

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
LOUGHREA HELD AT
LOUGHREA COUNCIL OFFICES
ON 15th JULY 2024 AT 10.00 am**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Kinane

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Canning, Cllr. Curley, Cllr. Donohue, Cllr. Maher, Cllr. McClearn

BAILL OIFIGIGH: Liam Hanrahan, D.O.S., Economic Development & Planning, Valarie Loughnane - Senior Planner, Rachel Lowe – Senior Engineer, Liam Ward - Executive Planner, Ciara Cosgrave - Executive Planner, Rachel Dowd – Assistant Planner, Umut OCalan - Assistant Planner, Anne Power - Senior Staff Officer, Sam Keady – Clerical Officer.

ON-LINE: Cllr. Kelly

AS LATHAIR: Cllr. Finnerty, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Murphy

1. To discuss the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030 Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Material Alterations (Report circulated on 06/06/24 & 21/06/24) in accordance with the provisions outlined in Section 20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and subsequently consider the proposal to make, amend or revoke the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030

Cllr. Kinane welcomed all to Meeting to discuss the proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Local Area Plan for Loughrea.

She advised it was proposed to adjourn the Meeting for 10 minutes to allow time to amend a Motion going before the Meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members it was agreed to adjourn the Meeting for 10 minutes.

The Meeting resumed at 10.20 a.m.

Ms. Loughnane began proceedings by stating that they had a very useful Workshop which was held on 01/07/2024 which she hoped was beneficial to the Members and were now at the final stage of the Loughrea Local Area Plan process. She stated that the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030 went on public display from Monday

24th November 2023 until Monday 15th January 2024. The CE Report was circulated to the Elected Members on 26th February 2024. The Elected Members of the Loughrea Municipal District held a Special Meeting on the 26th March 2024 and agreed to Material Alterations to the Local Area Plan, thereby necessitating a further public display period. A copy of the proposed Material Alterations and associated environmental reports, were available for inspection from 15th April – 13th May 2024. During the public consultation period, 38 no. submissions were received, which are listed on Pages 5/6 of the CE Report. She asked the Members to note the 2-page document that was circulated prior to commencement of Meeting of submissions that were not circulated with original report. The full contents of each submission have been considered in the preparation of the CE Report. She stated that the Members would be asked to either accept or reject the recommendations of the Executive. If rejected, a motion must be submitted by the Members. She then noted that dependent on the outcomes of the Members regarding the Office of the Planning Regulator's (OPR) recommendations, that a Report must be prepared within 5 no. working days to be sent to the OPR explaining the Councillors' rationale for any recommendations made by the OPR which were subsequently rejected by the Members. She stated that following the OPR's receipt of that Report, that it was possible that there may be a Draft Ministerial Direction issued on foot of the OPR's Report to the Minister regarding these rejections. She then stated that should it be the case that a Draft Ministerial Direction were to be issued, that the Draft Direction must be put on public display for public consultation. She stated that any parts of the Local Area Plan that were not subject to a Ministerial Direction, in the instance that such a direction was to be issued, would come into effect six weeks following the ratification of the resolution to adopt the Local Area Plan today.

She advised that the sequence of the Report would be examination of the OPR's submission firstly, followed by those made by Prescribed Authorities, followed by other submissions received from the General Public, making for 38 submissions received in total.

Ms. Loughnane noted that the Elected Members had received a copy of the CE's Report and received a link to view the full submissions on-line at consult.galway.ie. On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Canning it was agreed by the Members that the CE Report on the submissions received on Material Alterations to the Draft Loughrea LAP 2024-2030 were taken as read.

Ms. Loughnane then commenced discussions on the CE Report. She stated that the first submission to be discussed was from OPR which includes one Recommendation and one Observation under Two Themes.

GLW-C97-35 – OFFICE OF PLANNING REGULATOR

Ms. Loughnane went through Recommendation 1 – Lands Zoned for Community Facilities Uses and read CE Response and Recommendation.

1. Land Use Zoning for Community Facilities Uses

The OPR generally welcomes the provision of lands zoned Community Facilities, as well as the general approach that has been taken to education, social and community amenities as part of the Draft LAP. The OPR welcomes the inclusion of MA9 which provides an additional site that can provide for the delivery of additional school facilities. Also, the combination of MA39 and MA40 is welcomed as the associated site can provide accommodation for the elderly as well as providing a Swimming Pool facility for the Town.

The OPR, however, has concerns in relation to the proposed Material Alterations MA35, MA36 and MA37 which provide for the zoning of land for Community Facilities to the north of the town as well as an objective to encourage the provision of sports facilities on the site zoned MA35. The location of these lands is outside the Settlement Boundary and beyond the bypass for the Town, it is considered that the location of these sites is not consistent with compact growth or the sequential approach to zoning. As such, MA35, MA36 and MA37 are contrary to the intentions of NSO 1 of the NPF which seeks to provide compact and connected settlements.

The OPR has reviewed the published Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment documents that accompany the proposed Material Alteration. The SEA document highlights a number of similar issues with MA35 and MA37, including the following;

- They are contrary to sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society;
- They are contrary to meeting carbon emissions reduction targets; and
- They would negatively impact on the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure.

The SEA, as well as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, also noted that a portion of the MA35 site overlaps with Flood Zone A and B and would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Guidelines.

As such the OPR considers the subject land unsuitable for the proposed land use zoning and as such, recommends that MA35, MA36 and MA37 should not be adopted.

The OPR also notes that the lands subject to these proposed Material Alterations have no active travel connections, with no connections planned either as part of the LAP or the LTP. The nearest proposed Active Travel route is WC24, which does not propose to cross the N65. The proposed Material Alterations, including the amended LTP, provide no details for how this land will be accessed and, as such, it is unclear how the lands can be considered appropriate for zoning. This concern was also raised by Transport Infrastructure Ireland as part of its submission on the Material Alteration.

The zoning of the lands associated with MA35 and MA37 is inconsistent with LSST 54 of the Draft LAP, as well as policy objectives PM4, PM6, GCTPS4, WC1 and WC4 of the Development Plan which seek to promote a modal shift to sustainable transport

options as well as ensuring that new developments are connected to the active travel network. These Development Plan policy objectives are included in response to Section 10(2)(n) of the Act and the proposed zonings of these lands are contrary to the approach outlined in the Development Plan. The approach is also inconsistent with RPO 6.30, which outlines that planning at a local level should encourage services being within walking and cycling distance of local services. Given the location of the proposed lands on the opposite side of a national route from the town with no existing or proposed active travel connections, the proposed lands are not consistent with the approach outlined in these policies and objectives.

In relation to climate change, it is noted that with MA35 and MA37 proposed to be located outside the CSO settlement boundary and adjacent to a National Route, it is likely that if the lands were developed it would lead to an increase in car-based trips. Such an approach is contrary to the Climate Action Plan as empowered by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, which seeks to reduce car-based trips and specifically reduce vehicle kilometres by 20 percent. The Climate Action Plan also outlines the role of the local authority. In this regard, it is noted that local authorities ‘...are particularly critical to implementation and delivery in transport, owing especially to their role in the spatial and land use planning system...’. The OPR considers that the subject Material Alterations are not consistent with the approach outlined in the Climate Action Plan and are contrary to NPO 54 which seeks to integrate climate action into the planning system.

The lands associated with both MA35 and MA37 are adjacent to the N65 as well as the Monearmore Roundabout, with this location likely to increase the use of private cars if the lands are developed. In this respect, section 2.4 and section 2.7 of the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) states that development adjacent to national roads or their junctions should be avoided. Furthermore, these sections of the guidelines also outline that Planning Authorities should exercise particular care when providing zonings beside junctions along National Routes and that potentially compromising the capacity and efficiency of the National Road/associated junctions should be avoided.

As noted above there is not sufficient evidence provided with this proposed Material Alteration to consider that the proposed zoning is consistent with these guidelines. It is also considered that the location of this site is inconsistent with RPO 6.5 and policy objective NR.1 of the Development Plan, which seeks to protect the capacity and safety of National Roads. Further to this, the proposed sites could also impact on the safety and capacity of the R350, therefore, the development of this site is also inconsistent with NNR2 of the Development Plan.

The OPR has reviewed the Chief Executive’s Report which recommended that the lands associated with MA35 and MA37 should not be zoned. The Chief Executive’s Report accepted the need for a proposed sports facility, however, the report recommended that an alternative site be zoned to achieve this purpose. The OPR concurs with the findings of the Chief Executive’s Report that the lands proposed to

be zoned as part of MA35 and MA37 are inappropriate and that an alternative site, outlined in the Chief Executive's Report, is more appropriate. It is considered that a comprehensive review would be required before identifying a site for a sports facility. As such, the proposed material alterations and the submission associated with these lands do not provide sufficient evidence to justify these lands.

MA Recommendation 1 – Lands Zoned for Community Facilities Uses

Having regard to the proposed zoning of community facilities land and the need for sustainable growth of compact development which prioritises travel by walking and cycling, to protect the capacity and safety of national roads, and to avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, and in particular to:

- policy objectives NR.1 PM4, PM6, GCTPS4, WC1 & WC4 of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028;
- RPO 6.5 and RPO 6.30;
- the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report on the material alterations and the draft Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030 (the LAP);
- policy objective LSST 54 of the draft LAP;
- section 2.4 and 2.7 of the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012);
- the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009);
- the Climate Action Plan 2024 as empowered by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended,

the planning authority is required to make the LAP without the following Material:

Alterations:

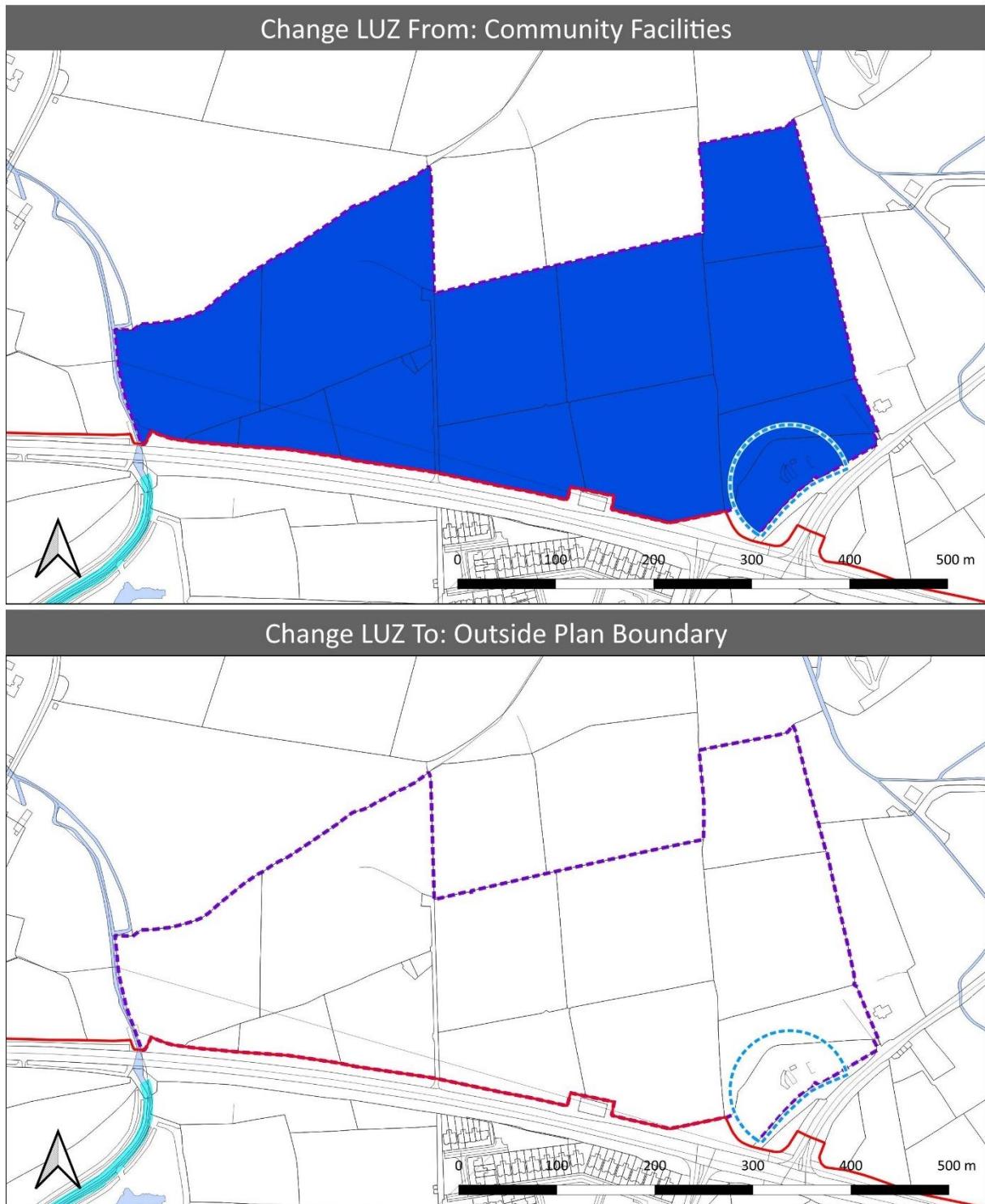
- (i) MA35 – Rezone lands from Outside the Settlement Boundary to Community Facilities;
- (ii) MA36 – New Policy Objective LSST 86; and
- (iii) MA37 - Rezone lands from Outside the Settlement Boundary to Community Facilities.

Chief Executive's Response

The content of the submission is noted. The Planning Authority notes the view of the OPR with regards to MA35, MA36 and MA37. The lands subject to these Material Alterations should revert as per the Draft Loughrea LAP 2024 – 2030 and omit Policy Objective LSST 68.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

(i) **MA35:** Revert to the provisions of the Draft Loughrea LAP where these lands were not zoned.



(ii) **MA36:** Omit Policy Objective LSST 68 Reserve the lands for Sport, Recreation and Community Development.

~~LSST 68 Reserve the lands for Sport, Recreation and Community Development.~~

~~It is a Policy Objective of Galway County Council to reserve the lands for Sport, Community and Recreational Opportunities for the Town of Loughrea and its Hinterlands.~~

It was agreed to take MA35 & MA36 together as they both relate to Community Facilities. Ms. Loughnane advised that there were two very similar motions submitted in relation to this. It was agreed to bring up Cllr. Curley's motion firstly.

I, Cllr. Curley wish to propose the following Motion:

To reject the Chief Executive's recommendation and to maintain the zoning of Community Facilities as per MA 35, as well as retaining the policy objective in MA 36.

Reasoning:

The Town of Loughrea, Co Galway has a nationally unique lack of sporting and recreational facilities.

There is just one playing pitch within the entire town boundary of Loughrea, a town with over 6,200 people expected to rise to 8,500 by 2029.

This is a GAA pitch which is rightly monopolised by the local Hurling Club. There is no pitch available to the Gaelic Football, Junior Hurling and Camogie Clubs, ladies and men's with approaching 2,000 members. There is no soccer pitch in the town. The local clubs travel to neighbouring parishes well outside the town to access facilities, regularly forfeiting home advantage.

Some of our local hockey players have to make round trips of over 20km to their nearest hockey pitch, which is located in the very rural parish of Leitrim.

All of this means that thousands of kilometres are unnecessarily being driven by cars on a weekly basis to access facilities which could be located centrally to the north of the town at the proposed more central location.

The town is one of the fastest growing in the West of Ireland. Its urban population is forecast to grow from 6,300 to 8,500 over the next five years with similar growth expected in the Loughrea Rural District. We have a crisis where our youth, as deserving as any, cannot enjoy what is available in all other towns of similar size and smaller across the island of Ireland, north & south.

There is simply no other option in terms of where these much needed facilities might be located in one clustered location with multi-use, multi-games facilities.

In summary, the logic of situating the Sports Facilities as proposed is as follows:

- there is no other location available

- a local community development group with significant expertise have agreement to buy sufficient lands (at agricultural lands price) and
- the carbon footprint is reduced for this overall activity due to the close proximity of the local population.

The OPR have argued that locating the proposed facilities at the proposed location will lead to a likely increase in car journeys, the amount of car kilometres driven and an increase in carbon emissions.

However, they haven't taken into consideration the current day-to-day situation on the ground where all of the necessary facilities are being accessed far further out of Loughrea town than the proposed location.

As will be shown, the amount of car kilometres driven can be reduced by 1.5 million per year, which would mean a reduction of over 600 metric tonnes of carbon, by delivering these facilities at this far more central location than anything currently available to over a dozen sporting organisations.

Inputs / Response to Observations from Government Bodies

1. Sports and Recreational Needs of the Loughrea Community

Loughrea, being the third largest town in County Galway, has experienced significant population growth in the last two decades. The sports facilities audit conducted during the preparation of the previous submission found that there are no existing or pipeline facilities currently serving the area of Loughrea that deliver on the key objectives of LSCDG's strategy. Existing services lack the capacity to meet current and future demand. The Loughrea Clubs Survey conducted by LSCDG (a copy of which can be found in Table 1) gives us an insight into the dearth of sports facilities in Loughrea. The current offering of community and sports facilities in Loughrea are sporadically located and are no longer fit for purpose. At present there is only one public pitch located in the town – St Brendan's Hurling Pitch. Hence, the existing sports and recreation facilities are under pressure failing to meet the demands of the rising population which creates a dire need for the provision of new sports facilities.

2. Pedestrian Underpass

From CEO Report

OPR - MA35 is contrary to sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society have no active travel connections, with no connections planned either as part of the LAP or the LTP. The nearest proposed Active Travel route is WC24, which does not propose to cross the N65.

TII failed to recognise potential of an underpass to avoid interference with National route. There is no vehicular access proposed off the N65, vehicular access would be from Local Road, L4196. Provision of an underpass will connect directly to proposed Council WC24 LTP that would provide access to the main residential

area in Loughrea at Caheronaun and further connectivity to the rest of the settlement through the LA's LTP.

3. Reduction of Carbon Emissions

From CEO Report

SEA - MA35 is contrary to sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society;

SEA - MA35 is contrary to meeting carbon emissions reduction targets

CEO Report failed to acknowledge the current town clubs members travel to sports facilities far beyond the town settlement. Using the users survey the LSCDG recognised that the proposed MA35 and MA36 development will reduce the annual travel reduction of 1,500,000km (being an equivalent of 600 metric tonnes of carbon per year) (see Table 2).

Additionally, the proposed development is at a size that will provide a clustered sports facility.

4. Proposed Alternative Sites

From CEO Report

TII - Chief Executives Recommendation identifies a suitable alternative location for 'Community Facilities' zoning at Gorteenapheebera, Loughrea, which has the benefit of being served by the non-national road network, proximate to the town and residential areas and with the potential to be served by active travel.

While the CEO Report recognised the need for sporting facilities within the town, the lands referenced at Gorteenapheebera, proposed as community facilities, are currently partially outside the town boundary and are not available as they are privately owned. They are partially currently zoned as Business & Enterprise thus commanding industrial commercial values. In addition, these lands are further from large residential areas of the settlement. No other alternative site can provide a clustered multi use sports community facility.

5. Flood Zones A & B

It is not envisaged that any development will occur on or near the The Flood zones identified in the CEO Report. Any future development would involve a flood risk assessment in any event.

Municipal District of Loughrea Meeting – 15th July 2024

TABLE 1 - Current status of field-based sporting facilities available by club

CLUB MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS - LOUGHREA						
Name of club	Name of sport or recreation	Sub-group(s) within the club	Membership 2023	Estimated Membership 2026	Current Pitch Provision	Pitches available to Club
Loughrea Gaelic Football Club	Gaelic Football	Adult Juvenile/Youth	624	780	1 Full Size GAA Grass Pitch	Full Sized GAA Grass Pitch at the Athletics Club Facility X distance from Loughrea
Shamrock's Camogie Club	Camogie	Adult Juvenile/Youth	470	570	2 Full Size GAA Pitch (Sand-Based) Shared with Kilnadeema Leitrim Hurling Club (340 + members). Both outside Loughrea	
Loughrea Rams		Adult Juvenile/Youth	547	700	NONE	Rent Soccer Grass (Sand-Based) Pitches X distance from Loughrea
Loughrea RFC	Rugby	Adult Juvenile/Youth	451	650	1 Full Size Rugby Grass Pitch (Sand-Based) 1 Grass Training Pitch	Rugby Grass (Sand-Based) Pitches
Loughrea Lakers Hockey Club	Hockey	Juvenile/Youth	35	70	NONE	Rent Astro turf pitch (not full size) X distance from Loughrea
St. Brendan's GAA Hurling Club, Loughrea	Hurling	Adult Juvenile/Youth	540	730	1 Full Size GAA Grass Pitch (Sand-Based) 1 Grass Training Pitch, 1 Practice Size Astro Pitch	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP			2667	3500		
Source - LSCDG Survey Completed by Clubs December 2023						

TABLE 2 - Club transport analysis - Loughrea

CLUB TRANSPORT ANALYSIS - Loughrea

This analysis estimates the likely road trips in KM and Carbon footprint of club members to and from current sports & recreational facilities v the new Caheronau facility proposed by the LSCDG.

Club Name	# Members	Participation Rate	# Events	Current Distance Travelled (KM)	New Facilities Distance	Active Weeks	Members Per Journey	Total Current Millage (KM)	Total Proposed Millage (KM)	Proposed Annual Savings (KM)	Savings of Carbon Footprint
Loughrea Soccer Club	510	88%	3	16	3	36	1.2	646,272	121,176	525,096	
Loughrea GAA Football	621	75%	4	20	5	22	1.4	585,514	170,775	414,739	
Loughrea Rugby	300	66%	3	12	5	20	1.1	129,600	49,500	80,100	
Shamrocks Camogie	546	82%	3	25	8	26	1.2	727,545	232,814	494,731	
								2,088,931	574,265	1,514,666	

Average KM Transport SAVED each year by new facilities: 1,514,666

Glossary:

Title	Description
Club Name (As Stated)	n/a
# Members	n/a
Participation Rate	Number of Active Members in Club activities
Events	Average Number of Events per week including Training and Competitive Matches
Activity Locations	Cappatagle, Kilrickle, Kilconieran, Kilnadeema, Killuleagh, Killimordaly, Leitrim, Mullagh, New Inn, Bullaun
Current Distance Travelled	Average Distance Travelled (From Distance Marker) including Training and Competitive Matches to where activities are currently taking place
New Facilities Distance	Average Distance Travelled (From Distance Marker) including Training and Competitive Matches to New Proposed Facilities
Distance Marker	All estimates of travel estimated in KM using Google Maps using An Post Main Street as the Loughrea point of origin
Journey Lengths	All journeys by KM are estimated as return journeys - there and back
Active Weeks	Estimate of number of Events Per Annum based on "Active Weeks" Per Calendar Year
Members Per Journey	Average Number of Members in each transport vehicle
Carbon Footprint	Carbon Output Per Mile Travelled By Average Irish Transport Vehicle
Carbon Footprint per KM	Estimate of 0.28 KG Per KM

Referring to first paragraph on Page 10, Cllr. Curley queried whether OPR would have read submission submitted by KPMG Report which clearly outlines its rationale and claimed that this very detailed survey seems to have been completely disregarded. In response, Ms. Loughnane advised that the Members would be zoning land that does

not have the appropriate infrastructure to provide for its intended development, and further noted the importance of the protection of the nationally significant by-pass infrastructure in place. She stated that the OPR would have gone through everything submitted and their opinion was based on guidelines that were in existence. She advised that from that perspective, TII, NTA & OPR were significantly vested in the protection of that route.

Cllr. Maher advised that he had no issue withdrawing his motion and going ahead with Cllr. Curley's Motion. He stated that it was his desire for the Members to get the community facilities zoning over the line due to the town's lack of sporting facilities. He further added there needed to be positivity rather than negativity in the Report being submitted to OPR. He stated that in his opinion, the alternative lands put forward in initial CE Report were not suitable and suggested there was no possibility of those lands coming up for sale. He stated that this was the best opportunity they had and what was being proposed by the Members was the best approach possible.

Cllr. McClearn pointed out that the Members had been very cautious in their approach/deliberation of the LAP, noting that they had resisted multiple requests for zoning of lands from various interests and did so because they felt it was the right thing to do. He voiced his disappointment that there was no acknowledgment from the OPR in this regard, and derided the OPR's approach to this zoning, since a planning application would be required in any case for such a development. He stated that an overpass/underpass was required for success and surmised that while the NTA outlined concerns about additional car journeys, this proposal would reduce such journeys. He concluded by bemoaning the lack of sporting facilities in the town.

Ms. Loughnane stated her agreement that the Members have been cautious and measured with the Plan thus far which she noted had been reflected in the sole observation and recommendation received from the OPR. She then stated for clarity, that the OPR were responsible for all guidance on planning matters. She stated that everybody was aware of the need for additional community lands in the town. She advised that any decision made contrary to the OPR's recommendation would have to be very well reasoned and needed to be very positive. She highlighted to Members that there was a flood zone on the very western edge of the site and suggested the Members consider the exclusion of that small section of land from the proposed zoning. Cllr. Maher advised that in both motions submitted, it had been highlighted that development would not take place on that section. Ms. Loughnane advised that this should be noted in their reasoning also.

Mr. Hanrahan stated that the fact that there was only one Recommendation and one Observation in the OPR Submission was hugely significant and shows that the OPR has done significant work and analysis and would pay particular attention to the reasoning/rationale being submitted in relation to this zoning. He concurred with Ms. Loughnane's advice regarding the exclusion of the flood zone as this would be an issue of concern to OPR.

A Map was brought up on screen for the benefit of the Members to show the exact location of the flood zone.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Curley, it was agreed to include the following wording in Motion:

“Amend MA35 Map to exclude Flood Zone A & B”.

In response to a query from Cllr. Curley on Active Travel Route WC24, Ms. Loughnane advised that the connection goes out as far as the settlement boundary but does not cross the N65 National Route.

Ms. Loughnane stated that Galway County Council did not want to give false hope on all of the constraints and all the unknown constraints that may lay ahead with the proposed development.

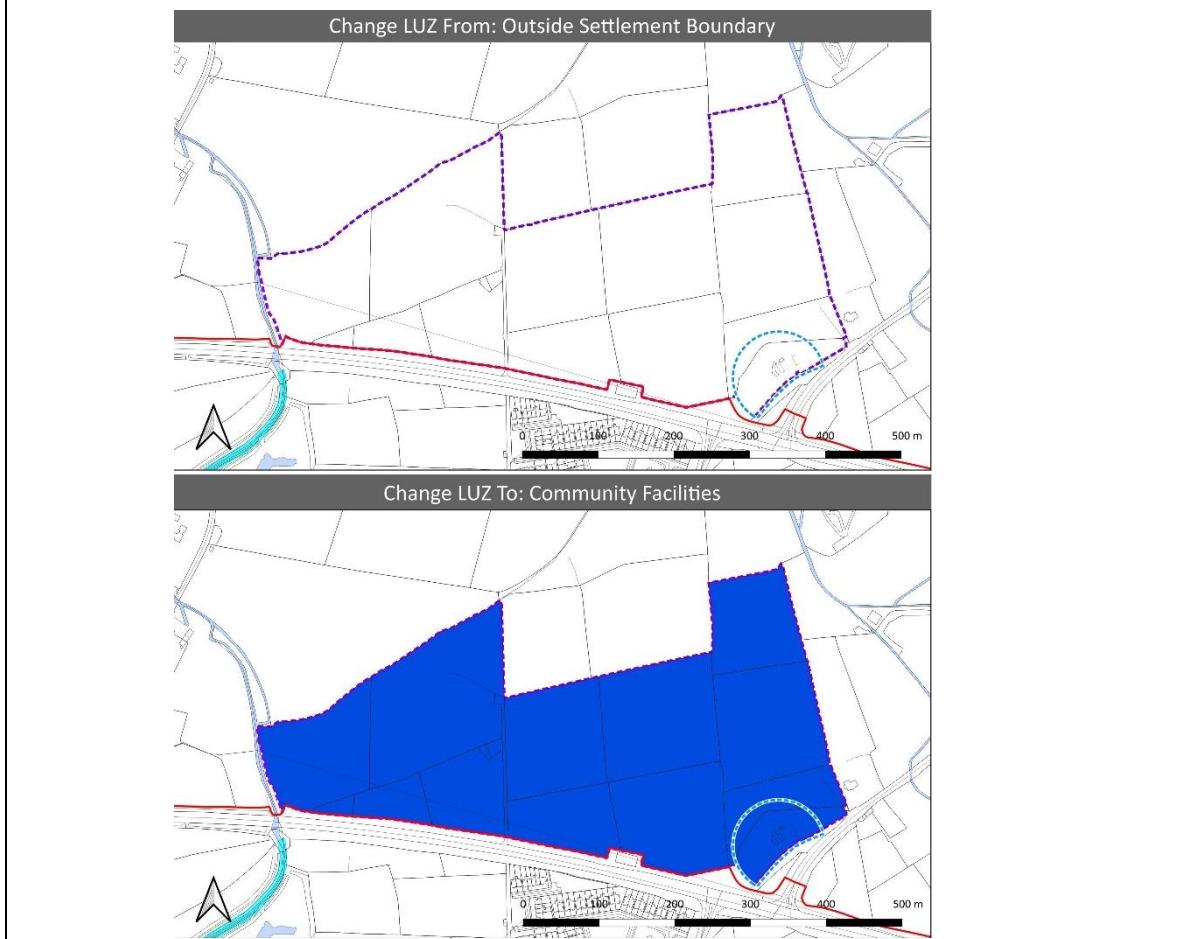
On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn it was agreed by the Members to adjourn meeting for 15 minutes to agree on amendments to Motion.

Meeting resumed again at 11.40 a.m.

The amended Motion and Map with Flood Zones removed were brought up on screen for the benefit of all Members.

I, Cllr. Curley wish to propose the following Motion:

To reject the Chief Executive’s recommendation and to maintain the zoning of Community Facilities as per MA 35 (Amend MA35 Map to exclude Flood Zone A and B), as well as retaining the policy objective in MA 36.



Reasoning:

The Town of Loughrea, Co Galway has a nationally unique lack of sporting and recreational facilities.

There is just one playing pitch within the entire town boundary of Loughrea, a town with over 6,200 people expected to rise to 8,500 by 2029.

This is a GAA pitch which is rightly monopolised by the local Hurling Club. There is no pitch available to the Gaelic Football, Junior Hurling and Camogie Clubs, ladies and men's with approaching 2,000 members. There is no soccer pitch in the town. The local clubs travel to neighbouring parishes well outside the town to access facilities, regularly forfeiting home advantage.

Some of our local hockey players have to make round trips of over 20km to their nearest hockey pitch, which is located in the very rural parish of Leitrim.

All of this means that thousands of kilometres are unnecessarily being driven by cars on a weekly basis to access facilities which could be located centrally to the north of the town at the proposed more central location.

The town is one of the fastest growing in the West of Ireland. Its urban population is forecast to grow from over 6,200 people to approximately 8,500 over the next five years with similar growth expected in the Loughrea Rural District. We have a crisis where our youth, as deserving as any, cannot enjoy what is available in all other towns of similar size and smaller across the island of Ireland, north & south. There is simply no other option in terms of where these much needed facilities might be located in one clustered location with multi-use, multi-games facilities.

In summary, the logic of situating the Sports Facilities as proposed is as follows:

- there is no other location available
- a local community development group – Loughrea Sports and Community Development Group (LSCDG) - with significant expertise have agreement to buy sufficient lands (at agricultural lands price) and
- the carbon footprint is reduced for this overall activity due to the close proximity of the local population.

The OPR have argued that locating the proposed facilities at the proposed location will lead to a likely increase in car journeys, the amount of car kilometres driven and an increase in carbon emissions.

However, they haven't taken into consideration the current day-to-day situation on the ground where all of the necessary facilities are being accessed far further out of Loughrea town than the proposed location.

As will be shown, the amount of car kilometres driven can be reduced by 1.5 million per year, which would mean a reduction of over 600 metric tonnes of carbon, by delivering these facilities at this far more central location than anything currently available to over a dozen sporting organisations.

Inputs / Response to Observations from Government Bodies

1. Sports and Recreational Needs of the Loughrea Community

Loughrea, being the third largest town in County Galway, has experienced significant population growth in the last two decades. The sports facilities audit conducted during the preparation of the previous submission found that there are no existing or pipeline facilities currently serving the area of Loughrea that deliver on the key objectives of LSCDG's strategy. Existing

services lack the capacity to meet current and future demand. The Loughrea Clubs Survey conducted by LSCDG (a copy of which can be found in Table 1) gives us an insight into the dearth of sports facilities in Loughrea. The current offering of community and sports facilities in Loughrea are sporadically located and are no longer fit for purpose. At present there is only one public pitch located in the town – St Brendan’s Hurling Pitch. Hence, the existing sports and recreation facilities are under pressure failing to meet the demands of the rising population which creates a dire need for the provision of new sports facilities.

2. Pedestrian Underpass

From CEO Report

There is no vehicular access proposed off the N65, vehicular access would be from Local Road, L4196. Provision of underpass will connect close to proposed WC24 LTP that would provide walking and cycling access to the main residential area in Loughrea at Caheronaun and further connectivity to the rest of the settlement through the Loughrea’s LTP.

3. Reduction of Carbon Emissions

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SEA - MA35 is contrary to sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society;

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CE Report failed to acknowledge the current town clubs members travel to sports facilities far beyond the town settlement. Using the users survey the LSCDG recognised that the proposed MA35 and MA36 development will reduce the annual travel reduction of 1,500,000km (being an equivalent of 600 metric tonnes of carbon per year) (see Table 2).

Additionally, the proposed development is at a size that will provide a clustered sports facility.

4. Proposed Alternative Sites

From CEO Report

TII - Chief Executives Recommendation identifies a suitable alternative location for ‘Community Facilities’ zoning at Gorteenapheebera, Loughrea, which has the benefit of being served by the non-national road network, proximate to the town and residential areas and with the potential to be served by active travel.

While the CE Report recognised the need for sporting facilities within the town, the lands referenced at Gorteenapheebera, proposed as community facilities, are not available as they are privately owned. In addition, these lands are further from large residential areas of the settlement. No other alternative site can provide a clustered multi-use sports community facility.

TABLE 1 - Current status of field-based sporting facilities available by club

Municipal District of Loughrea Meeting – 15th July 2024

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Name of club	Name of sport or recreation	Sub-group(s) within the club	Membership 2023	Estimated Membership 2026	Current Pitch Provision	Pitches available to Club
Loughrea Gaelic Football Club	Gaelic Football	Adult Juvenile/Youth	624	780	1 Full Size GAA Grass Pitch	Full Sized GAA Grass Pitch at the Athletics Club Facility X distance from Loughrea
Shamrock's Camogie Club	Camogie	Adult Juvenile/Youth	470	570	2 Full Size GAA Pitch (Sand-Based) Shared with Kilnadeema Leitrim Hurling Club (340+ members). Both outside Loughrea	
Loughrea Rams		Adult Juvenile/Youth	547	700	NONE	Rent Soccer Grass (Sand-Based) Pitches X distance from Loughrea
Loughrea RFC	Rugby	Adult Juvenile/Youth	451	650	1 Full Size Rugby Grass Pitch (Sand-Based) 1 Grass Training Pitch	Rugby Grass (Sand-Based) Pitches
Loughrea Lakers Hockey Club	Hockey	Juvenile/Youth	35	70	NONE	Rent Astro turf pitch (not full size) X distance from Loughrea
St. Brendan's GAA Hurling Club, Loughrea	Hurling	Adult Juvenile/Youth	540	730	1 Full Size GAA Grass Pitch (Sand-Based) 1 Grass Training Pitch, 1 Practice Size Astro Pitch	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP			2667	3500		
Source - LSCDG Survey Completed by Clubs December 2023						

TABLE 2 - Club transport analysis - Loughrea

CLUB TRANSPORT ANALYSIS - Loughrea

This analysis estimates the likely road trips in KM and Carbon footprint of club members to and from current sports & recreational facilities v the new Caheronau facility proposed by the LSCDG.

Club Name	# Members	Participation Rate	# Events	Current Distance Travelled (KM)	New Facilities Distance	Active Weeks	Members Per Journey	Total Current Millage (KM)	Total Proposed Millage (KM)	Proposed Annual Savings (KM)	Savings of Carbon Footprint
Loughrea Soccer Club	510	88%	3	16	3	36	1.2	646,272	121,176	525,096	
Loughrea GAA Football	621	75%	4	20	5	22	1.4	585,514	170,775	414,739	
Loughrea Rugby	300	66%	3	12	5	20	1.1	129,600	49,500	80,100	
Shamrocks Camogie	546	82%	3	25	8	26	1.2	727,545	232,814	494,731	
								2,088,931	574,265	1,514,666	

Average KM Transport SAVED each year by new facilities: **1,514,666**

Glossary:

Title	Description
Club Name (As Stated)	n/a
# Members	n/a
Participation Rate	Number of Active Members in Club activities
Events	Average Number of Events per week including Training and Competitive Matches
Activity Locations	Cappatagle, Kilruckle, Kilconieran, Kilnadeema, Killulagh, Killimordaly, Leitrim, Mullagh, New Inn, Bullaun
Current Distance Travelled	Average Distance Travelled (From Distance Marker) including Training and Competitive Matches to where activities are currently taking place
New Facilities Distance	Average Distance Travelled (From Distance Marker) including Training and Competitive Matches to New Proposed Facilities
Distance Marker	All estimates of travel estimated in KM using Google Maps using An Post Main Street as the Loughrea point of origin
Journey Lengths	All journeys by KM are estimated as return journeys - there and back
Active Weeks	Estimate of number of Events Per Annum based on "Active Weeks" Per Calendar Year
Members Per Journey	Average Number of Members in each transport vehicle
Carbon Footprint	Carbon Output Per Mile Travelled By Average Irish Transport Vehicle
Carbon Footprint per KM	Estimate of 0.28 KG Per KM

The Amended Motion was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

(iii) **MA37:** Revert to the provisions of the Draft Loughrea LAP where this land was not zoned



Ms. Loughnane advised the Members that the subject site is bounded on one side by National Road and a local road on the other side and stated that OPR were requesting that it be omitted due to its close proximity to the bye-pass and all of the road junctions. She reminded the Members of discussions and advice previously given in relation to this.

Cllr. Curley advised that he had submitted a motion on this as follows:

I propose the following:

The motion notes the comments of the OPR. However, the motion wishes to maintain the material alteration, to reject the Chief Executive's recommendation to remove the Community Facilities zoning, and to rezone the lands to Community Facilities.

Reasoning:

The council needs viable options for a fire station.

The proximity to the motorway is advantageous, as well as the fact that it is so central and allows ease of access to all parts of Loughrea town.

The central location to the population offers the widest possible range of candidates who will fall within the maximum distance from work/home to the station, considering the fact that our firefighters are part-time.

Cllr. Curley suggested that if proposed Fire Station was included on new site across from Lough Rea Hotel, it could weaken the prospects for the Sports Facility site. In response to Cllr. Curley's query, Mr. Hanrahan stated it was not possible to predict the OPR response on this and reiterated previous advice given that the site as proposed was not adequate for proposed use as a Fire Station. He stated that all the Executive can do is give the Member's advice on the matter. He suggested that the inclusion of these lands for this use may invite the OPR's scrutiny unnecessarily, given the site's small size and numerous roads related issues.

Cllr. McClearn stated that he had been advised that even if this site was zoned by the Members today, it would never get through the Part 8 Planning process. He stated that the big issue for him was that the submission was submitted in good faith as an alternative site and perhaps insufficient work had been put into submission initially. He stated that by the time the identified issues with the site had been brought to the attention of the Councillors, it was too late to add in any alternative lands and that was what he had issue with. He opined that the traffic generated by the hotel on a busy day was far worse than that on the Bullaun Road, and he could not be convinced otherwise.

Cllr. Curley concurred with Cllr. McClearn's comments that the Members should have been given more notice that the site was unsuitable, and it should not have been left until this late stage.

Cllr. Maher disagreed with previous comments and stated that this issue had been discussed previously and the Members had always been advised that the site was unsuitable.

In response, Mr. Hanrahan stated that the site's suitability was explained to the Members numerous times at multiple forums and meetings throughout the process, and the Planning Authority has been consistent in its advice throughout.

Ms. Loughnane reminded the Members that at the Draft Stage a footprint of the proposed Fire Station was super-imposed onto this site and the Members were advised of this site's unsuitability. She further stated that it was mooted on many occasions by the Executive that this site was unsuitable and insufficient in size. She stated that at the Workshop held on 1st July 2024, it was outlined to the Members that Motions could be lodged by them up until 10th July 2024 and they could have used this opportunity to make an alternative proposal.

Cllr. Maher advised that he was not in agreement with this Motion and would be taking on board advice been given by the Executive.

Cllr. McClearn stated that he was unhappy that there was a tie-up with this and the previous motion.

Cllr. Donohue stated that the Members had discussions at length on this parcel of land. She stated that she had listened to what the Chief Fire Officer and Firemen on the ground had advised her and for that reason she could not support Cllr. Curley's Motion.

Cllr. Canning stated that there was no point in going against Planners' advice in relation to unsuitability of site.

Cllr. Kinane stated that she too had listened carefully to all the discussions on the matter and information given at earlier meeting and it was very clear that this site was not suitable for a Fire Station.

Arising from previous comments, Cllr. Curley stated that he wished to withdraw his Motion. He referenced Cllr. McClearn's earlier comments regarding the Members being conservative in the zoning of lands for this Plan and refrained from doing so in the interests of the Town. He stated that he was very uncomfortable about this decision.

Cllr. Curley withdrew his motion.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Donohue and agreed by the Members.

Ms. Loughnane went through Observation 1 – Lands Zoned for Employment Uses and read CE Response and Recommendation.

1. Land Use Zoning for Employment Uses

The OPR, in its submission to the Draft LAP, broadly welcomed the policies and objectives with regard to economic development and employment. Furthermore, the OPR acknowledge the importance of Loughrea as a Self-Sustaining Town.

The OPR considers that there were sufficient lands provided as part of the Draft LAP with a landbank of Industrial zoned lands to the west of the town, a landbank of Business and Technology zoned lands to the east of the town and a landbank of Business and Enterprise zoned land adjacent to the Town Centre

The OPR has concerns in relation to lands to the east of the town that are proposed as part of the Material Alterations to be zoned as Business and Technology (MA34). MA34 proposes 15.01 hectares of land for Business and Technology purposes, and the OPR notes that there is no evidence base provided to justify the scale of this zoning. Having reviewed the pattern of development in the settlement, it is noted that there are approximately two hectares of land available for Business and Technology purposes in the existing IDA Business and Technology Park which is on the opposite side of the Dublin Road to the location of MA34.

The OPR accepts the justification for the zoning of additional Business and Technology lands, however, it is considered that given the lack of evidence-basis of the zoning, the scale of the zoning be reviewed to evaluate the extent of the land zoned as part of MA34.

Furthermore, section 6.2.5 of the Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022) (the Development Plans Guidelines) advises that the ‘... proposed employment zoning must have a creditable rationale, particularly with regard to location and type of employment’. Section 1.4 of Appendix A of the Development Plans Guidelines also sets out an approach to enterprise and employment zonings which has not been considered as part of this assessment. The OPR does not, therefore, consider that the Material Alterations document provides sufficient evidence to justify the number of lands zoned as part of MA34.

The OPR conclusion in relation to MA34 is consistent with the approach of the Chief Executive’s Report which recommends that a portion of the lands be zoned for Business and Technology purposes. The OPR requests that the Planning Authority review the scale of the proposed zoning for Business and Technology purposes associated with MA34.

MA Observation 1 – Lands Zoned for Employment Uses

Having regard to the provision of an evidence-based strategy for employment uses

which is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the

area, and in particular to the following:

- an evidence-based rationale for both the requirement to zone lands and the location and type of employment in accordance with section 6.2.5 of the Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022) and the sequential approach to zoning for high intensity employment in accordance with Appendix A section 1.4,

the planning authority is requested to:

- (i) provide an evidence-based rationale for the overall quantity of land zoned as part of MA34; and

(ii) reevaluate any lands which cannot be justified under (i) above.

Chief Executive's Response

The content of the submission is noted. The Planning Authority notes the view of the OPR with regards to MA34.

Loughrea is identified as a Self-Sustaining Town within the settlement strategy of the GCDP 2022 – 2028. Loughrea settlement is categorised as a “Self-Sustaining Town with high levels of population growth and a limited employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted “catch-up” investment to become more sustaining”. To achieve the key objective of the GCDP 2022–2028, which is to promote Loughrea as a business destination, the economic status of the town must be encouraged and safeguarded. The OPR submission noted there are approx. two hectares of land available within the existing IDA Business and Technology Park. MA34 is strategically located within the Settlement Boundary and adjacent to the IDA Business and Technology Park with excellent transport links which include access to the N65 Loughrea Bypass and the M6 Dublin to Galway Motorway. In addition, the LTP which accompanies the LAP identifies several measures that will improve additional accessibility and pedestrian connectivity to the town. The lands can be easily accessed and serviced with water and wastewater infrastructure. Through the planning process, all new major employment developments in Loughrea will be required to provide active travel infrastructure which will complement the wider active travel network. It is considered that the spatial location of these lands identified for employment uses are appropriate and reflect Loughrea’s position within the settlement hierarchy of the county.

(i) Noted. See response to (i) above.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

PRESCRIBED AUTHORITIES

GLW-C97-28 – UISCE ÉIREANN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Uisce Éireann and read CE Response and Recommendation.

A comprehensive submission has been received from Uisce Éireann.

There is broad welcome for the inclusion of the proposed Material Alterations based on the consideration of the initial submission (GLW-C79-398).

1. Wastewater Infrastructure

1.1 Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

Loughrea WWTP is currently not in compliance with Waste Water Discharge License emission limit values but is capable of achieving at least Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive standards.

Potential availability of capacity in this case would be dependent on any additional load not resulting in a significant breach of the combined approach as set out in Regulation 43 of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2000, which is the responsibility of Galway County Council to determine. The current (2022) wastewater treatment capacity register indicates there is potential capacity available to cater for the projected population allocation. Applications will be assessed on an individual basis considering their specific load requirements. Increased WWTP capacity may be required in the medium term, or to cater for significant non-domestic developments. The 2023 wastewater treatment capacity register is currently being prepared and will provide an updated view on available spare capacity.

1.2 Wastewater Network

The capacity of the wastewater network west and south of Station Road is constrained due to issues associated with a stormwater overflow at Station Road in Loughrea. A hydraulic study is underway to investigate the issues and identify works required. Upgrades, including stormwater removal, may be required to cater for significant developments in this catchment.

The removal of stormwater from the combined sewer network to free up capacity for new development is strongly encouraged. Localised network reinforcement may also be required to facilitate development, particularly in areas currently serviced by small diameter sewers or water mains.

2. Water Supply Infrastructure

2.1 Water Supply and Networks

Following the interconnection of Loughrea to the Tuam RWSS in recent years, Loughrea town is now supplied by Tuam RWSS which is part of Corrib Water Resource Zone. Knockanima WTP is also in operation supplying parts of the wider Loughrea area.

Capacity is available to cater for population targets although Level of Service Improvements e.g. leakage reduction, network upgrades, may be required as demand increases. A hydraulic analysis of the trunk network in the Tuam RWSS is nearing completion and results are being assessed to identify constraints and inform future investment. The replacement of cast iron mains in Loughrea has recently commenced and will improve water quality and the Level of Service provided.

Uisce Éireann and Galway County Council are continually progressing leakage reduction activities, mains rehabilitation activities and capital maintenance activities. Uisce Éireann and Galway County Council will continue to monitor the performance of the networks to ensure that the most urgent works are prioritised as required.

3. MAs Amending Land Use Zonings

It is stated that Available network information indicates network extensions may be required to service some zoned sites.

It is stated that depending on the extent of development realised, localised network upgrades may also be required, particularly in areas served by 150mm diameter sewers or watermains with a diameter of 80mm or less. It is stated third party on the extent of development realised, localised network upgrades may also be required, particularly in areas served by 150mm diameter sewers or watermains with a diameter of 80mm or less.

It is stated that some sites would require significant extensions and/or upgrades to service, ref. additional site-specific comments below. In general, residential phase 2 lands require a greater level of network reinforcements to service.

Where network reinforcements such as upgrades or extensions are required, these shall be developer driven unless there are committed Uisce Éireann projects in place to progress such works.

Where Uisce Éireann assets are within a proposed development site, the site layout must take account of these, and the assets must be protected or diverted as necessary. If there is a possibility that Uisce Éireann assets will need to be altered or diverted as a result of a proposed development, a diversion agreement may be required. Further information on this process is available at: <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/diversions/>. Development in the vicinity of Uisce Éireann assets must be in accordance with Uisce Éireann standard details and codes of practise.

Several of the Material Amendments seek to extend the settlement boundary, no justification for the scale of the proposed Business and Technology site (MA34) or Community Facilities (MA35) is provided.

3.1 Material Alteration Site-specific comments

MA12, MA15, MA16, MA17, MA18, MA19, MA20, MA21, MA22, MA25, MA26, MA27, MA30, MA31, MA38 and MA39

Sites may fall within the constrained Station Road Storm Water Overflow (SWO) catchment. Applications will be assessed on an individual basis depending on their specific load requirements. Network reinforcements may be required to cater for significant developments. Refer also to section 1.2 above.

MA9, MA21 and MA22

Depending on the topography of these sites, they may be served by the catchments to the east or south (Station Road catchment). Downstream network upgrades may be required if served from the catchment to the east.

MA14

Likely connection to the public water and sewer network in Caheronaun Park Road to the west, extensions c.70m required. Potential may exist to connect via adjacent land to the west or estate to the south subject to third party permissions and capacity assessment.

MA17, MA18 and MA19

There are no water supply or wastewater connections available to these sites without crossing third party land. There is a 150mm sewer immediately to the north of the site serving the school, but third-party permissions may be required. Once on the road a connection would be approximately 90m north for water supply and 160m to foul sewer.

MA20 and MA38

The nearest foul sewers to this site are approximately 70m away in Baunogue estate. Available GIS of the water network is limited, local knowledge may provide greater clarity, connection may be possible via Baunogue estate or 170m extension to the west. Third party permissions may be required.

MA24

There is foul sewerage bordering the site and appropriate separation distances must be observed in the layout of the site. Available GIS of the water network is limited and indicates the nearest network is approx. 300m away; local knowledge may provide greater clarity.

MA25 (considered with R1d)

Depending on topography sewer connection would be to the north with localized upgrades, or south to the Station Road catchment with an extension. Water network available on R350. Potential may exist to connect to the private network in Hazelwood subject to third party permissions.

MA26

Available GIS indicates the site is not serviced with the nearest water and wastewater networks are approximately 280m and 250m away at the roundabout, along the public road.

MA27, MA28 and MA29

Public water network is available at junction of Bohercom and Rockvale roads. GIS records show that there are private water supply pipes in the road adjacent to the sites.

MA30

Watermain passing through the site will be decommissioned as part of the ongoing mains upgrade works in Loughrea. GIS indicates extension of approx. 70m required to the nearest live watermain.

MA31

Sewer and watermain passing through site to be protected/ diverted in accordance with Uisce Éireann codes and standards.

MA33

There is a foul sewer pipe that is routed through this site. Suitable separation distances would have to be achieved or the pipe diverted in order to facilitate development.

MA34

This site is beyond the settlement boundary, depending on the scale of the development localised upgrades to water supply infrastructure and wastewater network may be required.

M35

Connection to the water network would require crossing third party land to the north-west or a crossing under the ring road and may require upgrades. There is a trunk sewer that is routed through this site and adequate separation distances must be observed in the layout of the site or the pipe diverted.

M37

There is a 100mm watermain that services this site, depending on the scale of the development upgrades may be required. Connection to foul sewer would require access across third party land or a crossing under the ring road.

MA39

This site has an associated policy that allows for a swimming pool on this site. Modelling would be required once the details of any proposal was known to ensure that it could be serviced. It is likely that network upgrades would be required. The nearest trunk water main is approximately 500m east along Athenry Road.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission noted.

Noted. MA17, MA18 and MA19 relate to small parcel of lands which are adjacent to Residential Phase 1 lands. This is acknowledged by the Planning Authority and is considered acceptable.

Noted.

Noted. In relations to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Noted. In relations to MA37 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Noted.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Motion was read into record. Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Canning and agreed by the Members.

GLW-C97-29 – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Department of Education and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission has considered the Material Alterations and notes that there are no amendments to change projected growth figures in the Draft LAP. The Department reconfirm the projected school requirements outlined in its submission on the Draft LAP (GLW-C79-825).

The Department welcomes MA9 to rezone lands from Residential Phase 2 to Community Facilities at the rear of the Gaelscoil Riabhach to facilitate the potential future expansion of education facilities in Loughrea.

The Department welcome MA11 to rezone lands from Residential Phase 1 to Community Facilities.

The Department acknowledges the crucial importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient and appropriate land is zoned for educational needs.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted.

Noted.

Noted.

Noted.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed by the Members.

GLW-C97-27 – OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS (OPW)

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from the Office of Public Works (OPW) and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The OPW as lead agency for Flood Risk Management in Ireland welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed Material Alterations of the Draft Loughrea LAP. A number of specific comments are made as follows and it outlined that opportunities exist for the Draft Plan before it is finalised.

Considerations of Climate Change Impacts

The OPW comments at the Draft Plan stage noted that while discussion on climate change focused on its consideration at Development Management Stage. The OPW notes Planning Authorities need to consider such impacts in the preparation of plans and suggest that Galway County Council clarify how climate change had been considered in the plan.

The Chief Executive response to this observation referenced text in section 3.4 of the SFRA regarding requirements for Flood Risk Assessments, and policy objective FL 15 “Flood Risk Management” of the existing GCDP 2022 – 2028. In addition, MA1 has added text referencing Policy Objectives LSST 62, LSST 68, LSST 73 and LSST 77.

The text in Section 3.4, Policy Objective FL15 and the Policy Objectives referenced in the text added to MA1, referring to the consideration of climate change impacts at the

development management stage. The submission adds Planning Authorities can consider the impacts of climate change at the forward planning stage by avoiding development in areas potentially prone to flooding in the future, providing space for future flood defences, specifying minimum floor levels, and setting specific development management objectives.

MA3

The initial submission of the Draft Plan (GLW-C79-294) noted the Justification Test being provided for previously developed Community Facilities at the Tennis Club and St. Brigit's College. The SFRA recommendation for this zoning is referenced in footnote no.6 from the Draft Plan's Lands Use Matrix (Table 1.6.1 of the Plan) and while the recommended text for Footnote No.6 as set out in section 4.2 of the SFRA made reference to this zoning, specifically restricted development inappropriate to the level of flood risk, this text had not been included in Footnote No.6 of the Land Use Matrix.

MA3 amends the text to state that proposals for development on Community Facilities zoning must comply with The Planning System & Flood Risk Guidelines (2009) (or updated). The submission sets out that it would be beneficial if this footnote included the full text as recommended in section 4.2 of the SFRA as:

“Uses for lands **zoned "CF Community Facilities"** along Lough Rea and at St. Bridgit's College shall be limited in areas at elevated risk of flooding, as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, as follows;

- In Flood Zone A, uses shall be limited to water compatible uses;
- In Flood Zone B, uses shall be limited to less-vulnerable and water compatible uses (as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines);

These limitations shall take primacy over any related provision relating to the land use zoning matrix.”

MA35

The Submission notes the rezoning of lands from "Outside the Settlement Boundary" to "Community Facilities" and outlines there is a small overlap of Flood Zones A and B at the western end of these lands, which has not been reflected in the updated "Map 3, Flood Risk Management" provided at MA stage. The submission notes these lands have not satisfied the conditions of the Plan Making Justification Test included in Table 6, Section 4.5 of the SFRA.

The SFRA recommendation for this zoning references “footnote no. 6 from the Draft Plan's Land Use Matrix”. The submission indicates it would be beneficial if the full recommended text for this footnote was included, making specific reference to these lands.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted.

Noted. The flood risk management provisions of the Plan explicitly integrate climate change considerations and have been informed by future scenario datasets (mapped in the accompanying SFRA). This includes Policy Objectives LSST 62 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources, LSST 68 Flood Risk Management and Assessment, LSST 73 Flood Risk Assessment and Climate Change and LSST 77 Flood Risk Management.

Noted. MA3 and General Notes on Land Use Zoning Matrix will be updated to reflect this.

Noted. In relations to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

Update the General Notes on Land Use Zoning Matrix as follows;

6. Proposals for development within the "Open Space/Recreation & Amenity and Community Facilities zoning must comply with The Planning System & Flood Risk Guidelines (2009) (or updated). Uses for lands **zoned "CF Community Facilities"** along Lough Rea and at St. Bridgit's College shall be limited in areas at elevated risk of flooding, as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, as follows;
 - In Flood Zone A, uses shall be limited to water compatible uses;
 - In Flood Zone B, uses shall be limited to less-vulnerable and water compatible uses (as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines);

These limitations shall take primacy over any related provision relating to the land use zoning matrix."

See *Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.*

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 15 – TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND (TII)

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The Authority acknowledge and welcomes the proposed Material Alterations arising from the consideration of the Authority's initial submission (GLW-79-9) on the Draft Plan and LTP. About other proposed MAs on display, the TII outline the following observation to be considered.

MA35

TII notes MA35 proposes the zoning of an extensive area of unzoned land, north of the town and separated from the Town Centre and Residential Areas by the N65 National Road. The lands can be accessed via the Local Road L4196 which accesses Loughrea via a staggered at-grade junction with the N65, National Road, at a location where TII's records indicate 100kph speed limits applies.

TII states the proposed MA to the LAP and LTP has addressed the accessibility of the subject land for Active Travel, which was noted in the Chief Executives Report in the response provided to the proposals to zone the subject lands. MA35 does not appear to consider the implication of introducing vulnerable road users to a junction on the N65, National Road, requiring a crossing of the National Road where a 100 kph speed limit applies to access the lands.

The submission notes the Council will be aware that Section 2.7 of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012) requires that planning authorities must exercise particular care in their assessment of LAP proposals relating to the development objectives and/or zoning of locations at or close to national road junctions.

TII are not aware of any evidence base established to support the extent or location of the proposed zoning of the lands concerned. Notwithstanding, the DoECLG Guidelines requirement for the preparation of an appropriate evidence-based plan-led approach makes reference to accommodating appropriate strategic land uses, for example, nationally or regionally important employment clusters or intermodal transfer facilities that the proposed 'Community Facilities' zoning does not appear to reflect.

The TII concur with the Recommendation of the Chief Executive that the subject lands being located to the north of the N65 would compromise the strategic function and traffic safety on this high-speed National Road. In addition, the Chief Executives Recommendation identifies a suitable alternative location for 'Community Facilities' zoning at Gorteenapheebera, Loughrea, which has the benefit of being served by the non-national road network, proximate to the town and residential areas and with the potential to be served by active travel (WC8 of the LTP) and public transport links (Figure 25 of the LTP).

The TII has determined the absence of any evidence base to support the proposed zoning designation and, as such, supports the Recommendation outlined in the Chief Executive Report that the subject lands are not included in the LAP boundary and are not zoned 'Community Facilities'. TII notes the Chief Executive Recommendation that alternative lands are available for such purpose at Gorteenapheebera, Loughrea.

MA37

Similar to above, TII notes MA37 proposes the zoning of previously unzoned land outside the Plan Boundary to 'Community Facilities'. The subject lands are to the north of the town located at the N65 Monearmore Roundabout Junction.

The submission indicates it does not appear that the proposed MA to the LAP or LTP has addressed the accessibility of the subject lands for Active Travel. The MAs also do not appear to consider the implications of introducing vulnerable road users to a junction on the N65, national road, requiring a crossing of the national road where a 100kph speed limit applies to access the lands.

As outlined above the Council is aware that Section 2.7 of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines ‘Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (DoECLG, 2012) requires that planning authorities must exercise particular care in their assessment of LAP proposals relating to the development objectives and/or zoning of locations at or close to national road junctions.

TII are not aware of any evidence base established to support the proposed zoning of the lands concerned. TII also

notes the Recommendation of the Chief Executive that the zoning of the subject lands would compromise the strategic function of the N65 and compromise traffic safety on this higher-speed road.

The TII concur with the Recommendation of the Chief Executive that the subject lands being located to the north of the N65 would compromise the strategic function and traffic safety on this highspeed National Road.

The TII has determined the absence of any evidence-base to support the proposed zoning designation and, as such, supports the Recommendation outlined in the Chief Executive Report that the subject lands are not included in the LAP boundary and are not zoned ‘Community Facilities’ resulting from the impact the subject proposal could have on the strategic function and traffic safety of the N65, National Road.

MA14 and MA33

The proposed MA to the LAP proposes changing the Land Use Zoning at this location from Agriculture’ to ‘Residential Phase 1’ and ‘Residential Existing’ respectively. While the lands are accessed from the non-national road network, it is noted that the lands are proximate to the N65, National Road.

The TII recommends that the development of the subject lands should confirm access to the non-national road in the first instance and should provide sufficient setbacks to safeguard the residential amenity of future residential development. TII will not entertain future claims in respect of impacts (e.g. noise, air, visual etc.) to future proposed development due to the presence of the existing national road or any future schemes in this area as a result of this proposed zoning amendment.

Chief Executive’s Response

Submission Noted.

Noted. In relations to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Noted. In relations to MA37 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation

to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

In relation to MA14 and MA33 the concern is relation to residential lands are noted.

Policy Objective NR4 New Accesses Directly on National Road is included in the *Chapter 6 Transport and Movement in the GCDP 2022 – 2028* which limits accesses onto National Roads. In addition, Chapter 15 Development Management (DM) Standard 26 outlines the requirements to Access National and Other Restricted Roads for Residential Developments.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See *Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.*

Motion was read into record. Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted on the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Canning and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 30 – NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (NTA)

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from National Transport Authority (NTA) and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The NTA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed MA to the Draft Loughrea LAP and associated LTP and wishes to make the following observations and recommendation for consideration prior to adoption of the LAP.

1. MA34 and MA41

A considerable quantum of Business and Technology lands have been zoned on the eastern periphery on the Settlement Boundary. The submission expresses concern in respect to the access arrangement for the linear land holding with the subject lands front onto the R446. It is noted the LTP includes provision of a segregated cycle facility and footpath upgrades (WC8) along the R446 which would provide improved access by sustainable modes to/from locations along the R446 and the town centre. In addition, there are no proposals for alternative access to the land or improved permeability through the lands. However, given the extent and layout of the lands proposed for zoning and the potential trip intensive nature of uses the NTA raised concerns that the transport analysis and supporting measures in the LTP, to serve this location are lacking in detail and have not considered the potential impact on the existing network in particular at the junction with the R446.

Development, in terms of layout, scale and density in this area should be contingent on the provision of an appropriate access plan with an emphasis on permeability in particular for walking and cycling. The Phasing of development at this location will also be critical to ensuring that it develops in as sustainable a manner as possible. It is requested that in the event MA34 is brought forward, a special objective should be

applied to the zoning which required the development of a masterplan for the lands that will include Phasing development supported by a Transport Plan with an emphasis on maximise the role of sustainable modes for travel to/from this location.

1. MA35 and MA36

Rezone a significant area of land to the north of the N65, outside the Settlement Boundary and in a peripheral location that is separated from the Town Centre and Residential areas. There are no proposed Transport network or access arrangements set out in the LTP to serve the zoning of the lands at this location for Community Facilities and, as such subsequent development is likely to be car-dependent. The submission notes while measure WC24 provides for 'designation as an on-street cycle route with footpath upgrades' along the Danesfort Road this stops south of the N65 and access to these lands by walking and cycling or links to public transport has not been provided. The ability to access lands by sustainable means must be a key consideration in the zoning of lands, particularly 'community' zoning which will likely generate travel demand from vulnerable users such as children. It is further noted the N65, National Secondary Road, is a strategic National Road providing regional and inter-regional linkages, including to the National Motorway network. The National Planning Framework (NPF) includes an objective (NSO 2) to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national roads network which is also set out in the existing Statutory Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines '*Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' (DoECLG, 2012). The NTA is concerned about the potential impact on the N65 of significant zoning at this location, in the absence of proposals to serve the lands by sustainable means and the likely result of car dependency of travel to/from the area. The view of the NTA is that MA35 and MA36 should not be brought forward into the final LAP as the proposed zoning at this location is not supported by transport provisions to facilitate development. As such, it is considered that these proposals would undermine the Draft LAP objective to promote sustainable settlement and transportation strategies.

2. MA37

Similar to the above, MA37 proposes the zoning of previously unzoned land outside the Settlement Boundary to Community Facilities. The submission outlines it is critical to access the lands sustainable means is a key consideration in the zoning of lands. The NTA express concern that accessibility these land by sustainable modes, particularly walking and cycling has not been fully considered or provided for in the LAP and LTP, likewise with MA35. The view of the NTA is that MA37 should not be brought forward into the final LAP as the proposed zoning at this location is not supported by transport provisions to facilitate development.

3. MA43, MA44, MA45 and MA46

The NTA notes the proposed MA's 43 – 46 propose to amend the Walking and Cycling measures in the LTP. The implementation of walking and cycling and traffic

management measures is critical in the context of meeting the LAP's aims and objectives to reduce car dependency in the town and encourage modal shift. The LTP has been prepared for Loughrea is based on a robust Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) approach. Measures detailed in the LTP are, therefore, based on an extensive baseline assessment and context assessment and have been assessed against LTP Objectives in a multi-criteria analysis in line with an evidence-based approach to planning. It is the view of the NTA that, in order to secure funding for Active Travel schemes, they should be clearly identified as part of the transport networks for the town within the LTP/LAP. The NTA outlined that the specific measure should be retained and that MA34 – MA36 should not be taken forward in the finalisation of the LAP and LTP.

4. MA47

Provides for changes to the LTP to include a Flow Chart and explanatory text relating to the process for and stage to be followed for the delivery of the LTP measures after the finalisation of the LTP. This highlights the need for scheme optioneering and design and the need to follow planning or other consent processes as appropriate.

The NTA suggested some text amendments to the Flow Chart as follows;

- **Identification of Priority Projects** - a statement should be included that these will have a '**focus on the town centre and area around schools**'.
- **Public and Stakeholder Engagement**

The elected members are taken through the options selection process and the preliminary design which will go to either full public consultation or more limited stakeholder engagement, **as deemed appropriate** depending on the scale of the project. **This will not apply to minor works such as junction tightening.**

Chief Executive Response

Submission noted.

In relation to MA34 and MA41 the concern in relation to employment lands is noted. However, Loughrea has been identified as a 'Self-Sustaining Town' in the GCDP 2022 – 2028 which aims to promote Loughrea as a business destination, the economic status of the town must be encouraged and safeguarded. In Loughrea, there are approx. two hectares of Business and Technology lands within the existing IDA Business and Technology Park. MA34 is strategically located within the Settlement Boundary and adjacent to the IDA Business and Technology Park within an excellent transportation network. The lands are supported with specific measures in the LTP as noted in the NTA Submission.

The Planning Authority note the concern raised in the submission, however at this stage of the LAP process it is considered prudent to uphold this rezoning. All the points referenced can be considered through the Development Management Process. A suite of positive Policy Objectives contained in Chapter 6 of the GCDP 2022 – 2028,

NNR 1 Restricted Regional Road and Chapter 15 DM Standard 27 Access to National and Other Restricted Roads for Commercial & Other Development aims to support the transport function of Regional Roads and associated Regional Road junctions. Furthermore, there are a number of DM Standards which will also aid and support the configuration of the development through Masterplanning (DM Standard 1) and Phasing of Development (DM Standard 2) during the Development Management Process. The request to include a policy objective is noted, however, due to statutory provisions of a LAP only minor modification can take place at this stage of the process. The inclusion of a new policy objective is not a minor modification and therefore cannot be included.

Submission Noted. In relations to MA35 and MA36 see Chief Executive's Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Submission Noted. In relations to MA37 see Chief Executive's Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

The Planning Authority note the concerns. Upon review, it is not considered necessary or appropriate to make wording amendment with respect to the Walking and Cycling measures.

Noted. It is considered that the proposed wording should be updated in Public and Stakeholder Engagement section of the Explanatory Note.

Chief Executive Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Update the text as follows in Flow Chart as Appendix D in LTP;

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

The elected members are taken through the options selection process and the preliminary design which will go to either full public consultation or more limited stakeholder engagement, **as deemed appropriate** depending on the scale of the project.

It was agreed to amend typo on Page 35 under 4. MA47 – change from ...'tone' to 'town'.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Canning, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 7 – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from the Environmental Protection Agency and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has raised several points in their submission.

Proposed SEA Determination

The EPA notes the proposed determination regarding the need for SEA of the Material Alterations and that the SEA is required with respect to certain Material Alterations

The submission observes their 'SEA of Loughrea Authority Land Use Plan – EPA Recommendation and Resources' guidance set out key recommendation for integrating environmental consideration in the Local Authority Land Use Plans. The guidance should be considered as appropriate and relevant to the Material Alterations.

Sustainable Development

The EPA notes the Materials Alterations should be consistent with proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be put in place or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the LAP.

It is noted the Material Alteration needs to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as incorporating any relevant recommendation in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans.

The submission further notes that the Draft Loughrea LAP should be consistent with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes.

Specific Comments to be considered

The EPA outlined key aspects below to be taken into account in preparing Material Alterations.

Clear justification should be given when proceeding with Material Alteration having likely significant environmental effects or which conflict with national environment or planning policy.

The Draft Loughrea LAP should also consider and integrate recommendation of the SEA prior to its adoption.

Future Modifications to the Draft Plan

The submission notes further changes to the Draft Loughrea LAP should be screened for likely significant effect in accordance with SEA Regulation and should be assessed as the "environmental assessment" of the Draft Loughrea LAP.

SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”

The EPA suggest once the Final LAP is adopted to prepare an SEA Statement that's summaries the following:

- How environmental consideration have been integrated into the LAP;
- How the Environmental Report, submissions observations and consultation have been taken into account during the preparation of the LAP;
- The reasons for choosing the LPA adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and;
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the LAP.

The submission notes a copy of the SEA Statement should be sent to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process and suggest their guidance on preparing SEA Statements.

Environmental Authority

The EPA observes under the SEA Regulation, the following authorities should be consulted:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Minister for Environment, Climate and Communication; and,
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Any adjoining Planning Authority whose area is contiguous to the area if a Planning Authority which prepared a Draft Plan, proposed variation or LAP.

Chief Executive's Response

The Planning Authority welcomes the submission received from the EPA. The SEA process will consider these issues and ensure that all requirements are met until and following the adoption of the Plan.

Noted.

Noted.

Noted.

Noted.

Noted.

Noted.

Noted.

Noted.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 1 – TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Tipperary County Council and read CE Response and Recommendation.

Tipperary County Council had no observations to make regarding the proposed Material Alterations on the Draft Loughrea LAP and Associated documents.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed by the Members.

COUNCILLORS & TD'S

GLW – C97- 8 – CLLR JIMMY MCCLEARN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Cllr. McClearn and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission welcomes MA13, MA35, MA38 and MA39. The submission supports the community movement to provide a Public Swimming Pool in Loughrea and requests its aspiration to be included as a Policy Objective in the Loughrea LAP 2024-2030.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission noted. The request to include a Policy Objective is noted, however due to the statutory provisions of a LAP only minor modification can take place at this stage of the process. The inclusion of a new Policy Objective is not a minor modification and therefore cannot be included at this stage of the LAP process.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 9 – CLLR SHANE CURLEY

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Cllr. Curley and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission reiterates support for MA13, MA35, MA38 and MA39, regarding the provision of a Public Swimming Pool in Loughrea. In addition, the submission requests a partnership between the County Council and the Loughrea Local Swimming Pool advocacy group to deliver the Public Swimming Pool.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission noted.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 10 – CLLR DECLAN KELLY

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Cllr. Kelly and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission supports MA12, MA35, MA38, and MA39. The submission seeks the inclusion of a Policy Objective in the Loughrea LAP to make a publicly owned, swimming pool in Loughrea.

Chief Executive's Response

See Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-8.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-8.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 13 – CLLR MICHAEL MAHER

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Cllr. Maher and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission seeks the inclusion of an objective in the Loughrea LAP to make a publicly owned, swimming pool in Loughrea. It noted the need for the Public Swimming Pool to support the current and the projected population growth of Loughrea.

Chief Executive's Response

See Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-8.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-8.

Noted by the Members as this has already been dealt with under GLW-C97-8.

GLW – C97- 18 – CLLR IVAN CANNING

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Cllr. Canning and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission welcomes MA13 and MA35. It noted support for the provision of a Public Swimming Pool in Loughrea. In addition, the submission noted the health and wellbeing benefits a Public Swimming Pool would bring to Loughrea.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission noted.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change

Noted by the Members as this has already been dealt with under GLW-C97-8.

GLW – C97- 6 – DEPUTY SEAN CANNEY

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Deputy Sean Canney and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission supports all Material Alterations that zone lands in the LAP Community Facilities. The submission seeks the inclusion of an objective in the Loughrea LAP to make a publicly owned, public owned, public swimming pool in Loughrea.

Chief Executive's Response

See Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-8.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-8.

Noted by the Members as this has already been dealt with under GLW-C97-8.

GLW – C97- 12 – DEPUTY CIARAN CANNON

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Deputy Ciaran Cannon and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission seeks the inclusion of an objective in the Loughrea LAP to make a publicly owned, swimming pool in Loughrea. It noted the need for the Public Swimming Pool to support the current and the projected population growth of Loughrea. The submission supports the designation of sufficient lands with the appropriate zoning for the development of a public swimming pool another community facilities.

Chief Executive's Response

See Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-8.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-8.

Noted by the Members as this has already been dealt with under GLW-C97-8.

GLW – C97- 38 – DEPUTY ANNE RABBITTE

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Deputy Anne Rabbitte and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission expresses concern regarding the lack of public swimming pool facilities in Loughrea, the need for the provision for a public swimming pool to support the growing population of Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300 member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA 35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Noted by the Members as this has already been dealt with under GLW-C97-35.

GENERAL SUBMISSIONS

GLW – C97- 396 - MKO on behalf of BRIAN HENEGHAN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from MKO on behalf of Brian Heneghan and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission fully supports MA20. The submission refers to a previous submission made on the Draft Plan (GLW-C79-396). The Material Alteration is welcomed, and it is deemed that the lands are appropriate for the Residential Phase 1 zoning objective. The Material Alteration has been supported by a robust justification.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. As part of the submissions received on the Draft Plan, it was considered appropriate to zone the land's Residential Phase 1.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 4 - MKO ON BEHALF OF THOMAS CLAFFEY

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from MKO on behalf of Thomas Claffey and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission fully supports MA14. The submission refers to a previous submission made on the Draft Plan (GLW-C79-263). The Material Alteration is welcomed, and it is deemed that the lands are appropriate for the Residential Phase 1 zoning objective. The Material Alteration has been supported by a robust justification.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. As part of the submissions received on the Draft Plan, it was considered appropriate to zone the land's Residential Phase 1.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 31 - BRIAN CURRAN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Brian Curran and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission fully supports MA16. The submission notes the zoning of subject lands for residential development will provide much needed housing to Loughrea.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. As part of submission received on the Draft Plan, it was considered appropriate to zone the land parcel Residential Phase 1.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 34 - BRIAN CURRAN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Brian Curran and read CE Response and Recommendation.

A comprehensive submission was received, emphasising the need to amend MA38. The submission requested extending MA38 eastward, extending the Settlement Boundary and zoning the subject lands Residential Phase 1. The submission indicated the lands are ideally suited for development due to their proximity to Cross Street School Quarter and access to the Town Centre. The submission also expressed support for the implementation of the Eastern Bypass (RT2) as outlined in the LTP.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. The Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation to the previous submission (GLW-C79-434) is still relevant. The request to extend the Settlement Boundary and zone lands Residential Phase 1 is noted, however, due to statutory provisions of a LAP, only minor modification can take place at this stage of the process. The rezoning of this land parcel is not a minor modification.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 36 – LEADLANE LTD.

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Leadlane Ltd. and read CE Response and Recommendation.

A submission was received requesting that the subject lands (MA15) are rezoned from Residential Phase 1 to Residential Infill. The submission notes in the event that the Planning Authority or OPR have fundamental concerns with the Residential Phase 1 zoning as set out in the proposed Material Alterations. The submission requests that the Residential Infill zoning should be considered as an alternative. The submission is supported by a robust justification.

Chief Executive Response

Submission noted. The draft LAP was prepared in accordance with the core strategy of the Galway GCDP 2022-2028. The Elected Members brought forward a motion to reject the Chief Executive's recommendation. Subsequently, the members reallocated a quantum of Residential Phase 1 to subject lands in accordance with the core strategy GCDP 2022-2028. The Planning Authority considers it is appropriate to zone the lands Residential Phase 1.

Chief Executive Recommendation

No change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 37 – LEADLANE LTD.

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Leadlane Ltd. and read CE Response and Recommendation.

A submission was received requesting that the subject lands (MA16) are rezoned from Residential Phase 1 to Residential Phase 2. The submission notes in the event that the Planning Authority or OPR have fundamental concerns with the Residential Phase 1 zoning as set out in the proposed Material Alterations. The submission requests that the Residential Phase 2 zoning should be considered as an alternative.

The submission is supported by a robust justification.

Chief Executive Response

Submission noted. The draft LAP was prepared in accordance with the core strategy of the Galway GCDP 2022-2028. The Elected Members brought forward a motion to reject the Chief Executive's recommendation. Subsequently, the members reallocated a quantum of Residential Phase 1 to subject lands in accordance with the core strategy GCDP 2022-2028. The Planning Authority considers it is appropriate to zone the lands Residential Phase 1.

Chief Executive Recommendation

No change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 14 - GENESIS PLANNING ON BEHALF OF ROBERTO PROPERTY COMPANY LTD

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Genesis Planning on behalf of Roberto Property Company Ltd. and read CE Response and Recommendation.

A comprehensive submission was received in relation to lands at Cosmona, Loughrea. The submission references their previous submission (GLW-C79-333) received during the public consultation on the Draft LAP and the subsequent Chief Executive's Report and Recommendation to zone lands Residential Phase 1, Residential Phase 2 and Public Open Space.

The Draft Plan submission welcomed the recommendation of the Chief Executive as the proposed zonings would facilitate residential development.

This current submission notes that the lands at Cosmona are now proposed as Residential Phase 2, Public Open Space and Community Facilities. These are identified as MA 9, MA 21 and MA 22 listed below;

- **MA 9:** To rezone land from Residential Phase 2 to Community Facilities
- **MA 21:** To rezone lands from Residential Phase 1 to Residential Phase 2
- **MA 22:** To rezone lands from Residential Phase 1 to Residential Phase 2

Submission states that the Material Amendments are resulting in a net reduction of 4.5 hectares of Residential Phase 1 lands.

The submission states that the proposed MAs are serviced, adjacent to the school and it is stated are not in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development. The provision of Community Facilities zoned lands proposed previously is highlighted. It is also stated that the landowner is aiming to deliver housing units. The loss of 4.5 hectares of Residential Phase 1 lands, it is stated, is now in jeopardy.

The submission states that there has been a significant shortfall in housing delivery under both the previous and current Development Plans and at the LAP level in Loughrea.

The submission provided an analysis of the delivery of houses/apartments in the county and queried the GCDP 2022 – 2028 and the Core Strategy and made a number of observations in respect to that.

The submission notes a review of all MAs and highlights a number of MAs (MA15, MA16, MA24, MA20, MA17, MA18, MA19 and MA14) and states that they are not in accordance with the approach to determine zoning as per Appendix 3 of the NPF.

The submission suggests a number of the alternative zonings are also contrary to Recommendation 1 of the OPR's submission (GLW-C79-437) in the Draft Plan and sequential development. It is stated that no justification is provided for the zoning

amendments and no settlement capacity audit has been carried out to inform the zoning proposal. The submission included an extract from section 6.2.3 of the Section 28 Guidelines ‘Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022). The submission highlights a settlement capacity audit is required to be consistent with the Section 28 Guidelines.

It is submitted that the adoption of the MA’s as published will undermine the existing CDP with the aims and objectives failing to be realized in terms of delivery housing on Tier 1 Serviced Lands. It is further stated that the recommendations incorporated into the MAs are considered contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of Loughrea.

The submission contends that the Core Strategy in the GCDP expires in 2028. The case is put forward for an additional quantum of residential land zoning and associated housing up to 2030.

The submission requests the following;

- To zone lands as per the recommendation of the Chief Executives Report on the Draft Plan public consultation. Furthermore, to avoid a net increase in Residential Phase 1 lands it is requested that MA15, MA16, MA24, MA20, MA17, MA18, MA19 and MA14 are not brought forward,
- A Settlement Capacity Audit is carried out as per Section 28 Development Plan Guidelines, and;

Recommendation 1 as per the OPR’s submission (GLW-C79-437) is incorporated in the Draft Plan.

Chief Executive’s Response

Submission noted. The Draft LAP was prepared in accordance with the Core Strategy of the GCDP 2022 – 2028. The Chief Executive Report on the Draft Plan recommended to rezone two land parcels Residential Phase 1 and Open Space/Recreation and Amenity. However, the Elected Members brought forward a motion to reject the Chief Executive’s Recommendation and dezone a further quantum of Residential Phase 1 lands (MA21 and MA22). Subsequently, the Member’s reallocation of Residential Phase 1 lands is in accordance with the Core Strategy of the GCDP 2022 – 2028. In addition, the Members rezoned an element of Open Space/Recreation and Amenity (MA23) which was not referenced in the submission.

The submission indicated a shortfall of housing and expressed concern regarding density, housing allocations and LAP durations. The allocation of housing units for this Self-Sustaining Growth Town is derived from the Core Strategy within the Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

In relation to MA15, MA16, MA24, MA20, MA17, MA18, MA19 and MA14 the

determining of zoning was completed in accordance with Appendix 3 of the NPF. The Infrastructure Assessment accompanied the proposed Material Alterations on public display (attached as Appendix F Infrastructure Assessments on Proposed Residential Lands) illustrates the MAs noted above are identified as Tier 1 serviced lands comprising of lands that can be connected to existing development services for which there is service capacity available and can therefore accommodate new development.

Furthermore, the submission suggests a number of MAs are contrary to Recommendation 1 of the OPR's submission (GLW-C79-437) in the Draft Plan and contrary to sequential development. It should be noted Recommendation 1 of the OPR's submission on the Draft Plan relates to Existing Residential lands and specifically isolated individual residential units at peripheral locations on the Settlement Boundary. The concern raised by the OPR was clarified in the Chief Executive Report on the Draft Plan which stated no change.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 2 - MKO ON BEHALF OF MPD PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from MKO on behalf of MPD Property Developments Limited and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission fully supports MA26. The submission refers to a previous submission made on the Draft Plan (GLW-C79-310). The Material Alteration is welcomed, and it is deemed that the lands are appropriate for the Residential Infill zoning objective. The Material Alteration has been supported by a robust justification.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. As part of the submissions received on the Draft Plan, it was considered appropriate to zone the land's Residential Infill.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

OPEN SPACE/RECREATION AND AMENITY

GLW – C97- 33 - BRIAN CURRAN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Brian Curran and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission fully supports MA23. The submission refers to a previous submission made on the Draft Plan (GLW-C79-353). The Material Alteration is welcomed, and it is deemed that the lands are appropriate for the Open Space/Recreation and Amenity zoning objective. The Material Alteration has been supported by a robust justification.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. As part of the submissions received on the Draft Plan, it was considered appropriate to zone the land's Open Space/Recreation and Amenity.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

No Change.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GLW – C97- 5 – COLM O'DONNELL ON BEHALF OF IT'S TIME FOR A PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL IN LOUGHREA

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Colm O'Donnell on behalf of It's Time for a Public Swimming Pool in Loughrea and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission expresses the Community Groups 1300 members' support for MA13 and MA35. The submission outlines the need for a Public Swimming Pool in Loughrea and Connaught aiding the health and well-being of the community. In addition, the submission requests for the Loughrea LAP to include a publicly owned, public swimming pool in Loughrea as a Policy Objective.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relations to MA35 see Chief Executive's Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

See Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-8.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

See *Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-8*.

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 11 – AILISH O'REILLY

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Ailish O'Reilly and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines the support for MA13 and MA35. The submission raised several points as follows;

- Accessible facility for all of the community
- Provision of a public swimming pool would provide various benefits including enhancing the overall health and well-being of the community.
- The provision of community amenities is needed in Loughrea town to support the current town size and projected population.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See *Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.*

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 16 – MARIA WALSH

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Maria Walsh and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission highlights the need for the provision of a public swimming pool to support the growing population of Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300 members Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 17 – CHRIS MACMANUS

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Chris MacManus and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission highlights support for MA13 and MA35. The submission notes the need for a Public Swimming Pool in Loughrea and expresses support for the 1,300 member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 19 – LOUIS O'HARA

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Louis O'Hara and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission highlighted the need for the provision for a public swimming pool to support the growing population of Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300 member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 20 – FERGAL LANDY

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Fergal Landy and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission highlighted the need for the provision for a public swimming pool to support the growing population of Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300 member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 21 – EMMA SHEERAN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Emma Sheeran and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission highlighted the need for the provision for a public swimming pool to support the growing population of Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300 member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 22 – LUKE 'MING' FLANAGAN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Luke 'Ming' Flanagan and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission highlighted the need for the provision for a public swimming pool to support the growing population of

Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300-member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See *Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.*

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 23 – OLLIE TURNER

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Ollie Turner and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission expresses concern regarding the lack of public swimming pool facilities in Loughrea, the need for the provision for a public swimming pool to support the growing population of Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300 member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See *Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.*

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 24 – OLLIE TURNER

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Ollie Turner and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission expresses concern regarding the lack of public swimming pool facilities in Loughrea, the need for the provision for a public swimming pool to support the growing population of Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300 member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-

35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 25 – MICHELLE GILDERNEW

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Michelle Gildernew and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13 and MA35. The submission expresses concern regarding the lack of public swimming pool facilities in Loughrea, the need for the provision for a public swimming pool to support the growing population of Loughrea. In addition, the submission expresses support for the 1,300 member Local Community Group.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Already dealt with under GLW-C97-35. Noted by the Members.

GLW – C97- 26 – MARK LARKIN

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Mark Larkin and read CE Response and Recommendation.

The submission outlines support for MA13, MA35, MA38 and MA39 regarding a Public Swimming Pool in Loughrea. The submission raised several points as follows;

- The provision for sufficient land to be zoned for Public Amenities such as swimming pools and playing pitches to facilitate the current and forecasted growing population.
- The distance required to travel to relevant sport facilities such as Pearse Stadium was expressed.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See *Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.*

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed by the Members.

GLW – C97- 32 – COLM O'DONNELL

Ms. Loughnane went through submission received from Colm O'Donnell and read CE Response and Recommendation.

A submission was received supporting MA35. The submission notes the option of a flyover for pedestrians and cyclists to ensure safe access to the proposed lands outside the Settlement Boundary. In addition, the submission notes the importance of MA35 for the development and wellbeing of the Loughrea community.

Chief Executive's Response

Submission Noted. In relation to MA35 see Chief Executives Response to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.

Chief Executive's Recommendation

See *Chief Executives Recommendation to GLW-C97-35 in relation to Recommendation 1 of the OPR Submission.*

The Chief Executive Recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed by the Members.

Ms. Loughnane advised that they had dealt with all submissions received on Material Alterations.

AA DETERMINATION

Ms. Loughnane brought up AA Determination on screen and read it to the Meeting. It was Noted by Members.

Ms. Loughnane advised it was now time for passing of the resolution to adopt the Plan with the amendments as decided by the Members. She advised that it was required of the Planning Authority to prepare a report for the OPR explaining the Councillors' rationale for any recommendations made by the OPR which were subsequently rejected by the Members. She again advised the Members that following the OPR's receipt of that Report, that it was possible that there may be a Draft Ministerial Direction issued on foot of the OPR's Report to the Minister regarding these rejections. She then stated that should it be the case that a Draft Ministerial Direction were to be issued, that the Draft Direction must be put on public display for public consultation.

She stated that any parts of the Local Area Plan that were not subject to a Ministerial Direction, in the instance that such a direction was to be issued, would come into effect six weeks following the ratification of the resolution to adopt the Local Area Plan today.

In response to a query from Cllr. Donohue, Ms. Loughnane advised that the OPR must be notified of the adoption of the Plan within five working days of the resolution to make the plan being agreed, accompanied by the reasoning of the Members for any Material Alterations that may have been adopted contrary to OPR submission. She stated that the OPR would then have five weeks to decide whether to issue a Draft Direction, should it be warranted. Cllr. McClearn requested that the Members be notified of OPR's decision as soon as possible upon issuance.

Ms. Loughnane then read to the Meeting the resolution to adopt the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

RESOLUTION FOR MAKING OF LOUGHREA LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

Having considered the Local Area Plan, the Proposed Material Alterations, the CE Reports on submissions received (including that on the proposed material alterations) and the

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Draft Plan
- The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan
- The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Plan
- The SEA Screening Determination for the Proposed Material Alterations and subsequent Environmental Report of the Material Alterations
- The AA Screening Determination for the Proposed Material Alterations and subsequent Natura Impact Report of the Material Alterations
- Written submissions relating to SEA, AA and SFRA made during the Plan preparation process
- Ongoing advice on SEA, AA and SFRA from the Council's agents
- The final, consolidated Natura Impact Report
- The final AA Determination

In accordance with the provisions of Section 12(20) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Loughrea Municipal District Members agree, by resolution, to make the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030, as recommended by the Chief Executive and as further modified by way of motions and resolutions at the Loughrea Municipal District Meeting on 15th July 2024 and to proceed in accordance with Section 20(1)(N) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to publish notice of the making of the Local Area Plan.

The Resolution for making of the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030 was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed by the Members.

Cllr. Kinane then invited the Director of Services Mr. Hanrahan to say a few words.

Mr. Hanrahan expressed his thanks to the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members for their work in adopting the new Loughrea Local Area Plan and as acknowledged earlier, the Members have given due consideration to the Plan and changes made were very conservative. He stated that the rationale/reasons were well laid out in the Motions being forwarded to OPR. He thanked all the Forward Planning Team, in particular Ms. Loughnane and Mr. Ward for their work on getting through this Plan but also the Ballinasloe, Tuam and Athenry LAPs.

Cllr. Kinane wished to echo her own thanks for the work put in by the Forward Planning Staff and the Members.

Ms. Loughnane then thanked the Members and all in the Forward Planning Team for their diligent work throughout the process.

CHRIODHNAIGH AN CRUINNUI ANSIN

Martina Kinane

CLLR MARTINA KINANE

15/7/2024

DATE