translate the renewable energy potential demonstrated in Table 11 of the LARES, into a specific MW generating target. A suggested wording for a specific policy objective is provided below:

*"To deliver over 1.5GW of renewable energy in County Galway by 2030 and over 1.25GW within the lifetime of the 2022 – 2028 Galway County Development Plan".*  
WEI submit that the LARES and the Draft County Development Plan for the approximate commissioned capacity of wind farms in County Galway is incorrect, and significantly overstates the actual capacity currently installed.

WEI submit that the LARES MW totals for wind energy yield from the wind energy deployment zones, does not take sufficient account of project 'attrition rates' that arise from planning objections. WEI estimate that a yield of 5% of designated lands will be viable. This calculation is based on a 700m set-back from all Eircode properties.

WEI submit that the Landscape Character Assessment should adopt a 'Medium' category because the proposed system affords an unwarranted degree of sensitivity to the second-lowest category on sensitivity on the four-point scale.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The role of a planning authority is to facilitate the realisation of national and sectoral policies. Planning authorities are obliged to seek the implementation of policies, objectives and targets during the lifetime of the plan. The planning authority does not have a developmental role in relation to wind energy, so it is arguably *ultra vires* for them to propose the delivery of a specific target.

The data provided is noted.

LARES recognises that the issue of project attrition is recognised as a significant barrier to the realisation of wind energy objectives. The LARES assumes that only 15% of the Acceptable in Principle areas, and 7.5% of the Open to Consideration Areas, will be developable. On the basis of these calculations the differences between WEI and LARES are comparable, especially considering the more conservative 700m residential set-back assumed by WEI. The LARES needs to anticipate and to take account of potential barriers as fully as possible in order to maximise certainty for developers, communities as well as energy policy-makers. This concern has proven justifiable, having regard to the volume of submissions received in relation to wind energy.

The Landscape Character Assessment at Section 4, 4.3, pg.22; provides Landscape Sensitivity Definitions, that indicates whether an area is a robust or sensitive landscape type, as follows:

Iconic: Unique landscape with high sensitivity to change

Special: High Sensitivity to change

High: Elevated sensitivity to change

Low: Unlikely to be adversely affected by change

From the outset, it should be noted that the current system designated the majority of the county as being of 'Low' sensitivity and the areas of 'High' sensitivity refer to two areas that contain extensive areas of blanket bog and karst limestone – that are generally regarded as very distinctive landscape in their own right.

Galway is a county that has two very different types of fundamental landscape because of the underlying geology – as pointed out in Section 2.2 and Figure 1. Seen in this context, it is unsurprising that a gradually escalating 'conventional rating or classification systems' is not employed.

This system provides an escalating scale of sensitivity, by reference to that landscape's intrinsic sensitivity to change and the very wide range of intrinsic underlying conditions. The category of 'High' indicates an elevated sensitivity to change – which needs to be read in the context of the qualifying advice provided which states: *It should be noted that individual projects in any landscape area, notwithstanding its dominant sensitivity rating, may have greater or lesser impacts on the visual quality and character of the landscape depending on the details of the project design and the specific characteristics of the site and its context.*

The option of proposing areas of 'Medium' sensitivity was examined. All of these areas occurred as small areas throughout the 'Eastern Plains' identified in Figure 1. Having regard to the small, highly mixed nature of such areas distributed throughout the working landscapes of the Eastern Plains [consisting of the North and Central Galway Complex Landscape Types], it was determined that a single 'Low Sensitivity' designation would be more practicable. Sensitivities identified with each landscape character types, combined with designated views and routes, would be sufficient for development management purposes at a more local scale. In light of these considerations the system used provides an appropriately graduated response that accurately reflects the sensitivities of the landscape character areas of Galway.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

##### **1.1.1 LARES**

- 3.Renewable Energy Development Analysis

### 1.1.2 3.1 Wind

Analysis of permitted and commissioned commercial scale wind energy developments across County Galway shows that there is an approximate commissioned capacity of 446MW, **322.65 MW** with a further 124MW of permitted un-commissioned capacity at the time of writing. This demonstrates that there is a combined potential wind energy MW capacity of 570 **446.65MW** from permitted wind energy development across County Galway.

Table to be updated as follows:

Derrybrien Windfarm: 163.3 MW **59.5MW**

Galway Wind Park 180 **172MW**

Inverin Windfarm 15 **3.3MW**

As per CE Recommendation.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McKinstry and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-815 SCAN SEC (SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY)**

**Pg 548**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

### **Re: 14.8.1 LARES RE7**

Submission proposes that the Local Authority should partner and support successful RESS community projects to promote, disseminate and exemplify low carbon circular economies by use of good citizen communities through connected Hubs infrastructure.

### **Re: 14.8.1 LARES RE 4**

Submission proposes that the council should support the provision and installation of hybrid and constructive technological and generational facilities on community owned solar array sites.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

The **LARES Policy Objective 38** on Community Ownership proposes to encourage the local community to become active participants in renewable energy generation to help drive an energy transition from the bottom up, and to consider favourably renewable energy proposals involving Community Ownership, subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, Floods and EIA Directives.

The LARES recognises the role of micro-renewable energy development – such as hybrid solar array sites as a key contributor to renewable energy generation targets, particularly where it is community led.

LARES **Policy Objective 26** makes specific provision for Community-led micro-renewable developments and off-grid developments.

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Sheridan and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-840 COMHARCHUMANN FUINNEAMH OILEAIN ARANN TEO**

### **Pg 549**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission proposes that the government designates the inhabited islands around Ireland as Lighthouse Islands. The Irish islands have the potential to become exemplars in the energy transition and in their response to the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

#### **Chief Executive's Response:**

It is noted that the submission proposes an action by the government. Attention is drawn to LARES **Policy Objective 38** on Community Ownership, which is relevant to this submission, where it states:

*To encourage the local community to become active participants in renewable energy generation to help drive an energy transition from the bottom up.*

*To consider favourably renewable energy proposals involving Community Ownership, subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, Floods and EIA Directives.*

#### **Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

## **GLW C10-870 RWE RENEWABLES IRELAND**

### **Pg 549**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Mr. Dunne advised that this submission suggests wording for a specific policy objective “To deliver over 1.5GW of renewable energy in County Galway by 2030 and over 1.25GW within the lifetime of the 2022 – 2028 Galway County Development Plan”.

It is strongly suggested that areas with the lowest landscape sensitivity, be classified at least as “Open to Consideration” in the new Plan and LARES.

The submission disagrees with the negative wind energy zoning now associated with Easternmost part of county Galway sharing borders with Tipperary and Offaly or Shannon Environs Landscape.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The role of a planning authority is to facilitate the realisation of national and sectoral policies. Planning authorities are obliged to seek the implementation of policies, objectives and targets during the lifetime of the plan. The planning authority does not have a developmental role in relation to wind energy, so it is arguably *ultra vires* for them to propose the delivery of a specific target.

Landscape is only one factor that is used to determine Potential for Wind Energy Development Potential. Low landscape sensitivity is used as an 'opportunity factor' for wind energy – as set out in Figures 7 and 9 of the LARES, however, it is only one factor. Other issues such as proximity to areas of elevated population density, designations for ecological or cultural significance were also weighted and combined to determine areas of maximum opportunity. The designation of areas where wind energy is discouraged, or not open for consideration, are intended to increase certainty and consensus about where development efforts should concentrate. Designations of sensitive areas as being "Open to Consideration" will only lead to increased levels of failed projects for the reason set out in Section 4.

The analysis of policies in adjoining counties provided at Map 6 confirms the consistency across county boundaries of this areas as being 'Not/Less Favoured [Roscommon]; 'not deemed suitable' [Offaly] and 'areas unsuitable' in Tipperary.

As acknowledged by the submission this area also contains nationally significant SAC ecological designations.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-882 – ENERCO ENERGY LIMITED**

**Pg 551**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Mr. Dunne advised that the submission proposes, as a Policy Objective, that commercial scale wind energy development in areas identified as 'Open for Consideration' and 'Generally to be Discouraged' will be favourably considered where constraints and challenges detailed within Section 5 and 9 of the LARES are adequately addressed and where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment (including water quality), landscape, biodiversity or local amenities subject to Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment processes.

The submission proposes altering the LARES designation of Laurclavagh and surrounding townlands, Co. Galway from 'Generally to be Discouraged' back to 'Open for Consideration' as set out in current plan policy.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The proposed change would constitute a piecemeal case-by-case approach that would lack any strategic co-ordination. This would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Contrary to submission's assertion that the landscape designations are based solely on 'sieve-mapping', the landscape character assessment of Galway is based on over two years of rigorous field work to 'ground truth' mapping data that was prepared by using existing official sources. This work was evaluated, in turn, by GCC officials who have extensive and detailed professional experience of each of these areas. For example, the significance of the area in the vicinity of Knockma 4km to the north of Laurclavagh and surrounding townlands.

However, Landscape is only one factor that is used to determine Potential for Wind Energy Development Potential. Other issues such as proximity to areas of elevated population density, designations for ecological or cultural significance were also weighted and combined to determine areas of maximum opportunity. The designation of areas where wind energy is discouraged is intended to increase certainty and consensus about where development efforts should concentrate. Designations of sensitive areas as being 'Generally to be Discouraged' will only lead to increased levels of failed projects for the reason set out in section 4.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-973 – GREENSOURCE**

**Pg 552**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Mr. Dunne advised that the submission is requesting to set minimum target of 1.25GW of renewable energy within the lifetime of the plan.

Include all areas deemed as "Low Sensitivity" as "Open to Consideration" for wind energy project development in the final plan.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The role of a planning authority is to facilitate the realisation of national and sectoral policies. Planning authorities are obliged to seek the implementation of policies, objectives and targets during the lifetime of the plan. The planning authority does not have a developmental role in relation to wind energy, so it is arguably ultra vires for them to propose the delivery of a specific target.

Landscape is only one factor that is used to determine Potential for Wind Energy Development Potential. Low landscape sensitivity is used as an 'opportunity factor' for wind energy – as set out in Figures 7 and 9 of the LARES, however, it is only one factor. Other issues such as proximity to areas of elevated population density, designations for ecological or cultural significance were also weighted and combined to determine areas of maximum opportunity. The designation of areas where wind energy is discouraged, or not open for consideration, are intended to increase certainty and consensus about where development efforts should concentrate. Designations of sensitive areas as being "Open to Consideration" will only lead to increased levels of failed projects for the reason set out in Section 4.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***This was already dealt with. Noted by Members.***

**GLW C10-689 UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA**

**Pg 553**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and advised that this had already been dealt with in a previous submission.

This submission seeks, a project-by-project EIAR-based approach to the permitting of commercial-scale wind and solar energy developments in areas identified as 'Open for Consideration' and 'Generally to be Discouraged' where constraints and challenges detailed within Section 5 and 9 of the LARES are adequately addressed and where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment.

This submission seeks to strengthen Micro-Energy and Auto-Production Policy Framework – Encouraging the use of Micro-Energy and Auto-Production technologies in appropriate settings.

This submission seeks to establish Údarás na Gaeltachta as a key stakeholder for facilitating renewable energy.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The proposed change would constitute a piecemeal case-by-case approach that would lack any strategic co-ordination. This would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Moreover, as recognised both by the most and all previous recent Landscape Character Assessments, much of the area of interest to Údarás na Gaeltachta contain some of Ireland's most iconic landscapes that are also designated as some of the most sensitive to change in County Galway. The proposed changes would significantly increase the vulnerability of these areas to unsustainable levels of effects on nationally significant scenic, cultural and heritage resources.

It is recommended that Draft **Policy Objective 28** be amended to include the underlined words:

*To recognise, facilitate and favourably consider auto production as a renewable energy contributor, with **particular focus on retrofitting / expanding existing***

**developments** where appropriate, and in accordance with the LARES and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The LARES Policy already makes provision for community engagement and ownership, at **Policy Objective 38** by making provision for Community Ownership: *To encourage the local community to become active participants in renewable energy generation to help drive an energy transition from the bottom up.*

*To consider favourably renewable energy proposals involving Community Ownership, subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, Floods and EIA Directives.*

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

**LARES**

Draft **Policy Objective 28** be amended to include the underlined words:

*To recognise, facilitate and favourably consider auto production as a renewable energy contributor, with **particular focus on retrofitting / expanding existing developments** where appropriate, and in accordance with the LARES and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.*

**Already dealt with. Noted by Members.**

**GLW C10-461 CHARLIE TROY & DEARBHAILL STANDUN**

**Pg 554**

Mr. Dunne outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Mr. Dunne advised this submission requests the removal of the proposed zoning changes at the townlands of Shannagurraun, Knock, Knockalough, Lettergunnet and Truscán na gCappall.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The LARES mapping has been amended to take account of the 4km buffer along the Galway Coastline. Any planning applications submitted will have to take account of National and Local Guidance.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

As per CE Recommendation.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**Section 5: Summary of Submissions by Individuals received in relation to Appendix 1 Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy**

**GLW-C10-87 GLW-C10-88 GLW-C10 441 GLW-C10-515**

**GLW-C10-568 GLW-C10-569 GLW-C10-571 GLW-C10-572**

<b>GLW-C10-573</b>	<b>GLW-C10-574</b>	<b>GLW-C10-578</b>	<b>GLW-C10-579</b>
<b>GLW-C10-681</b>	<b>GLW-C10-691</b>	<b>GLW-C10-721</b>	<b>GLW-C10-722</b>
<b>GLW-C10-723</b>	<b>GLW-C10-749</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1228</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1243</b>
<b>GLW-C10-1269</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1288</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1306</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1327</b>
<b>GLW-C10-1406</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1407</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1409</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1708</b>
<b>GLW-C10-1720</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1741</b>	<b>GLW-C10-1749</b>	<b>GLW-C10-2469</b>

Ms. Loughnane outlined the High Level Summary and read CE Response & Recommendation: -

**High Level Summary:**

- The zoning of areas as being 'Acceptable in Principle' or 'Open to Consideration' not appropriate
- zoning in densely populated areas in close proximity to houses will give rise to nuisance
- adverse effects on landscape and tourism
- adverse effects on property value and/or future housing development potential
- That more windfarms located in South Connemara compared to East Galway.
- Too many windfarms in the area - over-concentration.
- Concern about the adverse effect that the proposed designations will have on the Gaeltacht area.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The mapping provided is not zoning. It is a designation of potential suitability for future wind energy based on consideration of a wide range of factors.

The designation of an area as being either "Acceptable in Principle" or "Open to Consideration" is made subject to the requirement that applications for planning permissions comply with all other policies, objectives and guidelines of the Plan, as well as compliance with other requirements such as protection of natural and cultural heritage. Applications will also need to be able to demonstrate compliance with all other requirements, such as national guidance for wind energy, as well as matters affecting public health and safety, as well as the requirements of electrical transmission systems.

It is acknowledged that for much of this area, this density would give rise to challenges to comply with normal requirements for wind energy developments to protect health and safety and to avoid nuisance.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

SEE LARES Recommendation 5.

<b><i>The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.</i></b>
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**GLW C10-514 – NIAMH O’TOOLE**  
**GLW C10-674 – ORLA O’TOOLE**  
**GLW C10-680 - ORLA O’TOOLE**  
**GLW C10-681 - ANGELA POWER**  
**GLW C10-753 - THOMOAS O’TOOLE**  
**GLW C10-891 - MAEVE SHIEL**  
**GLW C10-916 -SARAH O’TOOLE**

Ms. Loughnane outlined the summary of the issues raised in submissions listed above and read CE Response & Recommendation.

**Summary of Issues Raised in Submission:**

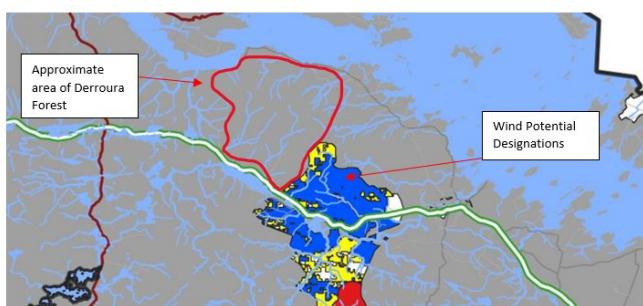
These submissions object to proposed wind farm construction in Derroura forestry.

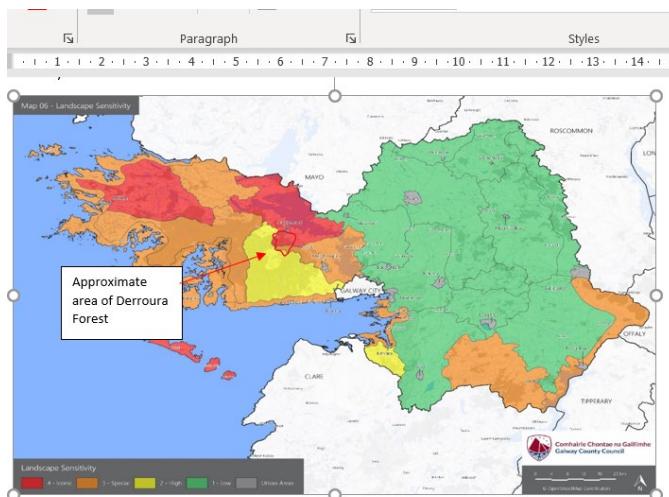
**Chief Executive’s Response:**

While there is no definitive boundary for Derroura, it occurs outside the Current Draft Wind Deployment area as per map below.

The Derroura Forest’s inclusion within the current ‘*Not Normally Permissible*’ area is due to the Landscape Sensitivities outlined in the Draft Landscape Character Assessment, which designates the Landscape Character Units of West Conamara (south half of Derroura Forest) and Upper Corrib Environs (north half of Derroura Forest) as Special and Iconic sensitivities respectively (see map below).

Deployment areas (see map below).





**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-885 RONAN MAC GIOLAPHARAIC**

**Pg 560**

Ms. Loughnane outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

She advised that submission draws attention to the fact that a Wind Granted Uninstalled has been omitted on Map 1: Renewable Energy Developments in County Galway Page 3 Also on Map 2: Wind developments within the county page 28 972143 Granted 03/11/1997 on The south east side of the Island of Inishmeain.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

Noted.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

It is recommended that relevant mapping be amended to include the omitted permission on the Island of Inishmeain.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-938 MICHAEL HUMPHREYS**

**Pg 560**

Ms. Loughnane outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Ms. Loughnane advised that submission relates to an area around Lough Auna, north-east of Clifden and south-west of Letterfrack. It is requested that the mapping would be amended to reflect the current provisions of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 and Wind Energy Strategy in which the subject lands have been designated as 'Open to Consideration'.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The designation of lands within this area arises from a series of considerations as set out in detail at LARES Section 14. Moreover, as recognised both by the most and all previous recent Landscape Character Assessments, much of the area contains some of Ireland's most iconic landscapes that are also designated as some of the most sensitive to change in County Galway.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members.*

**GLW C10-1306 SEAN THORNTON**

**Pg 560**

Ms. Loughnane outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission seeks designation for wind energy development of lands north of An Spidéal within an area that currently contains a mosaic of types of designations changes the landscape sensitivity class from the lowest sensitivity to the second highest and requests a review and re-evaluation of the draft mapping.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The designation of lands within this area arises from a series of considerations as set out in detail at LARES Section 14. No submission has been made to indicate why the current designation of this land should be changed, nor what designation is sought.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

*The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.*

**GLW C10-2297 RICHARD BOURNS**

**Pg 561**

Ms. Loughnane outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Ms. Loughnane advised that this submission refers to lands west of Clonfert Cathedral, that have been subject to a previous application for wind energy development; it objects that an apparent arbitrary outline of landscape sensitivity has been provided.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The proposed designations are the result of a re-appraisal that examined the reason why previous planning applications failed [Section 4 of LARES]. The reasons for differences between previous and new deployment zones are set out in detail at LARES Section 14. The reappraisal was also required to take account of new and updated ecological designations as well as related case law – especially in relation to protection of designated habitats.

In the present case, the re-appraisal also has regard to an analysis of policies in adjoining counties provided at Map 6 confirms the consistency across county boundaries of this areas as being 'Not/Less Favoured [Roscommon]; 'not deemed suitable' [Offaly] and 'areas unsuitable' in Tipperary.

The re-appraisal also has regard to historic landscapes, noting in the present case how *the more productive soils of this area, which are often characterised by large flat fields, are the result of a long history of intensive agriculture and settlement. This historic pattern of settlement has resulted in elevated concentration of archaeological, architectural and cultural remains.*

*Features from different periods of land management and settlement are often found in close proximity. The landscape is full of instances of such concentrations. These include Protected Structures around Lawrencetown such as the Gothic style folly gateway in Ballymore or around the National Monuments of The Cathedral of St Brendan Clonfert and Clontuskert Abbey.*

These observations are particularly pertinent in view of the proximity of The Cathedral of St Brendan Clonfert and its associated historic landscape.

For these reasons areas that were identified in previous strategies were omitted.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.***

**GLW C10-2418 PADRAIG O COISDEADHLA**

**Pg 562**

Ms. Loughnane advised that this had already been dealt with at an earlier meeting.

This submission objects to designations in residential areas around Inverin.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

It is noted, and acknowledged, that the referenced area of Cois Fharraige around Inverin is an area of concentrated residential development.

It is further noted that this area of dense population is almost entirely concentrated in areas that lies within 4km of the shore. It is acknowledged that for much of this area, this density would give rise to challenges to comply with normal requirements for wind energy developments to protect health and safety and to avoid nuisance.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

As per CE Recommendation.

***This was already dealt with. Noted by Members.***

**GLW C10-597 – ANDRE O'GRADY**

**Pg 563**

Ms. Loughnane outlined the contents of the submission and read CE Response & Recommendation.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the submission is requesting to consider extending the designations to cover the proposed site area of a potential wind farm site east of Maam Cross and west of Oughterard.

**Chief Executive's Response:**

The area identified was not included in the previous [2015]. The area is classified as being 'Not Normally Permissible' in the current designations on account of the factors set out in Appendix 1. It should also be noted that there has been a considerable volume of submissions received in relation to the nearby Derroura Forestry.

**Chief Executive's Recommendation:**

No change.

***The CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by the Members.***

It was agreed by the Members to deal with Chapter 15: Development Management Standards at meeting on 13/01/2022

***The Meeting adjourned until 13/01/2022***

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin**

**Submitted, Signed and Approved**

Cathaoirleach:



Date: 07/03/2022