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## Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

### Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination pursuant to the Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup> and having regard to requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

for:

#### Proposed Variation No. 1<sup>ii</sup> to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination<sup>iii</sup> is being made by Galway County Council regarding Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. This determination relates to whether the proposal to make Proposed Variation No. 1 would or would not necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 AA under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, as amended).

As identified in the accompanying Screening for AA Report:

- The existing Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 has already been subject to Stage 2 AA, which concluded that the Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>iv</sup>.
- Considering the nature and content of the Proposed Variation No. 1, as discussed above, it does not present any additional source for any likely significant effect on any European site that was not already considered as a result of existing Plan provisions relating to the development of the County as part of the Stage 2 AA (including AA NIR) conducted for the existing Plan. The tailored mitigation measures integrated into the existing Development Plan account for all uses and activities under the changes proposed and their potential effects.
- All lower tier plans/projects proposed within the area to which the Proposed Variation relates will continue to need to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of the existing Development Plan, including these mitigation measures ensuring the appropriate protection of European sites.
- Therefore, it is concluded that Proposed Variation No. 1 is not foreseen to have any likelihood for any significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>v</sup>. Therefore, any potential for a significant effect to any European site as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation No. 1 can be ruled out.
- This evaluation is made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report) is not required.

The accompanying Screening for AA Report has been carefully considered and its reasoning and the conclusion presented agreed with and adopted.

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It is hereby determined Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 will not give rise to any significant effect on any European Site, alone or in combination with any other plans or projects<sup>vi</sup>; and that Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report) is not required for Proposed Variation No. 1.

**Signatory:** Valene Youngmae - Moran SF.

**Date:** 16.02.2026. Brian Corcoran.  
SEP.  
16/2/2026.

<sup>i</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended)

<sup>ii</sup> Incorporating the Proposed Variation and alterations considered by the AA process

<sup>iii</sup> Pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and having regard to requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

<sup>iv</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>v</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>vi</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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## Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

### Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination under:

### Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011)

for:

### Proposed Variation No. 1<sup>1</sup> to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

An SEA Screening determination as to whether Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 is likely to have significant effects on the environment is being made by Galway County Council under Article 7 (13K) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

In making the determination, the information contained in the accompanying Screening for SEA Report (including information provided in response to Screening for SEA consultations with environmental authorities and an examination of the need to undertake SEA against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the above Regulations) is being taken into account. That information has been carefully considered and its reasoning and conclusion agreed with and adopted – allowing a determination to be made that Proposed Variation No. 1 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

The Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 has been subject to full SEA, which identified various environmental effects arising from implementation of the Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. Proposed Variation No. 1 would contribute towards the proper planning and sustainable development of the County and the consequential environmental effects that have been identified by the SEA for the existing Plan. Taking into account the measures that have already been integrated into the existing Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from Proposed Variation No. 1, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse).

Furthermore:

- The accompanying Screening for AA Report concludes that the Proposed Variation No. 1 is not foreseen to have any likelihood for any significant effects on any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>ii</sup>; and
- The SFRA Report appended to the Screening for SEA Report demonstrates that the Plan, as varied, will continue to be consistent with the Flood Risk Management Ministerial Guidelines.

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Taking into account all of the above, it is determined that Proposed Variation No. 1 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects and, consequently, that SEA is not required to be undertaken on the Proposed Variation.

**Signatory:** Valerie Youngman - Pona Sl.

**Date:** 16.02.2026

Brian Corcoran.  
SEP. 16.2.2026.

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<sup>1</sup> Incorporating the Proposed Variation and alterations considered by the AA process

<sup>2</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.