

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

Friday 17th December 2021 via Microsoft Teams

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

Baill: Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne,
L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, A. Dolan, 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 and T. Welby.

Apologies: Comh./Cllr. I Canning, D. Collins

Oifigh: Mr. J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. D. Pender, 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, Assistant Planner, Ms. A. Power, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. U Ní Eidhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge

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**

Cathaoirleach P. Keaveney commented on the slow rate of progress being made by the Members in relation to CE Report on submissions received on Draft Plan 2022-2028. He encouraged the Party Leaders to come forward and speak on behalf of their Group, as this would result in moving through and voting on motions more efficiently.

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.

Following on from adjournment of Meeting on 13/12/2021, Cllr. Walsh advised that he had since had discussions with the Forward Planning Staff following which he was removing motion discussed at Monday's Meeting and proposed an alternative motion.

Cllr. Walsh submitted the following motion:

RH 1:

RH 1 Rural Housing Zone 1 (Rural Metropolitan Area)

It is policy objective to facilitate rural housing in this Rural Metropolitan Area subject to the following criteria:

~~*Those applicants with long standing demonstrable economic and/or social Rural Links* to the area through existing and immediate family ties, seeking to develop their first home on the existing family farm holdings.*~~

Applicants who have long standing demonstrable economic and/or social Rural Links to the area, i.e. who have grown up in the area, schooled in the area or who have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives in the area and/or have or have had, immediate family connections in the area e.g. son or daughter of longstanding residents of the area seeking to develop their first home within the Rural Metropolitan Area. Applicants will be requested to establish a substantiated Rural Housing Need and only this category of persons will be allowed to construct a dwelling on a greenfield site in these areas.

To have lived in the area for a continuous ten years or more is to be recognised as a substantial, continuous part of life and also as the minimum period required to be deemed longstanding residents of the area.

Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. An Enurement condition shall apply for a period of 7 years, after the date that the house is first occupied by the person or persons to whom the enurement clause applies.

He advised that the intent of this motion was not to open the floodgates for planning applicants. He said that the MASP was a very restricted area in terms of planning and explained the motion has stipulated that anyone that does not have an established family link to the area should be resident in Connemara for at least ten years before applying for planning. He said that he wanted to ensure that it was not

the Council's intention to restrict rural planning applications to those whose families were in full-time farming. He stated that the requirement of a ten-year residency was a condition that would prevent a "free for all" in terms of planning applications. He stated that this would accommodate people who have come to live in the area and wanted to settle there.

Cllr. Welby stated that the proposal would mean that an applicant living in Connemara for nine years, having identified a suitable site, could be refused planning on the basis that they had not lived there for ten years. He stated that it did not take account of a person going to work for a year in Australia, for example, and queried if their period of residency was broken would they have to start all over again? He stated that he didn't think this policy was workable and stated he was not in agreement with it. Ms. Loughnane described the proposal as ambiguous and not in line with the NPF. She stated that long-standing resident and intrinsic were not the same thing and there was a discrepancy in that. Cllr. Walsh stated that links was intended to be there. Cllr. Mannion stated that this would be going out on public display again and could be considered at that stage and proposed that they vote on the motion.

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

For – 16

Cllr. Charity	Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. O Cualain	Cllr. O Curraoin	Cllr. Dolan
Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. Herterich/Quinn	Cllr. Hoade
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. Kinane
Cllr. King	Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Sheridan
Cllr. Walsh		

Against – 5

Cllr. McClearn	Cllr. McHugh/Farag	Cllr. McKinstry
Cllr. Reddington	Cllr. Welby	

Abstain – 13

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Carroll
Cllr. Cronnelly	Cllr. Cuddy	Cllr. Donohue
Cllr. Kelly	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. Maher	Cllr. Mannion	Cllr. Murphy
Cllr. Parsons		

No Reply - 5

The Cathaoirleach declared the Motion carried.

Cllr. Walsh proposed the following Motion:

“RH2 – Rural Housing Zone 2 (Rural Area Under Strong Urban Pressure – GCTPS – Outside Rural Metropolitan Area Zone 1)

It is a policy objective to facilitate rural housing in this rural area under strong urban pressure subject to the following criteria:

1(a). Those applicants with long standing demonstrable economic and/or social Rural Links to the area through existing and immediate family ties seeking to develop their first home on the existing family farm holding. **Consideration shall be given to special circumstances where a landowner has no immediate family and wishes to accommodate a niece or nephew on family lands.** Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.*

OR

*1(b). Those applicants who have no family lands, **or access to family lands,** but who wish to build their first home within the community in which they have long standing demonstrable economic and or social Rural links* and where they have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives i.e. have grown up in the area, schooled in the area or have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives in the area and have immediate family connections in the area e.g. son or daughter of longstanding residents of the area.*

Having established a Substantiated Rural Housing Need, such persons making an application on a site within an 8km. radius of their original family home will be accommodated, subject to normal development management.*

To have lived in the area for a continuous ten years or more is to be recognised as a substantial, continuous part of life and also as the minimum period required to be deemed longstanding residents of the area.

Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(c). Those applicants who can satisfy to the Planning Authority that they are functionally dependent in relation to demonstrable economic need on the immediate rural areas in which they are seeking to develop a single house as their principal family Residence in the countryside. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(d). Those applicants who lived for substantial periods of their lives in the rural area, then moved away and who now wish to return and build their first house as their permanent residence, in this local area. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to illustrate their links to the area in order to justify the proposed development and it will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(e). Where applicants can supply, legal witness or land registry or folio details that demonstrate that the lands on which they are seeking to build their first home, as their permanent residence, in the area have been in family ownership for a period of 20 years or more, their eligibility will be considered. Where this has been established to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, additional intrinsic links will not have to be demonstrated.

OR

1.(f) In cases where all sites on the family lands are in a designated area, family members will be considered subject to the requirements of the Habitat's Directive and normal planning considerations

OR

1(g) Rural families who have long standing ties with the area but who now find themselves subsumed into Rural Villages. They have no possibility of finding a site within the particular Rural Village. Rural Village dwellers who satisfy the requirements for Rural Housing Need as outlined in RH2 will not be considered as Urban Generated and will have their Housing Need upheld.

2. An Enurement condition shall apply for a period of 7 years, after the date that the house is first occupied by the person or persons to whom the enurement clause applies.

Definitions applied above:

**Rural Links:*

For the purpose of the above is defined as a person who has strong demonstrable economic or social links to the rural area and wishes to build a dwelling generally within an 8km radius of where the applicant has lived for a substantial continuous part of their life. To have lived in the area for a continuous ten years or more is to be recognised as a substantial, continuous part of life and also as the minimum period required to be deemed longstanding residents of the area.

**Substantiated Rural Housing Need:*

Is defined as supportive evidence for a person to live in this particular area and who does not or has not ever owned a house/received planning permission for a single rural house or built a house (except in exceptional circumstances) in the area concerned and has a strong demonstrable economic or social need for a dwelling for their own permanent occupation. In addition, the applicants will also have to demonstrate their rural links as outlined above.

**Urban generated housing demand Rural Village Dwellers*

Urban generated housing is defined as housing in rural locations sought by people living and working in urban areas, including second homes. There are many rural families who have long standing ties with the area but who now find themselves subsumed into Rural Villages.

They have no possibility of finding a site within the particular Rural Village. Rural Village dwellers who satisfy the requirements for Rural Housing Need as outlined in RH2 will not be considered as Urban Generated and will have their Housing Need upheld.

**Urban Fringe:*

Urban Fringe of Gort, Loughrea, Athenry and Tuam. Applicants in the urban fringe will be requested to establish a Substantiated Rural Housing Need as per RH2."

Mr. Dunne advised that this proposal was contrary to CE recommendation. He advised that the text in red was new text being added in. He stated that RH 19 in Draft Plan already covers this (lands in family ownership). Regarding wording in 1(f), he stated that the CE and Planning Department would have serious reservations regarding same. He stated that the wording was ambiguous and was contrary to NPF and overall principal of Sustainable Development within the Development Plan and was diluting down policy objectives for rural housing. He stated that the Urban Fringe was removed following discussions on Draft Plan earlier this year but the OPR had requested that it would be reinstated. He stated that there was no reference to urban fringe in this proposal. He advised that another motion had come in from Cllr. Donohue regarding urban fringe. He explained that urban fringe was there for a particular reason and was discussed in workshops regarding necessity to retain buffer around towns, so they are not subsumed with single rural houses. Cllr. McClearn stated that he was concerned how they were going with this motion. He stated that unfortunately the Members don't have the autonomy over the plan they had previously. He stated that the urban fringe was in a number of previous plans, and it was obvious that was tightening up and suggested that if they were to disregard urban fringe then there wasn't much point in dealing with urban generated housing. He said while he understood what his colleagues were trying to achieve, he didn't think they could do it. He said that they were going to end up with a plan that would be so far removed from what they actually wanted.

Cllr. Walsh stated that he initially had a discussion with Mr. Dunne when the submission was handed in July. Mr. Dunne stated that for purposes of clarity, there was a five-minute discussion on the submission and the merits thereof. Mr. Dunne advised the Meeting that concerns were raised at that time also. The submission handed in as part of the Draft Development Plan in July reflects the motion above. Ms. Loughnane stated that this motion was introducing new terminology that was creating ambiguity, particularly in relation to villages and nodes.

Cllr. Welby queried if the Motion was going to be broken down or was it going to be taken as one motion. Mr. Owens advised that it was a matter for the Proposer and

Seconder whether it was multiple motions or one motion. Cllr. Walsh confirmed that it was one motion. In relation to villages, he explained that he was referring to those that don't have a town plan. He stated that he was referring specifically to Roscahill and stated that he was trying to safeguard the rights of local people.

Cllr. Broderick referring to a previous motion passed by Cllr. D. Connolly at Meeting on 6th December 2021 proposing that all villages and nodes become part of 7(a) and were all eligible for village settlement plans if resources became available, queried what would the impact of voting on this motion with regard to the villages and nodes that were outlined? Ms. Loughnane stated that Cllr. Walsh would need to clarify this and advised that there was a motion already voted on. She advised that there was a policy objective on urban settlement framework also. She stated that the policy objective in relation to 7(a)/7(b) Rural Settlements and Nodes had not referenced village in the wording and there was a discrepancy in relation to motion adopted prior to Christmas and the wording referenced above in Cllr. Walsh's Motion (i.e. reference to word "villages" above).

Cllr. C. Keaveney suggested getting advice from the Executive on the matter.

Mr. Owens advised that the CE Response and Recommendation was detailed in report and it was a matter for Members to bring forward motions and to articulate those motions. He stated that the terminology in the motion references rural villages and this was in accordance with the draft plan, however, arising from an earlier motion and decision on foot of a recommendation from the OPR the terminology was not references settlements and nodes. He queried therefore if it was now intended by the proposer and seconder to refer to rural settlements and rural nodes rather than villages. Cllr. Walsh confirmed that he proposed to change the wording from rural villages to rural settlements. He stated that he was putting forward this motion on the basis that the urban fringe was going to be reinstated. It was proposed by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Killilea to change the wording of the motion and the revised wording of the motion was submitted in writing.

Mr. Dunne confirmed receipt of the amended motion and read it to the meeting

Cllr. Walsh submitted amended Motion as follows:

"RH2 – Rural Housing Zone 2 (Rural Area Under Strong Urban Pressure – GCTPS – Outside Rural Metropolitan Area Zone 1)

It is a policy objective to facilitate rural housing in this rural area under strong urban pressure subject to the following criteria:

1(a). Those applicants with long standing demonstrable economic and/or social Rural Links to the area through existing and immediate family ties seeking to develop their first home on the existing family farm holding. Consideration shall be given to special circumstances where a landowner has no immediate family and wishes to accommodate a niece or nephew on family lands. Documentary evidence*

shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(b). Those applicants who have no family lands, or access to family lands, but who wish to build their first home within the community in which they have long standing demonstrable economic and or social Rural links and where they have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives i.e. have grown up in the area, schooled in the area or have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives in the area and have immediate family connections in the area e.g. son or daughter of longstanding residents of the area.*

Having established a Substantiated Rural Housing Need, such persons making an application on a site within an 8km. radius of their original family home will be accommodated, subject to normal development management.*

To have lived in the area for a continuous ten years or more is to be recognised as a substantial, continuous part of life and also as the minimum period required to be deemed longstanding residents of the area.

Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(c). Those applicants who can satisfy to the Planning Authority that they are functionally dependent in relation to demonstrable economic need on the immediate rural areas in which they are seeking to develop a single house as their principal family Residence in the countryside. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(d). Those applicants who lived for substantial periods of their lives in the rural area, then moved away and who now wish to return and build their first house as their permanent residence, in this local area. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to illustrate their links to the area in order to justify the proposed development and it will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(e). Where applicants can supply, legal witness or land registry or folio details that demonstrate that the lands on which they are seeking to build their first home, as their permanent residence, in the area have been in family ownership for a period of 20 years or more, their eligibility will be considered. Where this has been established to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, additional intrinsic links will not have to be demonstrated.

OR

1.(f) In cases where all sites on the family lands are in a designated area, family members will be considered subject to the requirements of the Habitat's Directive and normal planning considerations

OR

1(g) Rural families who have long standing ties with the area but who now find themselves subsumed into Rural Villages. They have no possibility of finding a site within the particular Rural Village. Rural Village dwellers who satisfy the requirements for Rural Housing Need as outlined in RH2 will not be considered as Urban Generated and will have their Housing Need upheld.

2. An Enurement condition shall apply for a period of 7 years, after the date that the house is first occupied by the person or persons to whom the enurement clause applies.

Definitions applied above:

**Rural Links:*

For the purpose of the above is defined as a person who has strong demonstrable economic or social links to the rural area and wishes to build a dwelling generally within an 8km radius of where the applicant has lived for a substantial continuous part of their life. To have lived in the area for a continuous ten years or more is to be recognised as a substantial, continuous part of life and also as the minimum period required to be deemed longstanding residents of the area.

**Substantiated Rural Housing Need:*

Is defined as supportive evidence for a person to live in this particular area and who does not or has not ever owned a house/received planning permission for a single rural house or built a house (except in exceptional circumstances) in the area concerned and has a strong demonstrable economic or social need for a dwelling for their own permanent occupation. In addition, the applicants will also have to demonstrate their rural links as outlined above.

**Urban generated housing demand Rural Village Dwellers*

Urban generated housing is defined as housing in rural locations sought by people living and working in urban areas, including second homes. There are many rural families who have long standing ties with the area but who now find themselves subsumed into Rural Villages.

They have no possibility of finding a site within the particular Rural Village. Rural Village dwellers who satisfy the requirements for Rural Housing Need as outlined in RH2 will not be considered as Urban Generated and will have their Housing Need upheld.

**Urban Fringe:*

Urban Fringe of Gort, Loughrea, Athenry and Tuam. Applicants in the urban fringe will be requested to establish a Substantiated Rural Housing Need as per RH2."

Mr. Dunne advised that this proposal was contrary to CE recommendation. He advised that the text in red was new text being added in. He stated that RH 19 in Draft Plan already covers this (lands in family ownership). Regarding wording in 1(f), he stated that the CE and Planning Department would have serious reservations regarding same. He stated that the wording was ambiguous and was contrary to NPF and overall principal of Sustainable Development within the Development Plan and was diluting down policy objectives for rural housing. He stated that the Urban Fringe was removed following discussions on Draft Plan earlier this year but the OPR had requested that it would be reinstated. He stated that there was no reference to urban fringe in this proposal. He advised that another motion had come in from Cllr. Donohue regarding urban fringe. He explained that urban fringe was there for a particular reason and was discussed in workshops regarding necessity to retain buffer around towns, so they are not subsumed with single rural houses. Cllr. McClearn stated that he was concerned how they were going with this motion. He stated that unfortunately the Members don't have the autonomy over the plan they had previously. He stated that the urban fringe was in a number of previous plans, and it was obvious that was tightening up and suggested that if they were to disregard urban fringe then there wasn't much point in dealing with urban generated housing. He said while he understood what his colleagues were trying to achieve, he didn't think they could do it. He said that they were going to end up with a plan that would be so far removed from what they actually wanted. Cllr. Walsh stated that he initially had a discussion with Mr. Dunne when the submission was handed in July. Mr. Dunne stated that for purposes of clarity, there was a five-minute discussion on the submission and the merits thereof. Mr. Dunne advised the Meeting that concerns were raised at that time also. The submission handed in as part of the Draft Development Plan in July reflects the motion above. Ms. Loughnane stated that this motion was introducing new terminology that was creating ambiguity, particularly in relation to villages and nodes. Cllr. Welby queried if the Motion was going to be broken down or was it going to be taken as one motion. Mr. Owens advised that it was a matter for the Proposer and Seconder whether it was multiple motions or one motion. Cllr. Walsh confirmed that it was one motion. In relation to villages, he explained that he was referring to those that don't have a town plan. Cllr. Walsh confirmed that it was one motion. In relation to villages, he explained that he was referring to those that don't have a town plan.

Cllr. Broderick stated that Cllr. Walsh appeared very worried about Rosscahill. Cllr. Walsh stated that he was referring to the villages that don't have a town plan, such as Tullokyne, Maam, Recess, Tully and others throughout the county. Cllr. Walsh stated that he was trying to safeguard the rights of local people.

Cllr. Broderick referring to a previous motion passed by Cllr. D. Connolly at Meeting on 6th December 2021 proposing that all villages and nodes become part of 7(a) and were all eligible for village settlement plans if resources became available, queried what would the impact of voting on this motion with regard to the villages and nodes that were outlined? Ms. Loughnane stated that Cllr. Walsh would need to clarify this and advised that there was a motion already voted on. She advised that there was a policy objective on urban settlement framework also. She stated that the policy objective in relation to 7(a)/7(b) Rural Settlements and Nodes had not referenced village in the wording and there was a discrepancy in relation to motion adopted prior to Christmas and the wording referenced above in Cllr. Walsh's Motion (i.e. reference to word "villages" above). Cllr. C. Keaveney suggested getting advice from the Executive on the matter.

Cllr. Welby stated that Cllr. Walsh had made numerous references to planning in Roscahill and asked him did he believe that he had a conflict of interest in this particular motion?. Cllr. Welby stated that Cllr. Walsh was actually breaking the law here because he stated that Cllr. Walsh had a beneficial interest in a site in Rosscahill. Cllr. Welby stated that Cllr. Walsh had made a planning application in Rosscahill that was refused and that this proposal was clearly in relation to that planning application. Mr. Owens advised that if there was any Member at any point in time where they have a conflict of interest or beneficial interest, there was a requirement on them to declare their interest and thereafter withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the consideration of the related matter. He stated that it was a matter for each Member to decide if there was a conflict of interest or beneficial interest to be declared.

Cllr. Walsh stated that he had not made a planning application in Rosscahill and that he did not have any beneficial interest in the proposal.

Cllr. Walsh stated that he wanted to make it clear that an accusation had been made against him and that he wanted it dealt with. He stated that he was not going to be accused of having a beneficial interest in a policy that he did not have. He stated that as Public Representatives, they have all been approached by the public to make representations on behalf of their constituents.

Cllr. Walsh called on the Chairman, Cllr. Peter Keaveney to adjourn the meeting until this was dealt with. Cllr. Walsh stated that he was not happy with the accusation being made and he asked for the protection of the council. Cllr. Walsh called on the CEO to intervene. Cllr. Walsh asked for the Law Agent to be called. Cllr. Walsh stated that as a Director of this Council sitting here at a meeting of the council he should be protected from such an attack.

Cllr. Colm Keaveney stated to the Chairman Cllr. Peter Keaveney, 'you are going to have to require Members to rigorously adhere to this process. What is an absolute privilege and the allegations made today?'. Cllr. Colm Keaveney called on Cllr, Welby to cease from this personalised attack and withdraw his allegations. Cllr. Colm Keaveney warned Cllr, Welby that he was treading on dangerous ground as absolute privilege did not apply to county council meetings. Cllr. Colm Keaveney invited advice from the Executive on the matter.

Cllr. Welby stated that he was referring to Planning Reference 19/1764. Cllr. Walsh stated that he had not made that planning application. Cllr. Welby stated that he had a document here which was the Planning Application and that it was signed by Seamus Walsh BE. with the email address esperanzaenterprises@gmail.com dated 14/11/2019. Cllr. Welby stated that this application was refused as urban generated rural housing in Roscahill. Cllr. Walsh queried where was his beneficial interest in this and asked if there was a live planning application in front of the Council. Cllr. Walsh stated that he had no beneficial interest in Roscahill and that he had no planning application there.

Mr. Owens advised the Members that it was a matter for each Member to determine at any point in the Meeting if they have a beneficial interest or conflict of interest and to withdraw from the Meeting if this was the case. He stated that it was a decision for each Member to make. He referred to Part 15 of the Local Government Act and

again advised that it was up to each individual to declare their interest. He stated that his understanding was that Cllr. Walsh has considered the matter and had indicated that he didn't have a conflict of interest in this case and that would be placed on the record of the meeting. Cllr. Walsh advised that he was stating clearly that he had no beneficial interest in the motion in front of the Meeting.

Cllr. Peter Keaveney asked that the Members proceeded to a vote.

For – 16

Cllr. Charity	Cllr. M. Connolly	Comh. O Cualáin
Cllr. Curley	Cllr. Dolan	Cllr. Donohue
Cllr. Finnerty	Cllr. Herterich/Quinn	Cllr. Hoade
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. Kinane
Cllr. King	Cllr. McHugh/Farag	Cllr. Sheridan
Cllr. Walsh		

Against – 8

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Carroll
Cllr. Maher	Cllr. McClearn	Cllr. McKinstry
Cllr. Reddington	Cllr. Welby	

Abstain – 11

Cllr. D. Connelly	Cllr. Cronnelly	Cllr. Cuddy
Comh. O Curraoin	Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. Kelly	Cllr. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. Mannion
Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Parsons	

No Reply - 4

The Cathaoirleach declared the Motion carried.

Mr. Dunne stated that they had a motion from Cllr. Donohue in relation to RH2 Part 1B.

Cllr. Donohue submitted the following Motion:

“Recommendation No 10 - RH 2 PART 1B

Submission 1. as follows:

Consideration shall be given to special circumstances where a landowner has no immediate family and wishes to accommodate a niece or nephew on family lands.

Recommendation No 10 RH 2 Part B

Submission 2.

Consideration shall be given to special circumstances whereby an applicant's land is in both sides of the Urban Fringe when applying for Planning Permission for a dwelling on this land. “

Cllr. Geraghty queried why they were proposing a motion when the previous motion had already dealt with it. Mr. Dunne explained that in relation to submission No. 1 above, this was not addressed in previous motion and should be taken on its own standing. A subsequent vote was taken on that in relation to submission No. 2, the spirit of Cllr. Donohue's motion has already been addressed under the motion previously discussed under RH 2 and therefore this additional wording was not required.

Submission 1 above of this motion was proposed by Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Kinane and agreed by the Members.

Cllr. Walsh submitted the following Motion:

RH 4 Rural Housing in Zone 4 (Landscape Classification 2, 3 and 4)

Those applicants seeking to construct individual houses in the open countryside in areas located in Landscape Classification 2, 3 and 4 are required to demonstrate their demonstrable economic or social Rural Links ~~and where they have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives i.e have grown up in the area, schooled in the area and have immediate family connections in the area e.g son or daughter of longstanding residents of the area and require to establish a Substantiated Rural Housing Need*~~ as per RH 2, i.e.*

1(a) Those applicants with long standing demonstrable economic and/or social Rural Links to the area through existing and immediate family ties seeking to develop their first home on the existing family farm holding. Consideration shall be given to special circumstances where a landowner has no immediate family and wishes to accommodate a niece or nephew on family lands. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assess on a case by case basis.*

OR

1(b) Those applicants who have no family lands, or access to family lands, but who wish to build their first home within the community in which they have long standing demonstrable economic and/or social Rural Links and where they have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives i.e. have grown up in the area, schooled in the area or have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives in the area and have or have had, immediate family connections in the area e.g. son or daughter of the longstanding residents of the area.*

Having established a Substantial Rural Housing Need, such persons making an application on a site within an 8km radius of their original family home will be accommodated, subject to normal development management.*

To have lived in the area for a continuous ten years or more is to be recognised as a substantial, continuous part of life and also as the minimum period required to be deemed longstanding residents of the area.

Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(c) Those applicants who can satisfy to the Planning Authority that they are functionally dependent in relation to demonstrable economic need on the immediate rural areas in which they are seeking to develop a single house as their principal family Residence in the countryside. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(d) Those applicants who lived for substantial periods of their lives in the rural area, then moved away and who now wish to return and build their first house as their permanent residence, in this local area. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to illustrate their links to the area in order to justify the proposed development and it will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(e) Where applicants can supply land registry or folio details that demonstrate that the lands on which they are seeking to build their first home, as their permanent residence, in the area have been in family ownership for a period of 20 years or more, their eligibility will be considered. Where this has been established to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, additional intrinsic links will not have to be demonstrated.

OR

1(f) In cases where all sites on the family lands are in a designated area, family members will be considered subject to the requirements of the Habitat's Directive and normal planning considerations.

In addition, an Applicant may be required to submit a visual impact assessment of their development, where the proposal is in an area identified as "Focal Points/Views" in the Landscape Character Assessment of the County or in Class 3 and Class 4 designated landscape areas. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

An Enurement condition shall apply for a period of 7 years, after the date that the house is first occupied by the person or persons to whom the enurement clause applies.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by the Members

RH 15 Backland Development in the open countryside

Mr. Dunne advised that there were no motions in on Recommendation 10 (iv).

Cllr. C. Keaveney sought clarification on submissions that have been made and its implication for any further/subsequent submissions on debate. Mr. Dunne explained that there were currently no motions to be dealt with in relation to Backland Development. It was emphasized once more that all Members need to be aware of submissions in Chapter 4 which addresses Backland Development and if they wished to amend the policy objective RH 15 now was the opportunity to do so prior to agreeing the OPR Recommendation.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. C. Keaveney and agreed by the Members to adopt the OPR Recommendation as outlined.

OBSERVATION 4 – QUARRIES MAP

Mr. Dunne advised that the next Observation from OPR to be considered was Observation 4 – Quarries Map.

Having regard to the provisions of Quarries and Ancillary Activities Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG, 2004) and to the important role that extraction activities play in the rural economy, the planning authority is advised to prioritise the identification of major mineral deposits in the development plan, including through mapping as appropriate.

Chief Executive's Response:

Mr. Dunne then went through Chief Executive's Response. He advised that the Draft Galway County Development Plan recognises the important role that the extractive industry has in the economy of the county and that it is an important source of employment in County Galway. Several policy objectives have been included in Section 4.14 of the Draft Plan which support the industry while having regard to protecting residential amenity and preservation of pollution and safeguarding groundwater sources. Given the limited level of detail that could be conveyed and difficulties in accurately reflecting the most up to date extents of any quarry, it is considered that there is little merit of including a map to show the location of quarries and minerals in the county is questioned.

Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No Change.

Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following Motion:

The Authority will map the extents and lifetimes of permissions for quarries. These will be mapped live on the e-Planning system.

Mr. Dunne explained that presently all quarries were mapped as they came in and proposed no change.

Cllr. McKinstry stated that he wanted to see the tracking of quarries done live in the e-Planning system. Cllrs. C. Keaveney and Murphy seconded this proposal. Mr. Dunne explained that the roll out of e-Planning would address it and it would not be necessary to map the extent of the quarries. Cllr. M. Connolly agreed with Mr. Dunne's comments and did not consider it necessary to go with this motion from Cllr. McKinstry.

As the Motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote to be taken. A vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For – 24

Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Charity	Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. Cronnelly	Comh. O Cualáin	Cllr. Cuddy
Cllr. Curley	Cllr. Dolan	Cllr. Donohue
Cllr. Herterich/Quinn	Cllr. Hoade	Cllr. C. Keaveney
Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. Kelly	Cllr. Killilea
Cllr. Kinane	Cllr. King	Cllr. Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. McClearn	Cllr. McHugh/Farag	Cllr. McKinstry
Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Parsons	Cllr. Reddington

Against – 5

Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. Finnerty	Cllr. Geraghty
Cllr. Maher	Cllr. Mannion	

Abstain – 4

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Carroll	Comh. O Curraoin
Cllr. Welby		

No Reply - 6

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

5. Economic Development and Employment

Recommendation 11 – Land Zoned for Employment Uses

Ms. Loughnane advised that the next Recommendation from OPR to be considered was Recommendation 11 – Land Zoned for Employment Uses.

Having regard to the National Strategic Outcome for Compact Growth, the principles of sequential approach to zoning (Section 25 Development Plan Guidelines, paragraph 4.19) the planning authority is required to remove the following land use zonings:

- (i) Business and Enterprise lands zoned to the south of Headford, on the eastern side of the N84 road to Galway, and
- (ii) Tourism lands to the Northeast of Oughterard, accessed from the Pier Road.

Chief Executive's Response:

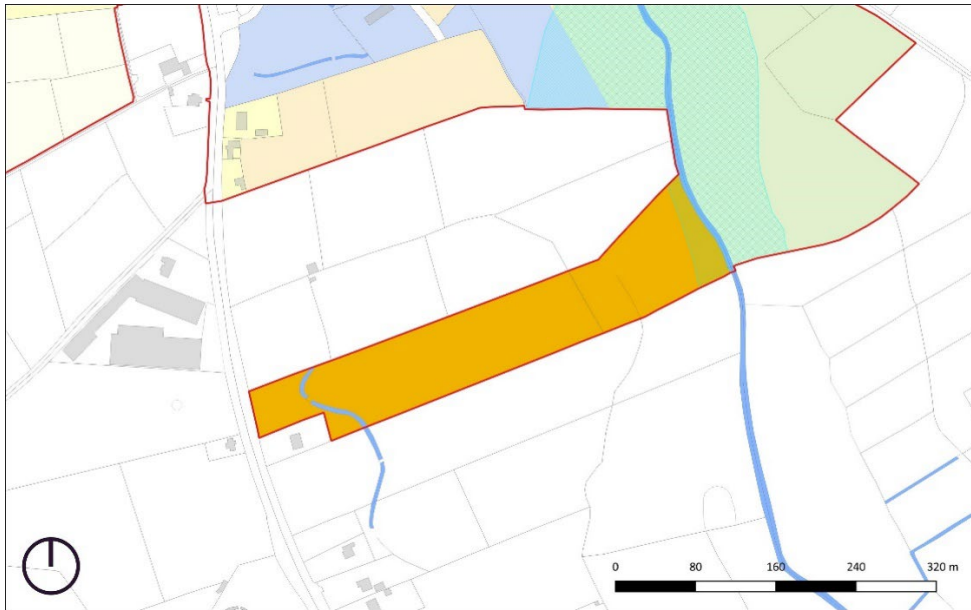
Ms. Loughnane then went through the Chief Executive's Response. She advised that it is considered that there is no justification for the lands zoned for employment and tourism lands. At the Plenary Council meeting in May 2021 these lands were proposed and zoned respectively. In accordance with Recommendation no.11, it is

considered these lands should not be zoned employment or tourism as there is no justification for same.

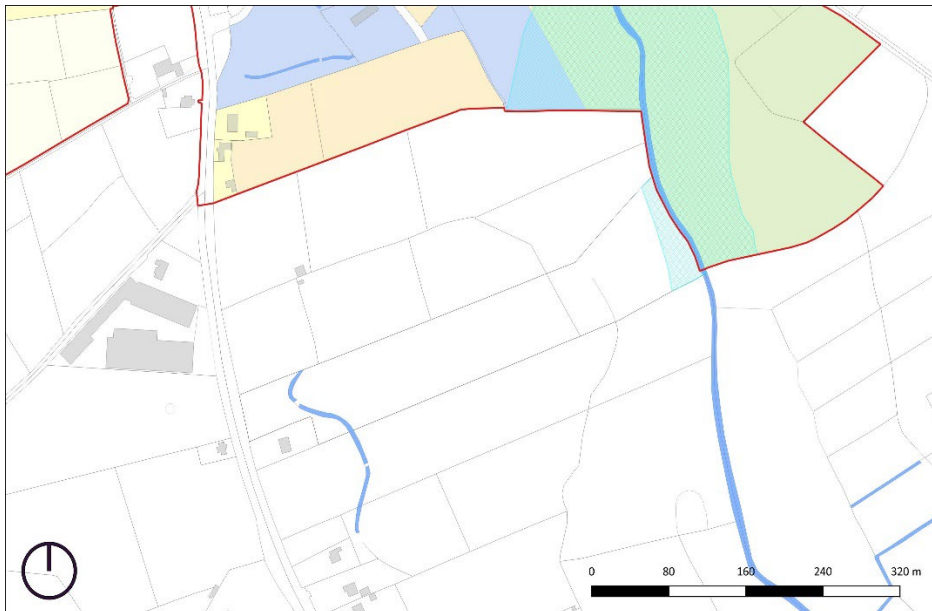
Chief Executive's Recommendation:

- (i). Remove the Business and Enterprise Zoning in Headford, on the eastern side of the N84

From:

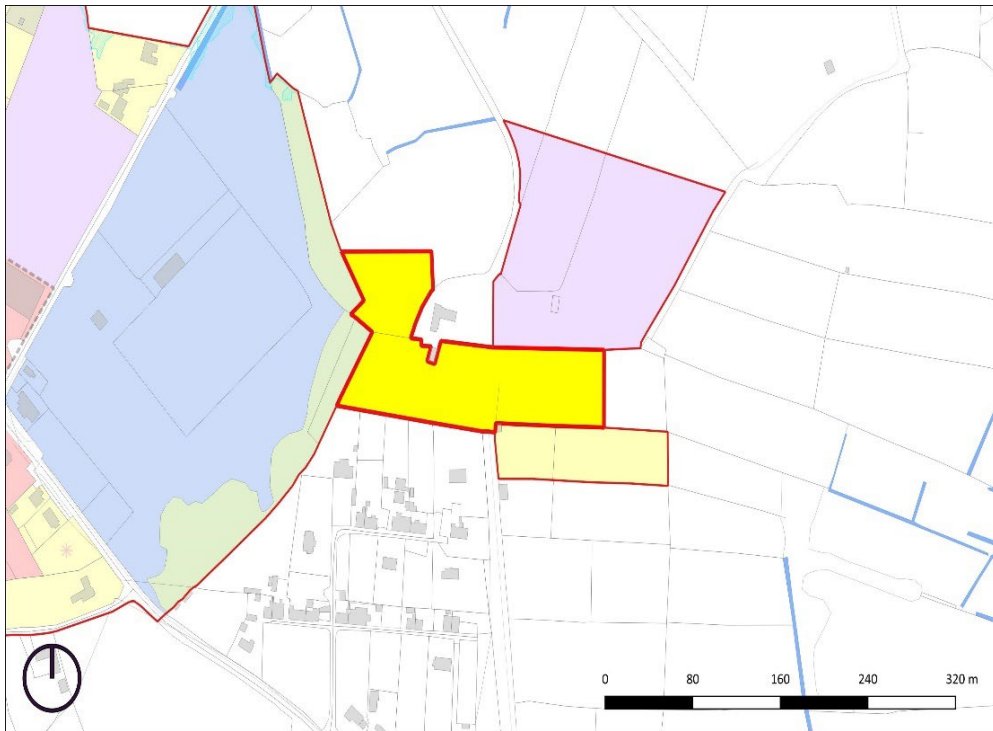


To:

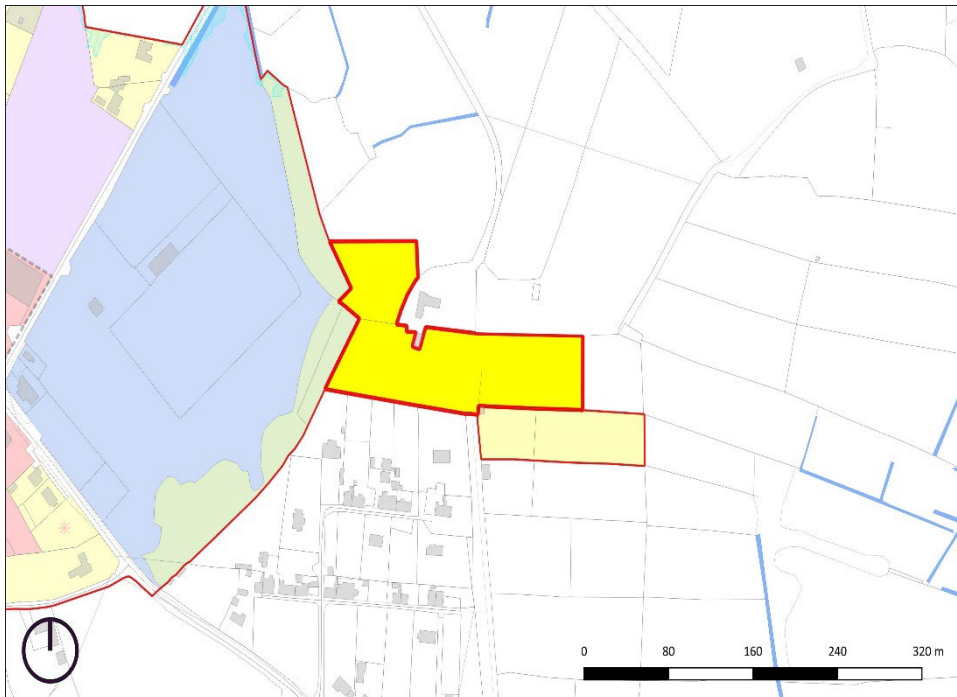


- ii). Remove the Tourism Zoning on lands to the Northeast of Oughterard, which is accessed from the Pier Road.

From:



To:



(ii) Remove the Business and Enterprise Zoning in Headford, on the eastern side of the N84

In relation to removal of Business and Enterprise Land use zoning in Headford, Cllr. Killilea advised that this was previously included in a Local Area Plan but the Minister issued a direction on this. He stated that this was a very strategic site across from a major industrial site. He stated that there were no lands available for this type of development and urged the Members to go against CE Recommendation. He stated that Headford was crying out for a business park. Cllr. Murphy explained that this

land was across from Joyce's Hardware Shop and was an obvious place for company to expand and was a rapidly growing business. Cllrs. Reddington, Hoade and Sheridan agreed with previous speakers. Cllr. Roche also supported the previous speakers and advised that a portion of the said lands were a flood risk and stated that 80% of site is well elevated above flood risk area.

Mr. Owens reiterated the CE Recommendation to remove the Business and Enterprise Zoning in Headford.

Cllr. M. Connolly queried if they could remove section that was prone to flooding. He stated that he had no difficulty with potential of site if it was only 20% prone to flooding. Ms. Loughnane suggested they could change the flood risk area to open space if Members had concerns about flood zone as otherwise it would look disjointed.

Cllr. Reddington stated that he would email in map with proposed changes.

Cllr. Reddington proposed to defer decision on it and submit map in advance of next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Hoade. Mr. Dunne stated that this would be raised again within OPR submission.

(iii) Remove the Tourism Zoning on lands to the Northeast of Oughterard, which is accessed from the Pier Road

Cllr. Welby advised that these are tourism lands. He stated that there was this separate entrance from N59 that six landowners use. In addition, the lands are in close proximity to the town centre. He stated that the OPR had made reference to visual impact but explained that he went through SEA in detail and the land adjoining it was 15m higher. He stated that Oughterard was renowned for its fishing and has always been a tourism town. He asked Members to reject CE & OPR Recommendation in this case. He stated that he would submit document to OPR as rationale for this refusal.

It was proposed to reject CE Recommendation by Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by Members.

OBSERVATION 5 - TIERED APPROACH TO ZONING FOR EMPLOYMENT LAND

Ms. Loughnane advised that the next Observation from OPR to be considered was Observation 5 – Tiered Approach to zoning for employment land.

Having regard to National Strategic Outcome for Compact Growth, the planning authority is requested to demonstrate in the plan that the approach to zoning of lands for employment throughout the county, has had regard to the requirement to:

- (i) Implement the Tiered Approach to Zoning under NPO 72a-c of the NPF; and
- (ii) Mitigate climate change through sustainable settlement and transport strategies under section 10(2)(a) of the Act, including futureproofing through more compact forms of development including the prioritisation of locations that are served, or that over the lifetime of the Plan, will be served by the public transport and active travel networks necessary to facilitate sustainable travel.

Chief Executive's Response:

Mr. Dunne then went through Chief Executive's Response and advised the following:

- (i) As outlined under Recommendation No.6 Appendix A attached reflects the Tiered Approach to Zoning as outlined under NPO 72 A-C.
- (ii) **Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource** contains a suite of policy objectives and narrative in relation to Climate Mitigation Measures, as outlined on Table 14.1. The GCTPS makes specific reference to the proposals included for the emerging Galway Development Plan 2022-2028 and for areas identified for significant growth within the Galway Metropolitan Area (MASP) and the proposed measures for corridors which link to Galway City via the MASP have been designed to be compatible with the aims and objectives of the GTS. The proposed developments within the Draft Plan will be expected to play their part in establishing high quality active travel and sustainable travel infrastructure, to support wider measures on the connecting corridors to increase uptake of travel by sustainable modes. The GCTPS also specifically includes commitments to investigate appropriate expansions to Park and Ride facilities within the Galway County area on approaches to the Galway City area, which would reduce cross-boundary private vehicle trips and contribute to sustainable transport.

Chief Executive's Recommendation:

See Recommendation No.6.

Ms. Loughnane explained that the CE Recommendation was per OPR Recommendation No. 6 which refers to tiered approach and the Members had already agreed to that (Page 27 – Appendix A).

Already dealt with under OPR Recommendation No. 6. Noted by the Members.

OBSERVATION 6 – AIRPORT SITE

Ms. Loughnane advised that the next Observation from OPR to be considered was Observation 6 – Airport Site.

The Planning Authority is requested to remove the vision document for the Airport site from the development plan and publish, or make it available, outside of the statutory development plan. This will avoid the plan dating as work progresses on the masterplan in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

In this regard, the planning authority is requested to amend policy EL 4 to clearly indicate that the future masterplan for the area, required under RPO 3.6.6, will be prepared in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and in particular the NTA, TII and Galway City Council in order to ensure that future development at that site promotes sustainable travel patterns.

This is necessary to ensure that the masterplan is based upon sustainable settlement and transport strategies required under section 10(2)(n) of the Act and can be anticipated to help the planning authority to secure a reduction in energy use and in GHG emissions.

Chief Executive's Response:

Ms. Loughnane then went through Chief Executive's Response. She advised the Airport is jointly owned by Galway County Council and Galway City Council. A detailed analysis of the former Galway Airport site has been completed. The framework plan examines the potential business and technological innovation prospects which includes a vision for the redevelopment of the site. At this stage the purpose of the document is to set out a high-level vision for the site with an overall approach and development actions which will give an indication of the development potential that is envisaged at this location. The vision document is a high-level initial placeholder to stimulate interest, with the expectation that a detailed and strategic masterplan will be carried out in due course, in close collaboration with key stakeholders including Galway City Council. It is considered prudent that this vision document remains at the end of **Chapter 5 Economic Development, Enterprise and Retail Development**. When the Masterplan is prepared, in close consultation with stakeholders such as IDA, NTA, TII and Galway City Council, it is considered that a variation to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 will be carried out and the vision document will be superseded and replaced with the Masterplan.

It is considered that policy objective **EL4 Former Galway Airport** should be amended as follows:

Chief Executive's Recommendation:

Ms. Loughnane then went through Chief Executive's Recommendation.

Amend Policy Objective EL4 Former Galway Airport as follows:

EL4 Masterplan for the Former Galway Airport Site

Galway County Council and Galway City Council will prepare a masterplan for the Former Galway Airport Site in consultation with all relevant stakeholders including the NTA, TII and Irish Water. The masterplan will support the development of these lands at the Former Galway Airport site as an employment campus for innovation, Business and Technology. Including The role of emerging areas such as food and the creative industry as well as and green and agri-technology will also be considered as part of this masterplanning process with a view and to encouraging the development of clusters of complementary businesses at this location. This will also support the location of businesses that are linked to the multi-national companies but which cannot be accommodated within the IDA lands.

Cllr. D. Connolly stated that he had no difficulty with this but suggested that the emphasis may be on developing lands in and around Galway City for industry but that didn't mean that prime sites around the county should be forgotten. He

suggested that the old St. Brigid's Psychiatric Hospital site on 120 acres, was one that should be under consideration and was ideal for industrial development given its central location. He stated that he was concerned that they were putting too much focus in one area to the detriment of other peripheral areas like Ballinasloe and Connemara and it was important to focus on the County as a whole whilst also considering this aspect of the plan.

Cllr. Carroll agreed with CE Response and welcomed the fact that a Master Plan would replace the Vision Document. Cllr. M. Connolly queried if a Material Contravention would be required to the Plan when the Master Plan was in place and also queried if they were phasing out any possibility of this campus being a small airport at any time in the future. Cllr. Cronnelly stated there was no mention of aviation in policy objective and suggested that word aviation be included in it.

Ms. Loughnane referring to Cllr. D. Connolly's comments regarding St. Brigid's Campus, advised that the Ballinasloe LAP was currently under review and this site was included as an Opportunity Site which will highlight the portfolio for that site. She stated that they were working towards all the Key Towns which have all their own roles within the development of the county. In reply to Cllr. M. Connolly's query, she advised that the Master Plan would be a much more detailed document and a variation would be required to include it in the County Development Plan. She explained that when the Master Plan was up for discussion and engagement with all stakeholders, it would include discussion around all the development sectors. In response to Cllr. Cronnelly's proposal, Ms. Loughnane explained that this would be teased out when the Master Plan was being prepared. Cllr. Cronnelly proposed that the word "aviation" is included in Policy Objective EL4 Former Galway Airport Site after Business and Technology.

Cllr. Cuddy stated he couldn't understand why there was an emphasis on putting in a food industrial hub at this location when there was already one in Athenry. He queried if Galway Flying Club would be included in the discussions when the Master Plan was being prepared. He stated that there was a necessity to have this runway preserved for the use of the people of Galway which would be for the benefit of the people of Galway. Cllr. Charity concurred with Cllr. Cuddy's comments. He stated that it was very important that this site was maintained not only for the Flying Club but for all good development for Galway City and County. He also supported Cllr. Cronnelly's proposal to include aviation in wording of Policy Objective EL4. Cllr. Hoade supported previous speakers and queried if all currently using the site, in particular Galway Flying Club, would be included in consultation process.

Ms. Loughnane explained that the Master Plan will include every stakeholder and they will be afforded the opportunity to take part in the whole process. She stated that the Members will be informed of every stage of Master Plan process. Mr. Owens stated that the CE Recommendation was merely to make a provision to allow for the making of a Master Plan to be prepared. He stated that following on from this, there

would be a consultation process that would be central to the development of the Master Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cronnelly, seconded by Cllr. Charity it was agreed to add word “aviation” to wording in Policy Objective EL4 Former Galway Airport. This was agreed by Members.

RECOMMENDATION 12 - JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Ms. Loughnane advised that the next Recommendation from OPR to be considered was Recommendation 12 – Joint Retail Strategy.

Having regard to the provisions of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines for Planning Authorities Retail Planning, 2012, and in particular paragraph 3.5 ‘Joint or Multi-Authority Retail Strategies’, and retail strategy for the MASP set out at section 3.6 of the RSES, the planning authority is required to review Policy RET 3 and associated retail policies to include additional policy objectives in the draft Plan to:

- (i) address mechanisms and deliverable timelines to ensure that the Joint or Multi-Authority Retail Strategy for the Galway Metropolitan Area will be undertaken with adjoining relevant authorities, and
- (ii) appropriately restrict further retail provision which should be considered as part of the Joint Retail Strategy until such time as that Strategy is prepared.

Chief Executive’s Response:

Ms. Loughnane then went through the Chief Executive’s Response.

- (i) Galway County Council have engaged with Galway City Council throughout the process of the drafting of the new Draft County Development Plan and there has been a number of meetings with our city counterparts at both Management and Technical level during this process. As part of the public consultation process and the drafting of the CE report on the submissions, Galway County Council met with Galway City Council in recent weeks and agreed a mechanism for future engagement. The two councils have also agreed a timeframe to engage on and prepare a Joint Retail Strategy. This work will commence in early 2022 and will dovetail with both the County Development Plan and the Draft City Development Plan. It is considered that the wording of policy objective RET3 can be amended to reflect this.
- (ii) The concern regarding the restriction of further retail is noted, however it should be considered that there is close collaboration between the two Councils and retail developments permitted by Galway County Council have not compromised the retail hierarchy between the city and county.

Chief Executive’s Recommendation:

Ms. Loughnane then went through the Chief Executive Recommendation.

- (i) Amend Policy Objective RET3 as follows:

RET 3 Joint Retail Strategy

It is a policy objective of the Planning Authority to work with Galway City Council to prepare a joint retail strategy as per the requirement under Section 3.5 of the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012). A Joint Local Authority Working Group will be set up to prepare and deliver a Joint Retail Strategy for the Galway

Metropolitan Area. The Joint Retail Strategy which will identify requirements for further retail will be completed within 1 year of the adoption of the County Development Plan and will be adopted by way of variation to this Plan.

(ii) No Change.

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

Cllr. Cuddy stated that he understood that City Council were currently reviewing their Development Plan which would not come into effect until 2023 and queried if the County Council had to wait for the City Council to approve their Plan before the preparation of a joint retail strategy. Ms. Loughnane explained that there was an agreed mechanism to do a Joint Strategy and explained if Galway County Development Plan was adopted before Galway City Council Plan, a variation could be done to Plan so that County Plan was not held up.

OBSERVATION 7 – RETAIL

Ms. Loughnane advised that the next Observation from OPR to be considered was Observation 7 - Retail.

The planning authority is requested to incorporate the following amendments to the retail policy to ensure consistency with the Section 28, Retail Planning Guidelines:

- (i) Table 5.5. should clearly stipulate that level 1 of the retail hierarchy, Galway City, refers to the City Council's functional area and core retail area therein. Thereby making it clear that other areas in the MASP, within the county's function area are not considered to be level 1 within the retail hierarchy; and
- (ii) Table 5.5. should clearly indicate the intended retail role and the retail functions that will be provided by the settlements of Baile Chláir, Bearnna, Oranmore and future growth areas of Garraun and Briarhill.

Chief Executive's Response:

It is considered warranted to amend Table 5.5 as requested.

Chief Executive's Recommendation:

Chapter 15 Development Management Standards

Amend the Table 5.5 as follows:

Level / Retail Function	Centre
Level 1	Galway City (within Galway City Council's functional area and core retail area)
Level 2 District Centre	
Level 3 District / Sub County Towns	Ballinasloe Tuam Athenry Gort Loughrea
Level 4 Neighbourhood Centre	Baile Chláir Bearna Oranmore Garraun Briarhill
Level 5 Small Town/village centre/Rural Area	Clifden Maigh Cuilinn Oughterard Portumna Headford An Cheathrú Rua An Spidéal Ballygar Dunmore Glenamaddy Kinvara Moylough

Recommended as per retail hierarchy in County – it was amending table in accordance with Retail Planning Guidelines.

CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by Members.

Cllr. Charity queried why they were amending and adding towns when OPR didn't recommend this. Ms. Loughnane explained that it was to align settlement strategy as part of the County Development Plan. She stated that it was tidied it up so that it correlated with our Settlement Strategy.

OBSERVATION 8 – SEVESO SITES

Ms. Loughnane advised that the next Observation from OPR to be considered was Observation 8 – Seveso Sites.

The planning authority is requested to clarify in section 7.9.5 of the plan the relevant Health and Safety consultation radii associated with the two Seveso sites located in the county and ensure that these are appropriately mapped within the plan.

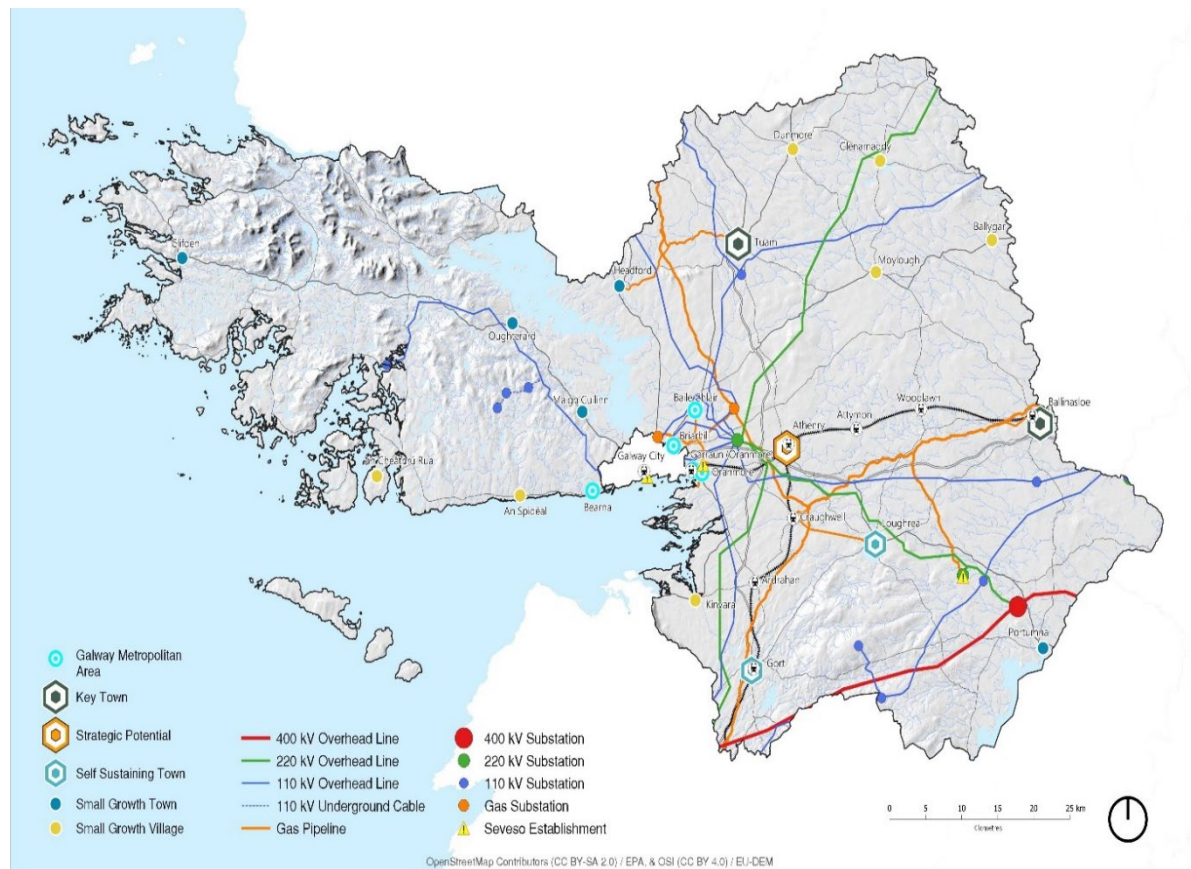
Ms. Loughnane read the CE Response & Recommendation as follows:

Chief Executive's Response:

It is noted that the two Seveso Sites have not been mapped in **Chapter 7 Infrastructure, Utilities and Environmental Protection**. It is considered appropriate that they would be mapped accordingly.

Chief Executive's Recommendation:

Amend Map to include Seveso Sites.



CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed by Members.

RECOMMENDATION 13 – MODAL SHIFT TARGETS

Mr. Dunne advised that the next Recommendation from OPR to be considered was Recommendation 13 – Modal Shift Targets.

In order to ensure the effective planning, implementation and monitoring of the development plan requirements under section 10(2)(n) of the Act, the planning authority is required, in consultation with the NTA (and TII), as appropriate, to:

- (i) supplement the plan's transport and movement policies by including baseline figures for modal share for the overall county to as well as baseline details and targets for settlements. It is recommended that this could best be provided at individual settlement level for the larger settlements, and at aggregate level for tier 6 and 7 settlements and open countryside, of the settlement hierarchy; and
- (ii) provide an effective monitoring regime for the implementation of the planning authority's sustainable transport strategy and the modal share targets in particular.

Chief Executive's Response:

Mr. Dunne went through the Chief Executive Response & Recommendation as follows:

(i) The GCTPS provides baseline modal data for identified settlements within the County as part of the Corridor technical notes included at Appendix C of the main report. Over-arching baseline mode shares for the County as a whole are also set out within Section 4.7 of the main report.

With regard to future mode shares and monitoring, the setting of modal targets and the prediction of "real world" mode shift activity remains challenging. The draft strategy has sought not to set location-specific mode targets for future mode use as it is not possible at a County level to predict the exact degree of change which would occur as a result of particular improvements in individual settlements. Rather, it is proposed that changes in mode shares for particular journeys (such as those between the two Key Towns including Ballinasloe, Tuam, Strategic Potential of Athenry, Urban Centres of Loughrea and Gort and Galway City) should be examined as part of wider CDP monitoring activities, and compared to the type and extent of GCTPS measures which have been implemented, so that correlation between mode share changes and implementation of measures can be estimated. This process would also allow for the identification of external factors (such as economic change) which have a bearing on travel behaviour.

(ii) It is noted that monitoring of local strategies (Local Area Plans and Local Transport Plans-Level 2-4) will provide the basis for examination of mode choice changes at settlement level. The Ballinasloe Local Area Plan currently on Draft Display (21st of October 2021) is accompanied by a Local Transport Plan (LTP) and it is envisaged that the Tuam Local Area Plan will also be on display in Quarter 1 of 2022, which will also be accompanied by a Local Transport Plan. In relation to the other towns in Tiers 3-4 it would also be expected that these Local Area Plans will be on display by mid-2022 with Local Transport Plans or equivalent plans for these settlements.

Chief Executive's Recommendation:

No change.

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 and public transport.

Mr. Dunne stated that they have looked at this motion and the CE Response clearly outlines the future and what was intended to do in the Strategy. He explained that the CDP at this time was the High-Level Document. He stated that the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Ballinasloe contained significant measures and individual Local Area Plans would be prepared for Ballinasloe, Tuam, Loughrea, Athenry and Gort in the coming year. He suggested that the LTP was the most appropriate location for this proposal.

In reply to Cllr. M. Connolly's query regarding the GCTPS, Mr. Dunne explained that the Members voted on the boundary for Rural Housing Need only and this did not refer to Transport Strategy. Mr. Dunne explained that the Galway County Transport Strategy was on public display and that this was running concurrently with County Development Plan. He said that their vote would not impact on Transport Strategy and the measures here were to do with Transport Strategy in its totality. He explained that it wouldn't have an impact on further recommendations going forward.

Cllr. McKinstry agreed to withdraw this motion and asked to have his comments noted in the Minutes.

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

OBSERVATION 9 – GALWAY COUNTY TRANSPORT PLANNING STRATEGY (GCTPS)

Mr. Dunne advised that the next Observation from OPR to be considered was Observation 9 – Galway County Transport Planning Strategy.

The planning authority is requested to review and update the Galway County Transport Planning Strategy (GCTPS) and associated policies in transport and movement chapter and settlement plans to ensure consistency with the Galway Transport Strategy

Mr. Dunne went through Chief Executive's Response & Recommendation.

Chief Executive's Response:

The preparation of the GCTPS has been undertaken with due regard to the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS). Paragraphs 3.4.5 to 3.4.11 of the GCTPS set out the areas of policy consistency between the GTS and the principles which underpin the GCTPS itself. Specifically, it is stated that the GCTPS will support and enhance the objectives and measures contained in the GTS by:

- Supporting key measures within the GTS that impact upon movement and travel patterns within the County and ensure further interventions taken forward are complementary to these, where appropriate.

- Promoting sustainable travel options between identified key origins and destinations within the County for trips to and from Galway City; and
- Considering suitability for Park & Ride site and scheme provision within the county, tying to Galway City Council proposals.

The application of assessment methodologies which make use of data from the Western Regional Model (WRM) alongside Census and other local data sources has ensured that the major “corridors” for movement between Galway City and Galway County have been appraised, and that emphasis has been placed on improving access by sustainable modes of travel and reducing reliance on private car trips. This focus directly aligns with the GTS’s stated aims, and particularly its overarching vision, which is stated as follows:

‘To address the current and future transport needs of the city, a shift is needed towards sustainable travel, reducing the dependence on the private car and taking action to make Galway more accessible and connected, improving the public realm and generally enhancing quality of life for all’.

The GCTPS also makes specific reference to the proposals for the Galway Metropolitan Area (MASP) and the proposed measures for corridors which link to Galway City via the MASP have been designed to be compatible with the aims and objectives of the GTS. The proposed developments within the MASP which form part of the emerging Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 will be expected to play their part in establishing high quality active travel and sustainable travel infrastructure, to support wider measures on the connecting corridors to increase uptake of travel by sustainable modes. The GCTPS also specifically includes commitments to investigate appropriate expansions to Park and Ride facilities within the Galway County area on approaches to the Galway City area, which would reduce cross-boundary private vehicle trips and contribute directly to the achievement of the overarching vision of the GTS.

Upon review of the GCTPS, and in light of the myriad of strategies/studies that are ongoing and commencing in Q1 of 2022, it is considered that there should be a slight terminology change to the document and it should be referred to as Study rather than Strategy.

Chief Executive’s Recommendation:

Change all references to **Galway County Transport and Planning Strategy** to **Galway County Transport and Planning Study**

Cllr. McKinstry submitted the following motion:

As part of the GCTPS, the Council commits to investigate Park & Ride facilities on within the Galway County area and on approaches to Galway City.

Mr. Dunne advised that there was a policy objective in Chapter 6 and within Galway Transport Strategy and advised that it was not necessary to specifically reference it there. Mr. Dunne explained that there was a policy objective in Chapter 5 which was very similar to this motion and he suggested that there wasn’t a need to amend the policy objective. Cllr. McClearn stated that while he believed that the establishment of a park-and-ride culture was to be supported, he could not visualize the City

Council rowing in when it came to financially supporting such an initiative. He suggested that a park-and-ride facility would affect their revenue when it comes to parking charges and suggested that Galway City Council would never agree to Park and Ride Facilities. Ms. Loughnane advised that Galway City Council would be carrying a review of GTS in 2022 and suggested that they would be encouraging park-and-ride in order to get people in from a business point of view. She stated that it is envisaged that there would be less and less parking in the city which would inevitably lead to the city being more dependent on park-and-ride facilities. She advised that there was a policy objective in Chapter 6 and suggested that if Members wanted to amend it there, it may be more effective. This was agreed by Cllr. McClearn. In response to Cllr. Kinane's query, Ms. Loughnane stated that in order to give it its status in Chapter 6, Cllr. McKinstry's motion could be incorporated into it and also strengthen the wording in Chapter 6.

Mr. Dunne requested the Members to consider changing the word strategy to study for the reasons outlined above. This was agreed by the Members.

CE Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed by Members.

OBSERVATION 10 – LOUGHREA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Dunne advised that the next Observation from OPR to be considered was Observation 10 – Loughrea Rail Infrastructure.

The planning authority is requested to revise the wording of policy PT8 in respect to Loughrea rail infrastructure, to identify that:

- (i) in the first instance, an appropriate feasibility and consultation exercise will be undertaken with the relevant stakeholders (including TII and NTA); and
- (ii) clearly state that the time horizon, if deemed feasible and appropriate, any such infrastructure project will be long term and beyond the life of the plan and the current RSES for the NWRA.

Mr. Dunne read the CE Response & Recommendation as follows:

Chief Executive's Response:

It should be noted that policy objective **PT8 Loughrea Rail Infrastructure** was proposed by the Elected Members at the Plenary Council meeting in May 2021. It was considered that this policy objective was premature, and the officials conveyed this. With the recent publication of the review of the National Development Plan and projects listed therein, the Loughrea Rail Infrastructure is not included. This project is not listed in the RSES. Therefore, it is considered that this Policy Objective would be removed from **Chapter 6 Transport and Movement**.

Chief Executive's Recommendation:

Remove Policy Objective PT8.

PT 8 Loughrea Rail Infrastructure

~~To support the addition of Loughrea to the Western Rail Corridor and to plan for the addition of a commuter route from Loughrea to Galway by linking Loughrea to either Attymon or Athenry train station to create a commuter tributary to Galway.~~

Cllrs. Hoade and Finnerty submitted the following Motion:

I propose to insert – that we examine Policy objective PT8 and consider Loughrea Rail Infrastructure.

Cllr. Killilea stated that he was asking Members to consider allowing this to go in as a policy objective in new Plan and at least to aspire to look for this while acknowledging that it was funding dependent. Cllr. Curley stated that if a Feasibility Study was prepared for this proposal, it would come back with a very strong case. Mr. Dunne outlined that the Loughrea Rail Infrastructure was not included the NPF and RSES and therefore it is not considered appropriate to include it in the County Development Plan. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that he had no problem putting it in as an objective. He stated that they would have to promote this policy if they were serious about climate change and need to have a vision for rail transport.

Mr. Dunne asked for the proposed wording for clarity purposes. Cllr. Killilea stated that it was to reflect policy already there and to reinstate it there. This was agreed by Members.

The meeting was adjourned until Monday, 20th December 2021 to commence at 11.00 a.m.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:  _____

Date: _____ **28/03/2022** _____