

## Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination

for the

### Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan 2024

This determination whether the Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 to be adopted<sup>1</sup> would or would not necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

An accompanying Screening for AA Report has been prepared to inform this determination. As identified in that report:

- Implementing this Plan will involve Galway City Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use tourism and environmental protection and environmental management. This Plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.
- The Plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, encompassing measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.
- In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.
- Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. The Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes.
- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed through the existing planning framework (which has been subject to Appropriate Assessment processes) with which the Plan and all lower tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.
- It is concluded that the Plan to be adopted is not likely to result in significant effects on European sites and will not give rise to any effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, and projects etc. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is advised as not being required.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report". The undersigned hereby determines that the Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 to be adopted<sup>2</sup> is not likely to result in significant effects on European sites and will not give rise to any effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, and projects etc. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

Signatory:



Date: 8<sup>th</sup> Jan '24

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<sup>1</sup> Incorporating the LECP Framework Plan 2024-2029 and the LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2025.

<sup>2</sup> Incorporating the LECP Framework Plan 2024-2029 and the LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2025.