



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Dréacht an Phlean Forbartha 2023-2029

Measúnachtaí Timpeallachta
Dréacht-Tuarascáil Tionchar Natura

Galway City Council
Draft City Development Plan 2023-2029

Environmental Assessments
Draft Natura Impact Report

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Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



CATHAIR NA GAILLIMHE
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GALWAY CITY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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This report describes work commissioned by Galway City Council. Colm O'Leary and Anne Mullen of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Purpose

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared as part of the assessment of the Galway City Development Plan (2023-2029). The Appropriate Assessment Screening and the NIR assess the impacts of the Plan alone, and in combination with other plans and projects, on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network. The assessment considers, where necessary, mitigation or avoidance measures to address any potential adverse impacts arising from the Plan.

The NIR has been prepared by JBA Consulting on behalf of Galway City Council (GCC) to inform the Appropriate Assessment procedure to be conducted by GCC as the competent authority on the Plan.

The Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the 'Habitats Directive' (Directive 92/43/EEC), provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. Natura 2000 are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). The Appropriate Assessment process, as used in this report, fulfils Article 3 and 4 of the Habitats Directive, which provides for an assessment of plans which are likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

With a population growth target set by the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the city to grow to a population of 120,000 over the next twenty years, the Plan sets out the spatial framework as to how this targeted growth ambition will be enabled over the next six years and how it will build the foundation for further growth in the longer term. This growth has to be linked to achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the actions on combatting climate change and its impacts, together with sustainable management of environmental resources including biodiversity.

A source-pathway-receiver model was used to determine which European sites could be potentially impacted as a result of implementation of the Plan. For this NIR, the Zone of Influence was determined to be within 15km of Galway City. However, this was extended to 35km for surface water pathways where there are hydrological links to a European site with Freshwater Pearl Mussel as a Qualifying Feature. A total of 11 European Sites are located within 15km, and are hydrogeologically connected to Galway City, so may be impacted by measures implemented within the city and therefore required further assessment. Four of these 11 sites were within the Plan Boundary. The 11 sites are:

- Galway Bay Complex SAC (within plan boundary)
- Lough Corrib SAC (within plan boundary)
- Lough Corrib SPA (within plan boundary)
- Inner Galway Bay SPA (within plan boundary)
- Castletaylor Complex SAC
- Lough Fingall Complex SAC
- Kilternan Turlough SAC
- Ardrahan Grassland SAC
- Rahasane Turlough SAC
- Rahasane Turlough SPA
- Cregganna Marsh SPA

The AA Screening Process screened in the above sites, with particular focus on those within the Plan Boundary.

A second screening process was then conducted on the policies/objectives themselves, and many policies and objectives were screened out given the lack of applicability to the source-pathway-receiver model used. The policies and objectives of the Plan that have the potential to affect European sites are outlined in full in this document. Of the ~570 policies and objectives, ~175 were screened in for potential impact using screening categories for development policies adapted from The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, UK (DTA, 2021). The elements of the Plan with potential for significant impact as identified (i.e. the policies/objectives screened in) are further examined and rationale provided for their inclusion i.e. why they were screened in.

Potential impacts of the Plan can be direct, such as habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution from construction, transportation etc. They can include long-term effects associated with the operational phase of proposed developments or general population growth, and short-term effects arising from construction phases. The relative importance of these potential impacts will vary from site to site depending on the conservation objectives. The general impacts to the qualifying interests of European sites associated with elements of the Plan potentially include:

- Construction related impacts including habitat loss, fragmentation, introduction of invasive non-native species and changes in water quality. Changes in water quality are particularly important for sites that have a surface water connection, and protection of groundwater contamination is important for those that are hydrogeologically connected.
- Operational related impacts include increased ongoing disturbance in sensitive areas, ongoing run-off such as stormwater and foul water drainage. The operational level impacts are particularly important for zonings in and around the sites. Given the objective of increased growth the provision of infrastructure is a key consideration including wastewater treatment and drainage systems facilities, which could result in ongoing operational impacts.

The identification of pathways and impacts is not intended to be exhaustive at this high level, but instead, provide a screening process to allow for policies/objectives to be enhanced, providing for mitigation or avoidance of impacts. Furthermore, potential in-combination impacts are assessed, for the policies themselves with each other, and with other major projects in the plan area as well as national, regional and key local plans.

A substantial and comprehensive set of mitigations measures have been provided within the Plan, so policies for development are offset by policies for the protection of the Natura 2000 network and promotion of biodiversity at the local level (See **Chapter 5** of this report). The mitigation is broken into two categories:

- those contained within the Draft Galway City Development Plan that directly protect European sites within the Natura 2000 network e.g. provision of protection through the Appropriate Assessment process at the project level; and
- those which indirectly protect European sites within the Natura 2000 network e.g. the provision of blue and green spaces; protection of Local Biodiversity Areas.

A total of 16 policies directly protect the sites, and a further 47 policies/specific objectives provide indirect support or protection. Both categories of mitigation are necessary to provide for a coherent Natura 2000 network.

The conclusion of the NIR is that implementation of the Plan has the potential to result in impacts to the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, if unmitigated. The protection of the integrity of the Natura 2000 network is addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of impacts in the first place and mitigate impacts where these cannot be avoided, as well as a number of policies to promote biodiversity at the local level. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to the Appropriate Assessment process.

With due regard to the incorporation of the robust mitigation measures, it is considered that the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 will not have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites within the Natura 2000 network examined in this assessment.

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Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CDP	City Development Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
DoEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EC	European Communities
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
IROPI	Imperative Reason of Overriding Public Interest
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre
NIR	Natura Impact Report
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPW	Office of Public Works
QI	Qualifying Interest

SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
ZOI	Zone of Influence

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Galway City Council (GCC) has prepared the Draft Galway City Development Plan 2023 - 2029 (GCDP) under the Planning and Development Act 2000-2010 (as amended). The Plan has been prepared in the context of national and regional planning frameworks, namely the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway, which designates Galway as a Regional City that has the potential for significant population and economic growth through focused investment in a sustainable and inclusive manner. The Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 is being prepared in a changed context from that of the current plan. The national focus on the need for climate change mitigation and adaptation with the adoption of the National Climate Action Plan (2019) will bring more focus to the Core Strategy of the Plan. While the Plan is in place for a six-year period, it is framed having regard to the long-term development objectives of the City, to align with national and regional spatial plans. The Plan governs the whole functional area of Galway City Council. The Plan, when adopted, will replace the Galway City Development Plan 2017 - 2023.

This Plan provides for, and manages, the physical, economic, and social development of the City, in the interests of the overall common good, and in compliance with environmental legislation. It includes a set of development objectives and standards, which set out where land is to be developed, and for what purposes (e.g. housing, retail, education, schools, employment, open space, amenity, conservation etc). It informs decisions on where public services such as roads and water infrastructure are to be provided and affects the type of buildings that can be constructed and how land is utilised. It influences many facets of daily economic and social life, in terms of where people can live, what services and facilities are available and where job opportunities are to be sited.

JBA Consulting Ireland Ltd. has been commissioned by Galway City Council to undertake a Natura Impact Report (NIR) in relation to the Galway City Development Plan 2023 - 2029.

1.2 Legislative Context

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the 'Habitats Directive' - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as European Sites. European Sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79 / 409 / EEC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting European Sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

Article 6(4) deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of Appropriate Assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

Article 6(4) states:

"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted."

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and / or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of the Habitats Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 / 2011).

1.3 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG). These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown in Figure 1-1.

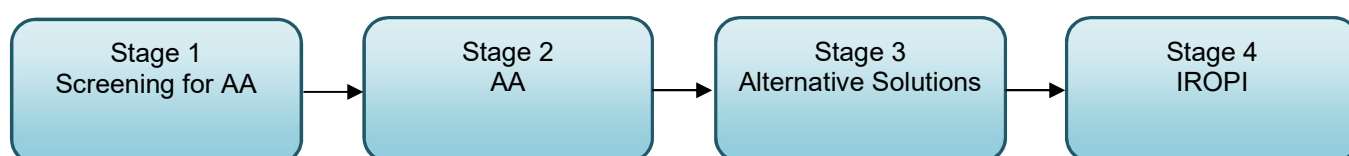


Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009, revised 2010).

1.3.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

The initial, screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European designated site for nature conservation
- if it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects

For those sites where, potential adverse impacts are identified, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, further assessment is necessary to determine if the proposals will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European designated site, in view of the site's conservation objectives (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 2).

1.3.2 Stage 2 - AA

This stage requires a more in-depth evaluation of the plan or project, and the potential direct and indirect impacts of them on the integrity and interest features of the European designated site(s), alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the site's structure, function and conservation objectives. Where required, mitigation or avoidance measures will be suggested.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) concerned. If this cannot be determined, and where mitigation cannot be achieved, then alternative solutions will need to be considered (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 3).

1.3.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

Where adverse impacts on the integrity of European Sites are identified, and mitigation cannot be satisfactorily implemented, alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

1.3.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

Where adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of European Sites are identified and no alternative solutions exist, the plan will only be allowed to progress if imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be demonstrated. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

The process only proceeds through each of the four stages for certain plans or projects. For example, for a plan or project, not connected with management of a site, but where no likely significant impacts are identified, the process

stops at stage 1. Throughout the process, the precautionary principle must be applied, so that any uncertainties do not result in adverse impacts on a site.

1.4 Methodology

The Appropriate Assessment process has been carried out with reference to the following documents:

- DoEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Revised 2010.
- European Commission (2000) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission.
- European Commission (et al. 2002) Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission.
- EC (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission.
- Fossitt, J. (2000). A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.
- Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland - Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, Second Ed. (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, (CIEEM 2018)
- (DTA 2021) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, UK by Tyldesley, D. and Chapman, C. (accessed online only with login requirements)
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

1.4.1 Desktop Survey

A desktop survey was conducted of available published and unpublished information, along with a review of data available on the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) web-based databases, in order to identify key habitats and species (including legally protected and species of conservation concern) that may be present within ecologically relevant distances from the scheme as explained below. The data sources below were consulted for the desktop study:

- NPWS website (www.npws.ie), (<https://www.npws.ie/>), where site synopses, Natura 2000 data forms and conservation objectives were obtained along with Annex I habitat distribution data and status reports.
- (NPWS 2019a) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. Unpublished NPWS report.
- (NPWS 2019b) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report.
- (NPWS 2019c). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA 2021) maps website (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>)
- Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources (GSI 2021) maps website (dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/).

1.4.2 Zone of Influence

The Plan will primarily affect the City only, but a wider zone of influence (ZOI) is used for potential impacts relating to noise disturbance, air pollution, surface water and any supporting habitat for SAC/SPA species.

For this NIR, the ZOI was determined to be within 15km of Galway City. However, this was extended to 35km for surface water pathways where there are hydrological links to a European site with Freshwater Pearl Mussel as a Qualifying Feature. Further details of this are in Section 3.

1.4.3 Limitations and Constraints

The assessment necessarily relies on some assumptions and it was inevitably subject to some limitations. These do not affect the conclusion, but the following points are recorded in order to ensure the basis of the assessment is clear:

- The City Development Plan is a higher-level plan and includes policies to ensure that lower tier plans and projects are subject to the AA process where required. Therefore, this assessment cannot include any detailed assessment of any projects that may arise as a result of this Plan. Where broad level assessments are required to determine the potential for cumulative or in-combination impacts, the precautionary principle is used.
- Much of the implementation and monitoring of the Plan is dependent on collaboration with stakeholders and a range of agencies. The implementation of the Plan will also depend on the economic climate, political support, council funding and availability of funding from other sources. It is not possible to predict with certainty where these can be relied upon or where unpredictable changes will occur. However, the assumption is made that in all instances legislation will be followed and further AA will occur where needed by the Competent Authority.
- Any changes to the Plan will require re-assessment by a suitably qualified Ecologist to determine if further screening and assessment will be required. In all instances of this assessment, the precautionary principle is used.

1.5 Consultation

Under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process, a scoping letter was sent to Environmental Authorities. This consultation identified the range of environmental issues and the level of detail to be included in the SEA Environmental Report. Scoping submissions made by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media included issues relating to the Appropriate Assessment process and informed the drafting of this NIR. Section 2 of the SEA details the scoping submissions received.

2 Galway City Development Plan 2023 - 2029

2.1 Background

The Plan consists of a written statement and maps. The Core Strategy informs the policies and objectives of the Plan and the maps provide a graphic representation of the key elements of the Plan.

2.2 Profile of Galway City

Galway City is located within County Galway on the west coast of Ireland in the province of Connacht (see Figure 2-1). Galway City has a population of 79,900 (Census 2016), covers an area of 50.5km² and has a coastline of 21km. It is a successful regional city, which contributes greatly to the wider economy. The Development Plan is set within the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the strategic framework established by national and regional plans, policies and guidelines. Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Northern and Western Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES) includes objectives to develop Galway City as a regional city and driver of national growth. The city is identified as a place with potential to compete internationally and provide a high-quality urban living environment, with significant city centre potential for regeneration.

The NPF targets the population of Galway City to grow by 40,000 to 45,000 people by 2040 which is an increase of approximately 55%. It also targets half of the homes to accommodate this population increase to be located within the existing built footprints on lands which include key regeneration/brownfield sites, infill sites and underutilised lands at locations that are well served by existing and planned public transport, amenity, social and community infrastructure.

The RSES supports the implementation of the NPF and includes a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway. The MASP identifies key infrastructure, services and facilities that will be required to support sustainable city growth and regeneration. It sets out how the NPF population targets can be met in accordance with the principles of sustainable development with the aim to deliver compact growth. The population target for the city is to reach 102,900 by 2026, an increase of 23,000 from the Census 2016 population of 79,900. Longer term to 2031, the population target is for the city to grow by a further 12,000 to reach a population of 114,900. Further refinement of these projections was carried out at county /city level by the ESRI and published as Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning (Section 28 guidelines DHLGH 2020), these have informed the Core Strategy of the Plan.

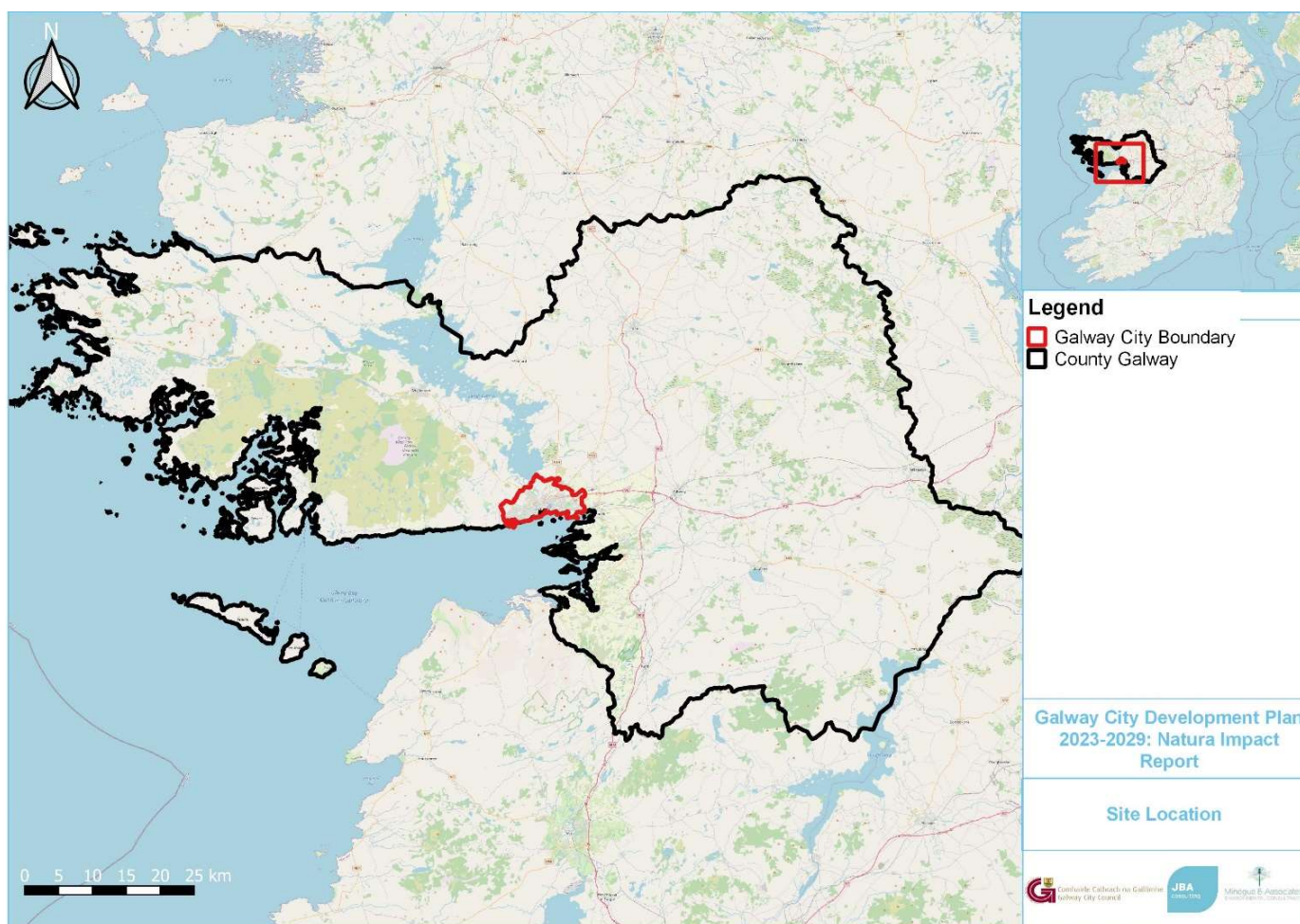


Figure 2-1: Location of Galway City (OSM Standard, 2021)

2.3 Core Strategy of Plan

The Plan builds on the review of the 2017-2023 City Development Plan and is required to set out a strategy for the growth and development of Galway City, consistent with national and regional spatial plans.

The Core Strategy has been developed in line with the vision for Galway and includes for a settlement strategy that supports the city to transition to a low carbon, climate resilient city. This can be achieved by implementation of a compact growth approach, increased integration between land use and transportation, increased sustainable mobility and sustainable use and management of environmental resources.

The Core Strategy supports an integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy. To deliver on the compact growth approach and NPF growth targets, it seeks to concentrate a significant amount of development that is, at least half of all new homes within the built footprint of the city and thereby accord with sustainable principles and the NPF /RSES objectives. It has a focus on the growth of regeneration and opportunity sites, these include predominately lands suitable for a mix of uses with capacity for residential delivery. These sites included legacy regeneration sites from the 2017 - 2023 City Development Plan - Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and lands in the Headford Road area. Many of these sites generally have spatial advantages such as close proximity to the city core, a location along an existing /planned high frequency bus route, good proximity and access to employment, services and amenities. The Strategy also includes a key urban extension on the east side of the city at Ardaun, which is a nationally designated Major Urban Housing Delivery Site. The balance of development is for consolidation of the existing suburbs, including Knocknacarra, Rahoon and Castlegar. The Core Strategy approach to compact growth is further supported by an increasing focus on place making, public realm measures and enhancement of amenity and recreational opportunities.

The City Development Plan is underpinned by a number of key frameworks, policies and strategies. These include The NPF, RSES, UN Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Action, Planning Guidelines and a number of Environmental Reports including this Nature Impact Report. This Natura Impact Report informs the Competent Authority for Appropriate Assessment of the overall Plan.

Further information on the background to the Plan can be found in the introduction of the Plan.

2.4 Structure of Plan

Galway City Development Plan is an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of Galway City from 2023 to 2029.

The Plan consists of a Written Statement and maps. The Core Strategy informs the policies and objectives of Chapters 2 to 10. The maps provide a graphic representation of the key elements of the Plan.

The policy chapters of the written statement are as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction, Strategic Context and Core Strategy
- Chapter 2 - Climate Action
- Chapter 3 - Housing and Sustainable Neighbourhoods
- Chapter 4 - Sustainable Mobility and Transportation
- Chapter 5 - Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity
- Chapter 6 - Economy Enterprise and Retail
- Chapter 7 - Community and Culture
- Chapter 8 - Built Heritage, Placemaking and Urban Design
- Chapter 9 - Environment and Infrastructure
- Chapter 10 - Compact Growth and Regeneration

2.5 Alternatives to the Plan

The AA process has informed the SEA process and examination of alternatives, Section 6 of the SEA describes in technical detail, the SEA alternatives considered.

3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusions

3.1 Introduction

An assessment of the potential impacts of Galway City Development Plans Strategy, policies and objectives, is required under regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).

This section aims to identify whether the proposed Plans Strategy, policies and objectives are likely to have a significant effect, either alone, or in-combination with other projects and plans, on the European Sites within the ZOI.

The 'screening' process follows the 'precautionary principle' and addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive:

- Is the plan or programme directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site; and
- Will the plan or programme, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a European site in view of its conservation objectives.

If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain, then the plan or programme that is under assessment is subject to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, reported in the form of a NIR.

The Strategy, policies and objectives of the Galway City Development Plan are not directly connected to the management of any European Sites; however, they could have potential to cause significant effects on European Sites.

3.2 Findings of the Screening Process

Seventy-one European Sites were screened for potential impacts as they were determined to be within at least one of the ZOIs of the Plan (see Appendix A). Connectivity via river catchments, groundwater aquifer zones to identify possible interactions with the Plan area and designated sites outside the 15km area.

Four European Sites are within Galway City, namely, Lough Corrib SAC, Galway Bay Complex SAC, Inner Galway Bay SPA and Lough Corrib SPA. These four European Sites will require further assessment for potential impacts.

Of the 67 European Sites outside of Galway City, 14 European Sites are within 15km and are hydrologically connected via surface or groundwater connections (see Appendix A). Eight of these 14 sites are anticipated to be impacted due to the hydrogeological connection between the sites and Galway City, with the remainder being upstream and unlikely to be affected.

The remaining 59 European Sites will not be assessed further due to a lack of hydrological connection and/or they are located too far upstream of Galway City to be impacted upon (see Appendix A).

Of the 11 screened in European Sites, Lough Corrib SAC has Freshwater Pearl Mussel as a Qualifying Interest and is located within and to the north of Galway City. However, a review of the Conservation Objectives of Lough Corrib SAC shows that no Freshwater Pearl Mussel is located within the Plan area (NPWS, 2017).

A detailed assessment of individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts to European Sites is included in Appendix B.

3.3 Conclusion of Screening Process

In conclusion, a total of 11 European Sites are within 15km, and are hydrogeologically connected to Galway City, so may be impacted by measures implemented within the city and so require further assessment.

The 11 European Sites with may be impacted and require Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment are presented in Table 3-1 their conservation objectives are listed in Appendix E.

Table 3-1: European Sites requiring further assessment

Site Code	European Sites	Within City	Distance (km) from Galway City	Requirement for Appropriate Assessment
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC		12.23	Required

Site Code	European Sites	Within City	Distance (km) from Galway City	Requirement for Appropriate Assessment
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	x	0.00	Required
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	x	0.00	Required
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC		11.53	Required
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC		9.16	Required
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC		11.91	Required
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC		13.20	Required
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	x	0.00	Required
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	x	0.00	Required
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA		11.46	Required
004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA		2.41	Required

3.3.1 Qualifying Interests

The Qualifying interests for the European Sites that were screened in are provided in Appendix A. Designated habitat types and species within the screened in SACs and SPAs have potential to be affected by the implementation of the proposed Plan.

3.3.2 Conservation Objectives

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. The maintenance of habitats and species within European Sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the European sites network) are required for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. Detailed site-specific conservation objectives have been provided for the majority of SACs and SPAs, which can be found within the Conservation Objectives document for each site on the NPWS website and Appendix E. Generic conservation objectives have been compiled for the remaining SAC and SPAs.

The overall aim of conservation objectives is for the maintenance or restoration of the favourable conservation conditions of the Annex I habitats and/or the Annex II species for which a SAC has been selected, under which the site-specific objectives contain more detailed attributes, measures and targets.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

The conservation objectives for SPAs are also to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for SPAs, which are defined by the following list of attributes and targets;

- Population trend; Measure of percentage change and whether the long-term population trend stable or increasing.

- Distribution: Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas. There is to be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by golden plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

The conservation objective for non-breeding birds Special Conservation Interests for SPAs are as follows:

- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the non-breeding water bird Special Conservation Interest species listed for a SPA.
- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat for a SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory water birds that utilise it.

The conservation objectives were considered when carrying out the AA screening process for the Galway City Development Plan that may potentially impact on European Sites.

3.3.3 Potential Cumulative Impacts

Given the specificity of the relevant plans and project developments in Appendix D, to the City, their connectivity in terms of surface water, groundwater and land and air pathways to the European Sites is likely to be similar. With this in consideration, it can be stated that cumulative impacts are anticipated. A more detailed assessment of potential cumulative impacts is included in Section 4.6 and Appendix D.

4 Natura Impact Report

4.1 Introduction

This NIR aims to determine whether the proposed Plan would result in significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site with respect to the site's structure, function, and/ or conservation objectives as defined in Appendix E. It also aims to provide supporting information for the competent authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Plan.

Potential impacts that may arise are outlined below and discussed in further detail to determine significance based on their impact upon the overall integrity of the relevant European sites and their conservation objectives. Their conservation objectives are in Appendix E.

4.2 Description of European Sites

This section provides descriptions of the 11 European sites the AA Screening identified as having pathway-receptors for potential significant impacts arising from the implementation of the Plan (see Table 4-1 for list of potentially impacted European sites).

Table 4-1: European Sites Potentially Impacted by the Plan

Site Code	European Sites	Distance (km) from Plan Boundary
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	12.23
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	Within Plan Boundary
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	Within Plan Boundary
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	11.53
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	9.16
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	11.91
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	13.20
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	Within Plan Boundary
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	Within Plan Boundary
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	11.46
004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA	2.41

Figure 4-1 illustrates the location of screened in European sites in relation to the plan area and Table 4-2 contains details of the Qualifying Interests of the sites within the zone of influence.

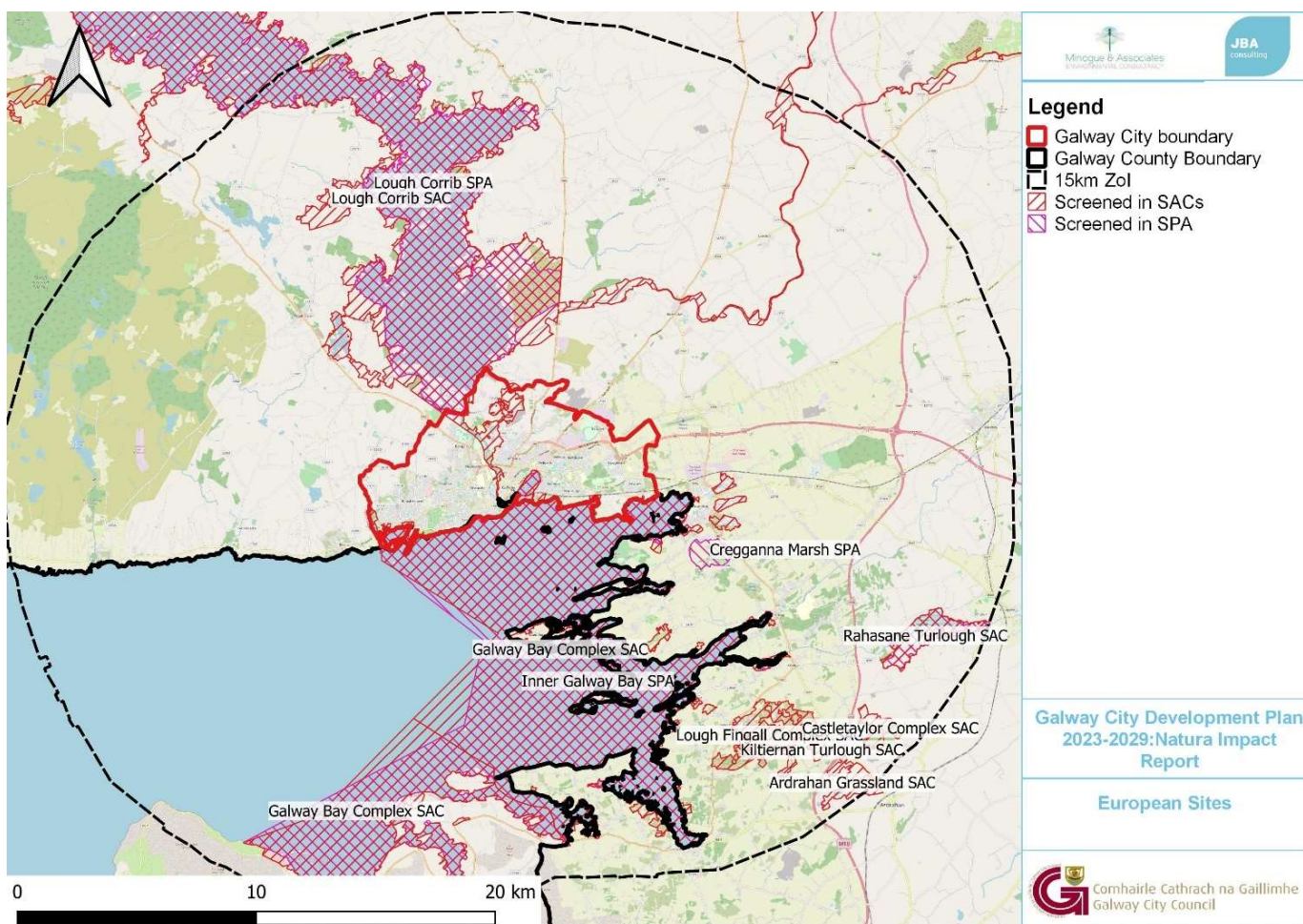


Figure 4-1: Screened in European sites (OSM, 2021)

Table 4-2. Detail of the Qualifying Interests of European sites within the zone of influence.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interest
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	Turloughs [3180]
		Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
		Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]
		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]
		Limestone pavements [8240]
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
		Coastal lagoons [1150]
		Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]
		Reefs [1170]
		Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
		Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
		Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
		Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]
		Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interest
		Turloughs [3180]
		Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]
		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]
		Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]
		Alkaline fens [7230]
		Limestone pavements [8240]
		Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]
		Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
		Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetalia [3130]
		Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]
		Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]
		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]
		Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]
		Active raised bogs [7110]
		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]
		Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]
		Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]
		Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]
		Alkaline fens [7230]
		Limestone pavements [8240]
		Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]
		Bog woodland [91D0]
		Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]
		Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]
		Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
		Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]
		Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
		Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]
		Hamatocaulis vernicosus (Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216]
		Turloughs [3180]
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
		Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]
		Turloughs [3180]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interest
		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]
		Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]
		Limestone pavements [8240]
		Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
		Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]
		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]
		Limestone pavements [8240]
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	Black-throated Diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>) [A002]
		Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003]
		Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]
		Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028]
		Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]
		Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]
		Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]
		Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]
		Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]
		Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]
		Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]
		Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]
		Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]
		Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]
		Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]
		Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]
		Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]
		Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]
		Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191]
		Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]
		Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051]
		Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]
		Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059]
		Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061]
		Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]
		Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]
		Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]
		Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]
		Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interest
		Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]
		Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]
		Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]
		Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]
		Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]
		Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]
		Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]
		Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]
		Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]
		Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]

4.3 Existing Environment

This section summarises the relevant existing environment within the Plan boundaries and its surroundings. All relevant baseline data is considered to be information on the conditions necessary for the maintenance of European sites.

4.3.1 Surface water bodies

4.3.1.1 Rivers

There are two main rivers within the Plan boundary, namely the Corrib River and the Terryland River.

The Corrib River flows north to south from Lough Corrib to Galway Bay. The river is part of the Lough Corrib SAC and discharges directly into the Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA (see Figure 4-2). Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status 2013 - 2018 the Corrib River has been assigned a Good Status (EPA, 2021).

The Terryland River is approximately 4km long and discharges into the River Corrib (see Figure 4-2). Under the WFD Status 2013 - 2018 the Terryland River had been assigned a poor status. Recent monitoring indicates that there have been slight improvements to water quality and the water body is now classified as of "Moderate Status".

Table 4-3: Summary table of Q-values for water courses (from EPA Water Quality in Ireland 2013 - 2018 monitoring programme and Triturus (2018)).

River Body	Station Name	Year	Q-Value Score	Q-Value Status	Q-value Score From Triturus (2018)	Q-Value Status From Triturus (2018)
CORRIB_020	Salmon Weir Bridge-Galway	2018	4	Unpolluted - Good		
TERRYLAND_010	Br d/s Terryland Br on ring road RS30T010500	2018	3-4	Moderately Polluted Moderate	2-3 (further up in headwater)	Seriously polluted (Poor Status)*

At present the water body is now classified as "Moderate Status".

Knocknacarragh Stream, Tonabrocky Stream and Bearna Stream also have been sampled, with variable results. The upper reaches of the Bearna Stream have Good status (Q-Value of 4), but downstream this degrades to a Q3. Tonabrocky Stream is also Good status (Q4). Knocknacarragh Stream is Q3, of Moderate status only.

4.3.1.2 Lakes

Two main lakes are located within the Plan area, namely Lough Corrib and Lake West of Coolagh (see Figure 4-2).

Lough Corrib is located mainly to the north of the Plan boundary and includes the Lough Corrib SPA and Lough Corrib SAC. Under the WFD Status 2013 - 2018 Lough Corrib has been assigned a Good Status (EPA, 2021).

Lake West of Coolagh is located within the Plan area and close to the River Corrib. The lake discharges into the River Corrib. The lake is within the Lough Corrib SAC. The lake has not been assigned a status under the WFD Status 2013 - 2018 (EPA, 2021).

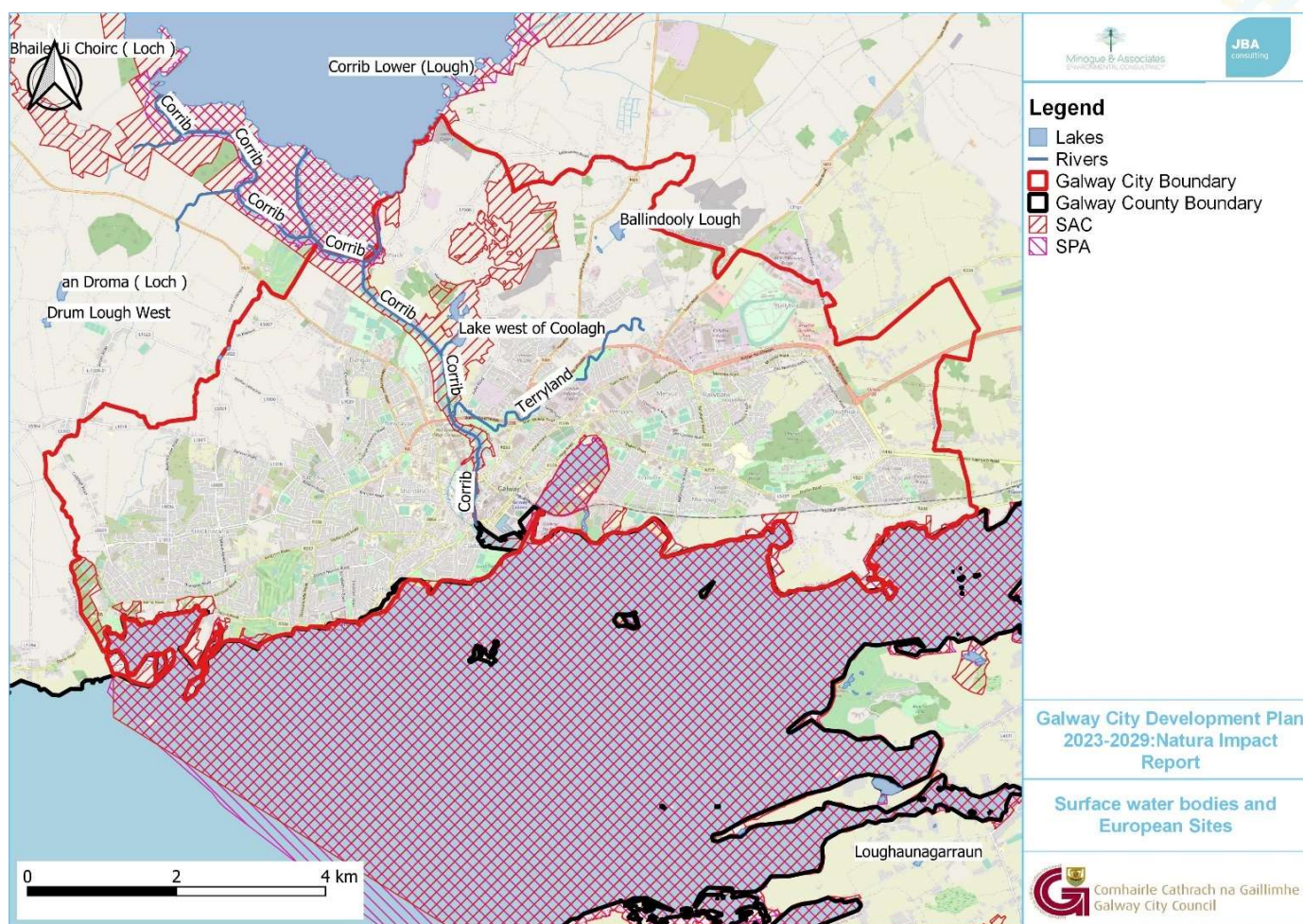


Figure 4-2: Surface water bodies within the Plan area and European Sites (OSM, 2021).

4.3.2 Groundwater

Under the WFD Status 2013 - 2018 groundwater bodies within the Plan boundary have been assigned a Good status (EPA, 2021). The Plan area is also split into two aquifers divided in the north-west to south-east direction. The eastern area is composed of "Regionally Important Aquifer", and the western area is composed of "Poor Bedrock Aquifer" (GSI, 2021a).

There are 23 Karst features present and all are located in the eastern extent of the plan area. They consist of springs, boreholes enclosed depressions and superficial solution features.

While it is recognised that coastal and riverine habitats within the Plan boundary are vulnerable to impact arising from developments, another factor for consideration are the potential ex situ impacts on groundwater dependant European sites located within inland sites in East and South Galway. Groundwater-dependant features reflect a highly karstified region. Changes to the hydrogeological regime which may arise through dewatering or abstractions from ground water, or contamination of groundwater may occur through poor working practices, leakages or accidental spillage of materials if efficient pollution control measures are not fully implemented and maintained. There is potential for

changes in the water table and contamination of groundwater resources through karst features and underground conduits at a distance from a development as a result of the karst geology in the region.

Groundwater impacts are relevant only to development in the east of the city and surrounds, which are underlain by karst limestone.

4.4 Elements of the Draft Plan with Potential for Significant Impacts

Development for housing, business, infrastructure, services and recreation/tourism promoted as part of the City Development Plan can potentially have adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which European sites are designated.

These impacts can be direct, such as habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution from construction, transportation etc. They can include long-term effects associated with the operational phase of proposed developments or general population growth, and short-term effects arising from construction phases.

This chapter identifies the potential impacts and their pathways to European sites within and adjacent to plan area which may arise as a result of the Galway City Development Plan.

As outlined in the EC guidance on the assessment of plans and projects affecting European sites (EC, 2002), impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the proposed Plan are as follows in Table 4-4 below.

Table 4-4: Potential Impacts to European sites

Potential Impact	Description
Habitat loss	This is a loss of habitat within the designated boundaries of a European site.
Habitat fragmentation	This is where activities result in the separation of available habitats or split extensive areas of suitable habitat. Most likely to affect species.
Changes in physical regime	These are changes to physical process that will alter the present characteristics of the European site e.g. fluvial and geomorphological processes, erosion processes, deposition.
Physical damage	This includes recreational pressures such as trampling and erosion, and where sites are close to urban areas, other damaging activities may occur such as rubbish tipping, vandalism, arson, and predation, particularly by cats.
Habitat/community simplification	Changes to environmental conditions, due to human activities, which result in a reduction and fragmentation of habitats that will reduce biodiversity.
Disturbance (noise, visual)	Activities which result in disturbance, causing sensitive birds and mammals to deviate from their normal, preferred behaviour, such as construction, recreational, traffic.
Competition from invasive non-native species	Activities may cause the introduction or spread of invasive non-native animals and plants, which could result in changes to community composition and even to the complete loss of native communities.
Changes in water levels or tables	Activities that may affect surface and groundwater levels, such as land drainage and abstraction, may have adverse impacts on water dependant habitats and species.
Changes in water quality	Activities that may impact upon water quality, such as accidental pollution spills, run-off from urban areas, nutrient enrichment from agriculture, and discharge from sewage works, may adversely affect wetland habitats and species.
Changes to surface water flooding	Activities that may result in a reduction or increase in the frequency and extent of surface water flooding, which may affect riverine and floodplain habitats
Turbidity and siltation	Increases in turbidity within water environments can impact upon aquatic plants, fish and wildfowl due to sedimentation and reduction in penetrable light.
Pollution	Activities that may lead to the release of pollutants to the air such as oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulphur or ammonia, or pollutants deposited on the ground through acidification or terrestrial eutrophication via soil (deposition of nitrogen).

The pathways for impact have been discussed in the Screening Assessment (Appendix B) which concluded that there are four main European Sites that would be potentially impacted by policies of the Plan:

- The potential direct (in situ) and indirect (ex situ) adverse impacts of proposed zoned developments adjacent to Lough Corrib SAC/SPA, Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA and any other important locally connected water-dependent aquatic habitats downstream.
- The potential adverse impacts on groundwater dependant European sites within the ZOI of the Plan area.
- The impact of noise disturbance to qualifying species of proximate SPA sites particularly Inner Galway Bay SPA and Lough Corrib SPA.
- The size and scale of individual developments within the Plan area will determine the magnitude of impacts on European sites.
- The policies and objectives outlined in the Plan will ensure that no elements of the Plan represent a risk to the current range of qualifying habitats supported by European sites.

4.4.1 Rationale for Screening in Policies and identification of impacts.

Tables 4-5 works through the screened in policy objectives of the Plan (see Appendix C) and briefly details the main rationale for inclusion for potential impact. Potential impacts arising from implementation of the Plan may include: Turbidity and siltation, pollution, changes to surface water flooding, changes to water quality, disturbance or increased use of sensitive areas, and depending on the habitats present at the site habitat loss or fragmentation, habitat community or simplification and physical damage.

Table 4-5 - Screened in policies and rationale behind Screening "IN"

Screened in ID	Screened in Policy / Objective	Rationale for Potential Impact
Policy 2.2.7 - Climate Action	Manage the climate risks associated with climate change through the development of climate adaptation measures and sustainable planning and development, including through the planning, design and implementation of the Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme in conjunction with the OPW.	Coastal flood relief scheme works may impact on coastal habitats (Construction and disturbance).
Policy 2.2.8 - Climate Action	Support the implementation of water management measures through mechanisms such as SUDS, rainwater harvesting, use of grey water, water storage and nature-based solutions to adapt to the impacts of climate change.	Generally positive, but potential adverse impacts of SUDS into receiving local watercourses and larger water bodies.
Policy 2.3.1 - Renewable Energy	Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy within the city, and support national initiatives, which offer sustainable alternatives to dependency on fossil fuels and a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, subject to the avoidance of unduly negative visual and environmental impacts, or impacts on residential amenity.	Construction and operation.
Policy 2.3.2 - Renewable Energy	Support and work in partnership with SEAI, local Sustainable Energy Communities and relevant stakeholders in the development of energy efficient and renewable energy projects and investigate and support the potential for the use of emerging renewable technologies in the city.	Construction, renewable energy development.
Policy 2.3.4 - Renewable Energy	Promote small scale, on-site energy development, where energy generated is primarily required to meet the needs of households, communities and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. Examples could include micro wind/solar energy generation, district heating, geo thermal and air to water energy technologies.	Construction, operational disturbance.
Policy 2.3.5 - Renewable Energy	Support transmission network integration requirements facilitating linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity and gas transmission grid, in a sustainable and timely manner, subject to proper planning and environmental considerations.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Policy 2.3.6 -	Support the development of appropriate land-based	Infrastructural project,

Screened in ID	Screened in Policy / Objective	Rationale for Potential Impact
Renewable Energy	infrastructure at suitable locations in the city to support off-shore renewable energy production subject to appropriate visual, environmental and ecological protection.	construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Policy 3.1.1 - Housing Strategy	Ensure that sufficient suitable lands are zoned to meet the extent of housing needs identified in accordance with the National Planning Framework 2040 (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) targeted population for Galway City, supporting compact growth and regeneration including the requirement that at least 50% of all new homes be delivered within the existing built-up footprint.	May result in increased development, including construction impacts, ongoing disturbance and habitat loss/fragmentation.
Policy 3.2.2 - Traveller Accommodation	Support and facilitate the specific accommodation needs of the Traveller community as identified in the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019-2024 through land use zoning objectives and the development management process, in particular to deliver traveller accommodation as identified in the TAP, to be provided as part of social housing schemes, as group housing schemes, culturally specific housing and through redevelopment and refurbishment of existing halting sites.	May result in increased development, including construction impacts, ongoing disturbance and habitat loss/fragmentation.
Policy 3.5.1 - Established Suburbs	Facilitate consolidation of existing residential development and densification where appropriate while ensuring a balance between the reasonable protection of the residential amenities and the character of the established suburbs and the need to provide for sustainable residential development and deliver population targets.	May result in increased development, including construction impacts, ongoing disturbance and habitat loss/fragmentation.
Policy 4.1.6 - General	Continue to progress a sustainable transport solution for the city through the implementation of measures included in the GTS and required supporting projects in particular the N6 GCRR project.	Infrastructural projects, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Policy 4.4.3 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Support the National Greenway Strategy and proposed Greenways as part of the primary cycle network and as part of a links to Bearna, Oranmore, Maigh Cuilinn and Oughterard.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, habitat/community simplification, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Policy 4.4.8 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Promote, facilitate and maintain maximum connectivity and permeability for pedestrians and cyclists in the design and management of new public and private projects and in upgrading and retrofitting existing developments in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019) and Permeability a Best Practice Guide, NTA (2015).	Construction.
Policy 4.5.2 - Transport Demand Management Measures	Support the GTS proposals to prioritise public transport movements in the city centre through the implementation of a designated public transport route, the Cross-City Link.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Policy 4.6.1 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Support the N6 Galway City Ring Road project in conjunction with Galway County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in order to develop a transportation solution to address the existing congestion on the national and regional road network.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.

Screened in ID	Screened in Policy / Objective	Rationale for Potential Impact
Policy 4.6.2 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Enhance the delivery of an overall integrated transport solution for the city and environs by supporting the reservation of the designed strategic road corridor to accommodate the N6 GCRR project.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Policy 4.6.4 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Implement improvements on the general road network, including new links and junction revisions where needed in the interest of safety and convenience.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Policy 4.7.1 - Galway Port	Support proposals for development and extension of port facilities and an extension of the rail line to the port, which are of strategic importance to the City and the northern and western region.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Objective 4.8.1 - Public Transport	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the provision of the 'Cross City Link' as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the Cross City Link and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Objective 4.8.2 - Public Transport	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the development of a public bus network in accordance with the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the public bus network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Objective 4.8.4 - Public Transport	Develop the Tuam Road Multi-modal Corridor from Claregalway to Moneenageisha Cross via Joyces Road in conjunction with Galway County Council and reserve lands accordingly.	Construction, operational disturbance.
Objective 4.8.5 - Public Transport	Provide for bus transport and infrastructure along the Western Distributor Road.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Objective 4.8.7 - Public Transport	Reserve lands parallel with the rail line from the city centre to the eastern city boundary for future rail sustainable transport requirements and to provide for possible commuter rail stops.	Infrastructural project.
Objective 4.8.8 - Public Transport	Provide measures to allow for the repair/replacement of Wolfe Tone Bridge in the interests of safety and accommodate pedestrian improvements where feasible.	Construction.
Objective 4.8.10 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the development of a cycle network including for a core, secondary and feeder network in accordance with the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.

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	deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the cycle network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	
Objective 4.8.12 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Develop the National Greenway Network in the city, in particular the National Galway to Dublin Cycleway and the Galway to Clifden Greenway in conjunction with the NTA, TII and Galway County Council.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for non-native invasive species introduction/spread.
Objective 4.8.14 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Provide pedestrian and cycle bridge crossing of the River Corrib adjacent to the Salmon Weir Bridge.	Construction.
Objective 4.8.15 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Provide a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the piers of the Old Clifden Railway Line from the Headford Road Regeneration area to NUIG campus.	Construction, operational disturbance.
Objective 4.8.17 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Prioritise improvements to pedestrian movements and safety between the City Centre, Woodquay and Bóthar na mBan to the Headford Road Regeneration area.	Construction.
Objective 4.8.19 - Galway Transport Strategy Measures	Implement the programme of actions and measures as provided for in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and on a phased and co-ordinated basis, based on priority needs.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts.
Objective 4.8.22 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Reserve the route corridor of the N6 Galway City Ring Road (N6 GCRR) project as approved with conditions and modifications by An Bord Pleanála which accommodates the designed strategic road and the associated bridge crossing of the River Corrib.	Infrastructural project.
Objective 4.8.23 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Give priority to the reservation the N6 GCRR designed strategic road corridor and any associated land requirements over other land uses and objectives in the City Development Plan and prohibit developments within the designed strategic road corridor which could potentially prejudice the development of this strategic road and river crossing.	Infrastructural project.
Objective 4.8.24 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Investigate and develop road improvements, junction improvements and traffic management solutions in the context of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and strategic developments, to maximise the operating efficiency and safety of the network having regard to the requirements of all categories of road users and road network capacity constraints. Such solutions or interventions will be developed in conjunction with the relevant agency, such as the TII, NTA, and the Department of Transport, and will, where necessary, be subject to the requirements and consenting procedures of the Planning and Development Acts and the Roads Acts.	Infrastructural projects.
Objective 4.8.25 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Provide for upgrading of the Tuam Road (N83) from Bóthar na dTreabh (N6) to the city boundary and including the realignment of the Castlegar Road/ Tuam Road (N83) junction.	Construction.
Objective 4.8.26 - Road and Street	Facilitate a new access to Merlin Park Hospital from the Dublin Road.	Construction.

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Network and Accessibility		
Objective 4.8.27 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Implement general road widening and street improvements for safety and convenience including at Bóthar na Cóiste.	Construction.
Objective 4.8.30 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Implement the traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the provision of the City Centre Access Network as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated route and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the City Centre Access Network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	Infrastructural projects.
Objective 4.8.31 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Reserve land for a strategic link road from Sean Mulvoy Road to Sandy Road, the location and alignment of which shall be based on optimum transport and sustainable planning and development considerations.	Infrastructural project.
Objective 4.32 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Investigate the possibility of, with a view to providing an additional/ alternative access and egress for Boireann Bheag estates, Roscam in order to help alleviate chronic traffic congestion on the Doughiska road artery at peak times.	Construction, possible operational disturbance.
Policy 5.1.2 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the actions of the Galway Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and the upcoming Greenspace Strategy with particular emphasis on the progression and completion of both the existing South Park and Kingston Land Masterplans.	May result in increased development, including construction impacts, ongoing disturbance from recreation and habitat loss/ fragmentation.
Policy 5.1.9 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Continue to acquire and develop lands zoned for recreation and amenity use. These lands will be used predominately for public use, but opportunities for public/private partnerships will also be investigated where a high standard of recreation facility will be developed and where opportunities for public access is provided.	May result in increased development, including construction impacts, ongoing disturbance from recreation and habitat loss/ fragmentation.
Policy 5.1.16 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Promote the multi-use of indoor and outdoor (both private and public) recreation and leisure facilities and amenities to accommodate a diverse range of recreational needs.	Disturbance in a sensitive area.
Policy 5.3.3 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Develop and enhance the recreational and amenity potential of the city's waterways and coastal area, while not compromising the ecological importance of these areas.	Disturbance. Inbuilt mitigation, but still has potential for impact.
Policy 5.3.4 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Investigate the extensive water resource in the city with a view to exploring where public access and enjoyment can be improved and where potential sustainable uses and water based recreation can be developed to the benefit of the city, and have regard to ecological conservation and safety considerations.	Disturbance. Inbuilt mitigation, but still has potential for impact.
Policy 5.3.8 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure the conservation of the canal corridor and require that developments abutting the canal relate to the context of the adjacent environment and contribute to the overall amenity, and explore the possibility of opportunities for public access.	Habitat loss, disturbance, water quality impacts.

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Policy 5.3.14 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Facilitate sustainable flood defence and coastal protection works in order to prevent flooding and coastal erosion, subject to environmental and visual considerations as guided by the Corrib go Cósta, Galway Flood Relief Scheme project.	Coastal works may impact on coastal habitats in particular (Construction and disturbance).
Policy 5.3.19 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	The Council will seek to designate shore fishing areas at appropriate locations in the city.	Disturbance.
Policy 5.3.20 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Implement the outcomes of the emerging strategy for the marine environment set out in the forthcoming Marine Planning and Development Management legislation.	Coastal works may impact on coastal habitats in particular (Construction and disturbance).
Policy 5.4.1 - Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees	Manage and develop woodlands in the ownership of Galway City Council for natural heritage, recreation and amenity use, including Terryland Forest Park, Merlin Park Woods and Barna Woods/Lough Rusheen City Park.	Generally Positive, but construction and/or disturbance may have temporary or ongoing impacts.
Policy 5.5.1 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Continue to develop and improve the greenway network in the city, providing alternative accessible circulation routes for pedestrians and cyclists, for the enjoyment of the entire community.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss/ fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Policy 5.5.2 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Develop a strategic citywide coastal greenway from east to west linking riverside walkways, having due regard to nature conservation considerations.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Policy 5.5.3 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Facilitate linked greenways from the city into the county area in particular to Bearna, Oranmore and Maigh Cuillinn as identified in the Galway Transport Strategy and investigate the potential for an additional link to the Tonabrocky area.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for non-native invasive species introduction/spread.
Policy 5.5.5 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Provide controlled access and linkages into all parks/public open spaces, areas of natural heritage, including along waterways, where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread. Inbuilt mitigation, but still has potential for impact.
Policy 5.5.7 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Create, enhance and maintain accessible and safe public rights of way, where appropriate for pedestrian convenience, including public lighting where appropriate.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Policy 5.5.8 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Promote and facilitate safe and convenient walking and cycling routes through land use policy and the implementation of measures set out in the Galway Transport Strategy.	Construction, disturbance.
Policy 5.6.5 - Community Spaces: Child Friendly City	Enhance the provision of facilities for older children and teenagers within the city, including skateboarding areas, teenage shelters, ball walls and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs).	Construction, disturbance.
Policy 5.8.2 - Community Spaces: Allotments, Community Gardens	Maintain existing burial grounds and provide new city cemetery site(s) in the city or city environs and approach cemetery design with an emphasis on landscaping and natural amenities.	Construction, development.

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and Cemeteries		
Policy 5.10.4 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Provide for limited residential development in A zoned agricultural lands.	May result in increased development, including construction impacts, ongoing disturbance and habitat loss/fragmentation.
Objective 5.10.1 - Blue spaces - Short term	Prepare a master plan for Lough Atalia and Renmore Lagoon to include the upgrading of the amenity park, walkways, ecological areas and development of water based recreation, forming part of a wider coastal path network.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Objective 5.10.2 - Blue spaces - Short term	Support the development of the Great Western Blueway on River Corrib and Lough Corrib in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Objective 5.10.3 - Blue spaces - Short term	Investigate the feasibility of a restoration project for the tidal pools at Salthill taking into consideration technical feasibility, funding, management and maintenance, public safety, climate change considerations and impacts on the environment and European sites.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread. Inbuilt mitigation, but still has potential for impact.
Objective 5.10.4 - Blue spaces - Medium/Long Term	Investigate possible locations for the provision of municipal water based recreation infrastructure along the River Corrib and canal system.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, habitat/community simplification, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Objective 5.10.6 - Green Spaces - Short term	Continue the preparation of master plans for parks, in accordance with the Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and where superseded by Greenspace strategy in consultation with all stakeholders including Barna/Lough Rusheen Park, Merlin Woods City Park (Doughiska RA zoned Land), Terryland Forest Park and Castlepark RA lands and a key management objective will be to maintain and enhance their biological diversity.	May result in increased development, including construction impacts, ongoing disturbance and habitat loss.
Objective 5.10.10 - Green Spaces - Short term	Implement masterplan for South Park and for the Kingston RA lands.	May result in increased development, including construction impacts and ongoing disturbance.
Objective 5.10.11 - Green Spaces - Short term	Examine the potential for provision of an athletics running track at Doughiska in the context of the Greenspace Strategy.	If the project goes ahead may result in increased development, including construction impacts and ongoing disturbance, including lighting.
Objective 5.10.12 - Green Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Explore the potential for developing lands adjacent to Terryland Castle, Merlin Castle and Menlough Castle for public realm and landscaping to enhance the context of the Castles.	Construction, disturbance to sensitive species, habitat loss or fragmentation, habitat/community simplification, physical damage.
Objective 5.10.14 - Green Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Retain car parking of approximately 30 car parking spaces for amenity purposes east of Merlin Park Woods at Doughiska.	May result in disturbance.

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Objective 5.10.17 - Community Spaces - Short term	Undertake a feasibility assessment to identify the type and optimum locations for multipurpose/synthetic/floodlit playing facilities to include play facilities for the 0-6 age group.	Implementation of an approved project may result in minor construction works; operational disturbance.
Objective 5.10.18 - Community Spaces - Short term	Undertake a feasibility assessment to identify the type and optimum locations for new skateboard facilities throughout the city as part of the Greenspace Strategy.	Implementation of an approved project may result in minor construction works; operational disturbance.
Objective 5.10.19 - Community Spaces - Short term	Acquire and develop a new city cemetery site(s) in the city or city environs and approach cemetery design with an emphasis on landscaping and natural amenities.	Construction, development.
Objective 5.10.20 - Community Spaces - Short term	Facilitate the extension of existing coastal greenway and linkages from Bearna to Oranmore in conjunction with the greenway measures as identified in the Galway Transport Strategy.	Coastal works may impact on coastal habitats (Construction and disturbance).
Objective 5.10.21 - Community Spaces - Short term	Facilitate the implementation of the National Galway to Dublin Greenway and Galway to Clifden Greenway.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, habitat/community simplification, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Objective 5.10.22 - Community Spaces - Short term	Ensure pedestrian access to Mutton Island is retained for heritage and amenity purposes subject to safety protocol.	Ongoing disturbance.
Objective 5.10.23 - Community Spaces - Short term	Extend the riverside walk relating to the development of the proposed Clifden Railway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge at Waterside.	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, habitat/community simplification, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Objective 5.10.26 - Community Spaces - Short term	Upgrade Millers Lane for passive recreation and retain and enhance the biodiversity of this greenway.	Disturbance. Inbuilt mitigation, but still has potential for impact.
Objective 5.10.27 - Community Spaces - Short term	Develop a Community Centre/ Sports Hall, a swimming pool with associated ancillary facilities on a phased basis adjoining and linked with the existing changing rooms at Doughiska on RA zoned lands.	Construction.
Objective 5.10.30 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Explore greenways to link Merlin Woods City Park, Murrough LAP area from Ballyloughane and Liam Mellows GAA lands to Lough Atalia within the coastal greenway.	May result in increased development, including construction, ongoing disturbance.
Objective 5.10.31 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Develop a number of greenways within the city including: • Coastal walk extending from Galway Docks to Roscam Point. • Riverside walk along the western side of the River Corrib in conjunction with NUIG to terminate at the access road beside the running track which links Galway/Moycullen road at Dangan to the River Corrib. • Riverside walk from the Dyke road to NUIG lands on the opposite side of the River Corrib via the proposed Clifden Railway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge with funding provided under the URDF Call 2. • Riverside walk along the eastern side of the River Corrib from the Dyke Road to the pier at Menlough. A deviation from the route indicated on the development plan map may be permitted, any alternative alignments shall maximise amenity benefits. • Riverside Walk along	Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, habitat/community simplification, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.

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	the northern side of the Terryland River from the Dyke Road to the point where it disappears underground at Glenanail to the rear of Glenburren Park. • Riverside walk along western side of the River Corrib from O'Briens Bridge to Wolfe Tone Bridge.	
Objective 5.10.32 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Investigate the potential of providing services, for example kiosks, public toilets and food trucks, in or in close proximity to public parks and open spaces and along the coast and waterways.	Disturbance.
Objective 5.10.33 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Upgrade existing boreens in the city for passive recreation and to enhance their biodiversity value and explore potential where feasible for active travel use.	Generally Positive, but construction and/or disturbance may have temporary or ongoing impacts.
Objective 5.10.34 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Support the development of large scale sports facilities in the city funded under the Large Scale Sports Facilities Fund.	Construction, development, disturbance (including lighting).
Objective 5.10.35- Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Support the provision of a hockey facility with an all-weather pitch with a suitable playing surface for hockey in the west of the city and to support the provision of a further facility suitable for hockey elsewhere in the city.	Construction, development, disturbance (including lighting).
Objective 5.10.36 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	The Council will support the provision of changing facilities at playing pitches in the city based on an assessment of need for such facilities. A minimum one dressing room per Local Electoral area will be considered and priority will be given to Doughiska, Hazel/Laurel Park and Millers Lane, in consultation with local residents and sports clubs.	Construction, development, disturbance (including lighting).
Objective 5.10.37 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Work with all stakeholders and explore the development of a multi-use community complex to include but not be restricted to floodlit grass and Astro turf playing facilities, community training and performance space, multi-purpose meeting rooms, changing facilities and outdoor training areas with enhanced walkways.	Construction, development, disturbance (including lighting).
Objective 5.10.38 - Open spaces - Short term	Progress the acquisition of lands for recreation and amenity purposes, and other lands which will enhance the extent of the green network, in particular key linkages and lands for active and passive recreation.	May result in increased development, including construction, ongoing disturbance.
Objective 5.10.39 - Open spaces - Short term	Acquire and develop predominately for public use, lands zoned for recreation and amenity use in conjunction with new housing at Castlegar, Doughiska, Terryland Valley, Ballymoneen, Knocknacarra, Roscam and Ardaun.	May result in increased development, including construction, ongoing disturbance.
Objective 5.10.41 - Open spaces - Medium/Long Term	Identify and expand active recreation facilities for older persons throughout the city.	May result in construction, disturbance.
Objective 5.10.42 - Open spaces - Medium/Long Term	Identify and provide recreation facilities for persons with disabilities throughout the city.	May result in construction, disturbance.
Policy 6.1.2 - General	Support the ambitions for strong sustainable economic growth as set out in the Regional Policy Objectives of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP).	May result in increased development, including construction.
Policy 6.1.5 - General	Provide for opportunities for growth, innovation and investment across all sectors in order to create a resilient and diverse city economy that will maximise employment opportunities for the entire workforce and facilitate measures for a just transition in society.	May result in increased development, including construction.

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Policy 6.1.10 - General	Co-operate with Galway County Council in the promotion and servicing of IDA lands, designated as business and technology parks at Parkmore, Athenry and Oranmore.	May result in increased development, including construction.
Policy 6.1.11 - General	Sustain and expand the role of the city and MASP as a regional attractor for Foreign Direct Investment.	May result in increased development, including construction.
Policy 6.1.12 - General	Facilitate strategic opportunities for job creation on designated lands at Rahoon/Knocknacarra and at Ardaun enabling integration with adjacent existing and future settlements, while encouraging low carbon trip patterns and contributing to achieving the benefits of the “15 minute neighbourhood concept”.	May result in increased development, including construction.
Policy 6.1.14 - General	Support the economic performance of the city and wider MASP area through implementation of the phased plan of transport measures as provided for in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) including those relating to public transport, walking, cycling, and the N6 GCRR strategic road project.	Infrastructural project, construction, impacts on species and habitats, disturbance, operational impacts
Policy 6.2.2 - Commercial Sector	Encourage and facilitate the regeneration of city centre sites at Ceannt Station Quarter, and the Inner Harbour and at Headford Road, to include for a range of uses including higher value commercial office space capable of accommodating a business and technology enterprise.	May result in increased development, including construction and disturbance.
Policy 6.2.3 - Commercial Sector	Encourage and facilitate the development of other designated regeneration sites in the city for mixed use development appropriate to the scale and context of each site.	May result in increased development, including construction and disturbance.
Policy 6.2.4 - Commercial Sector	Support the preparation of a masterplan for the regeneration of NUI Galway lands and buildings at Nun’s Island and the framework such a plan will give for implementation of associated URDF supported projects, subject to standard assessment requirements and environmental considerations	May result in increased development, including construction and disturbance.
Policy 6.3.1 - Industrial Sector	Prioritise investment and expansion in high tech manufacturing, innovation research and development at existing strategic key employment locations at Mervue, Parkmore, Briarhill, Dangan and Ballybrit on the designated regeneration and opportunity sites.	May result in increased development, including construction.
Policy 6.5.1 - Enterprise and Innovation	Promote the development of knowledge based enterprise and support research and innovation hubs and incubation facilities within the city in association with other agencies.	May result in increased development, including construction.
Policy 6.7.1 - Health and Education Sector	Support and facilitate the sustainable development of the strategic health and knowledge institutions in their primary functional roles and also where they contribute to innovation, research, training and skills development.	May result in increased development, including construction.
Policy 6.8.2 - Tourism	Encourage the continuing diversification in the tourism offer in the city in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland in particular through the development of greenways, blueways and connections with the evolving network of walking trails and promote opportunities in all activities and facilities that contribute to decarbonisation.	May result in increased development, including construction and ongoing disturbance.
Policy 6.8.5 - Tourism	Support the preparation and development of a Galway Tourism brand and maximise on the legacy of the designation of Galway as European Capital of Culture 2020.	May result in increased ongoing disturbance in sensitive areas.

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Policy 6.8.6 - Tourism	Support the city as a destination city and support adoption of the VICE model for Destination management to ensure Sustainable Tourism which considers the interaction between Visitors, the Industry that serves them, the Community that hosts them and their collective impact on, and response to the Environment.	Generally positive, but may result in increased ongoing disturbance in sensitive areas.
Policy 6.9.1 - Marine Sector and Renewable Energy	Promote, encourage and facilitate the sustainable growth and competitiveness of enterprise activities associated with the ocean and coastal economy including transport, trade, fishing, aquaculture, research, marine industries, renewable energy, tourism and leisure.	May result in increased development including ongoing disturbance in coastal habitats.
Policy 6.9.2 - Marine Sector and Renewable Energy	Support the migration of industrial uses from the inner harbour area to suitable locations to enable regeneration of the inner harbour area in line with national and regional objectives.	Generally positive. Construction.
Policy 6.9.3 - Marine Sector and Renewable Energy	Support offshore industries, particularly wind energy which will contribute to a low carbon economy and generate employment.	May result in construction and increased development including ongoing disturbance in coastal habitats.
Policy 6.9.4 - Marine Sector and Renewable Energy	Support the sustainable re-development and extension of the Port of Galway and the diversification and expansion of activities subject to environmental, visual, economic viability and transportation considerations.	May result in construction and increased development including ongoing disturbance in coastal habitats.
Policy 6.10.3 - Creative Economy and Gastronomy Sectors	Enable the development of gastronomy as a sustainable enterprise, supporting SME's, producers, food entrepreneurs, hospitality sector, tourism and the associated development of infrastructure, marketing and events that will strengthen the distinctive brand of Galway City and County and extend the legacy from the designation of Galway as a European Region of Gastronomy in 2018.	May result in increased development, including construction and ongoing disturbance.
Policy 6.12.1 Retail Hierarchy - Metropolitan City Centre	Protect and enhance the city centre, designated as the most important shopping area in the Galway MASP and county area and as a major centre in the Northern and Western Region and facilitate a mixed expansion of services including high order comparison retailing in conjunction with service retailing, an enhanced shopping experience and cultural and entertainment facilities through appropriate and sensitive re-development, infill and development on designated regeneration in conjunction with implementation of key public realm and sustainable transport projects.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 6.12.2 Retail Hierarchy - Metropolitan City Centre	Direct strategic investment in commercial, civic, cultural and retail, particularly high order comparison goods and specialist retailing into the city centre where they can enhance vitality and viability through a mix of uses, reuse of vacant sites and revitalisation to contribute to regeneration and the maintenance of a compact core area.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.2.1 - Creative City	Promote Galway as a city of for culture and arts excellence, a hub for the creative and cultural industries and support Everybody Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2025.	Unlikely to have a significant affect alone, but may have an in-combination impact with other elements that cause increased disturbance in sensitive areas.
Policy 7.2.2 - Creative	Support and facilitate the aims of the New Directions:	Unlikely to have a significant

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City	Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026 and Action Plan 2021-2024.	affect alone, but may have an in-combination impact with other elements that cause increased disturbance in sensitive areas.
Policy 7.2.3 - Creative City	Facilitate and encourage the provision of new and improved arts and culture facilities in the city and in district and neighbourhood centres and where identified in New Directions: Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026.	Unlikely to have a significant affect alone, but may have an in-combination impact with other elements that cause increased disturbance in sensitive areas.
Policy 7.2.4 - Creative City	Implement the actions of the Galway City Council Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and subsequent plans.	Unlikely to have a significant affect alone, but may have an in-combination impact with other elements that cause increased disturbance in sensitive areas.
Policy 7.2.5 - Creative City	Participate in the 'Per cent for Art' Scheme where the Council's capital and infrastructure projects are supported by the scheme to deliver public art and the associated community engagement in conjunction with the Galway City Arts Office.	Unlikely to have a significant affect alone, but may have an in-combination impact with other elements that cause increased disturbance in sensitive areas.
Policy 7.2.6 - Creative City	Facilitate the delivery of public art by ensuring large-scale developments incorporate and deliver works of public art that facilitate interpretation of place and community.	Unlikely to have a significant affect alone, but may have an in-combination impact with other elements that cause disturbance in a sensitive areas.
Policy 7.2.7 - Creative City	Enable expansion of accessible arts and culture infrastructure by requiring such facilities to be integrated into planned development on designated regeneration and opportunity sites.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.2.9 - Creative City	Support the delivery of strategic arts and cultural infrastructure in the city including the expansion of the City Museum; a new arts performance and exhibition space; a municipal gallery; a new city public library; a creative and cultural hub for children and young people and other key infrastructure as identified in Everybody Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2025 and New Directions: Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026.	May result in increased development including construction and increased ongoing disturbance.
Policy 7.2.10 - Creative City	Support the use of public outdoor spaces for public performance, festivals, events and engagement with the arts and culture activities in accordance with Galway City Public Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying manuals.	Disturbance, possibly in sensitive locations.
Policy 7.4.3 - Bilingual City	Support and facilitate the development of infrastructure, which promotes the cultural and linguistic heritage of the city, where appropriate.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.5.4 - Community Facilities	Encourage and facilitate the provision of community facilities and local services of a nature and scale appropriate to serve the needs of the local community in tandem with the development of residential areas.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.5.5 - Community Facilities	Maintain existing burial grounds and make provision for new cemeteries and associated services such as a crematorium to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.6.1 - Education	Ensure that sufficient land is reserved for the establishment, improvement or expansion of education facilities within the city in accordance with the settlement strategy, targeted population and in collaboration with the Department of Education and	May result in increased development including construction.

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	Skills (DES).	
Policy 7.6.3 - Education	Facilitate the upgrade and expansion of existing education facilities and the provision of new education facilities as required, including to: Support the future improvement and sustainable expansion of NUI Galway; Support the development of GMIT and the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA) approved designation as a Technological University; Support the role of the GTI in the delivery of education; Support the role of the GRETB in the delivery of Further Education and Training in the city.	May result in increased development including construction and ongoing disturbance.
Policy 7.7.1 - Childcare	Facilitate the development of childcare facilities, including afterschool services, at a number of suitable locations, such as, within residential areas, places of employment, city centre, neighbourhood and district centres, schools, in the vicinity of educational and community establishments and adjacent to public transport nodes in consultation with the Galway Childcare Committee.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.7.2 - Childcare	Contribute to the provision of childcare facilities by requiring that such facilities be provided in conjunction with residential developments over 75 dwelling units. An exception can only be considered where it can be clearly established and professionally supported that adequate childcare facilities already exist to service the area and where acceptable alternative arrangements to support childcare, play and or other child specific facilities are deemed acceptable.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.8.1 - Healthcare Facilities	Promote the delivery and enhancement of health care facilities in the city having regard to the designated role of Galway as a Regional City under the NPF/RSES.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.8.2 - Healthcare Facilities	Support the development and expansion of existing healthcare infrastructure by the HSE, statutory and voluntary agencies and private healthcare providers to support the provision of healthcare, including community based care, mental health and social care services as appropriate and in accordance with the local need and the regional role of the city.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.8.3 - Healthcare Facilities	Ensure healthcare facilities are delivered in tandem, and at an appropriate scale, with new residential development and in locations that are easily accessed by walking, cycling and public transport.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.8.4 - Healthcare Facilities	Support the delivery of an enhanced regional healthcare service, including for a new Emergency Department at UCGH and expanded hospital services at Merlin Park Hospital that will serve the Metropolitan Area and the wider regional catchment.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.9.1 - Institutional Lands	Facilitate and promote the development of institutional land within the city.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 7.9.2 - Institutional Lands	Retain institutional lands and only allow consideration for change in use where it is demonstrated that certain institutional lands are surplus to requirements, the Council will consider residential use or uses compatible with that of adjoining zones or specifically require that the lands be retained for alternative institutional uses. Where residential development is permitted a reserve of a minimum of 20% of the total site area for communal open space will be required.	May result in increased development including construction.

Screened in ID	Screened in Policy / Objective	Rationale for Potential Impact
Objective 7.7.2 -	Facilitate the on-going development of community facilities in neighbourhood areas and emerging new communities such as at Ardaun.	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 7.7.5 -	Support proposals to repurpose Lenaboy Castle as a creative and cultural hub.	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 7.7.6	Develop a new City public library in conjunction with Galway County Council and national funding.	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 7.7.7	Progress the redevelopment of Galway City Museum as a transformative project to meet the vision of the Atlantic Museum Galway.	May result in increased development including construction, and ongoing disturbance.
Objective 7.7.8	Support the provision of a new arts performance and exhibition space and a municipal gallery in the city.	May result in increased development including construction, and ongoing disturbance.
Objective 7.7.9	Support proposals for the development of a destination tourism and recreational attraction at the Leisureland and Salthill park sites with the potential to provide modern, purpose built recreation, civic and cultural facilities to serve the city and region.	May result in increased development including construction, and ongoing disturbance.
Objective 7.7.11	Establish and develop new cemetery sites to serve the city, which can accommodate associated services such as a crematorium to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 7.7.12	Work with relevant stakeholders and service providers to investigate the delivery of community facilities to serve the community of Ballybane including: - A Family Resource Centre in conjunction with TUSLA;- A community crèche and early years education service;- Outdoor and indoor amenities for all age groups;- A Primary and secondary school in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills (DES).	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 7.7.13	Support the development of a permanent site for a post primary school in the East of the city.	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 7.7.14	Support the development of a permanent site for a primary school in the West of the city.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 8.1.3 - Record of Protected Structures	Avoid protected structures becoming endangered by neglect or otherwise by taking timely appropriate action.	Disturbance and/or construction at sensitive locations.
Policy 8.3.1 - Vernacular Heritage	Encourage the conservation and rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing structures that contribute to the character of the city.	Disturbance and/or construction at sensitive locations.
Policy 8.6.2 - Galway City Walls	Support the implementation of recommendations set out in the 'Galway City Walls Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan (2013)'.	Disturbance and/or construction at sensitive locations.
Policy 8.6.3 - Galway City Walls	Progress the Atlantic Museum extension and the associated interpretation of the city walls and medieval features of the city.	Construction.
Policy 8.7.5 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Progress the implementation of the Ardaun Local Area Plan 2018-2024.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 8.7.10 - Urban	Promote the reuse and adaptation of derelict and	Disturbance and/or construction

Screened in ID	Screened in Policy / Objective	Rationale for Potential Impact
Design and Placemaking	vacant buildings.	at sensitive locations.
Policy 8.8.1 - Public Realm	Progress implementation of the Public Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying manuals including the delivery of enhancement projects and a typology of streets and public spaces that positively contributes to the city's environment and heritage.	May result in increased development including construction.
Policy 8.8.6 - Public Realm	Promote the important role that public space plays in providing for informal social interaction and maximise opportunities for outdoor gathering places, play areas and outdoor public seating, where appropriate and in accordance with the Public Realm Strategy and accompanying manuals.	May result in increased development including construction and ongoing disturbance.
Objective 8.10.1 - Built Heritage	Facilitate the conservation, adaptation and reuse of the waterworks building at Terryland Water Treatment Plant.	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 8.10.2 - Built Heritage	Progress implementation of Conservation Management Plan recommendations for Merlin Castle, Terryland Castle and Menlough Castle.	Disturbance and/or construction at sensitive locations.
Objective 8.10.8 - Public Realm	Support public realm enhancement projects contained in the Public Realm Strategy and accompanying manuals and their integration with GTS projects, environmental improvements and initiatives relating to climate adaption, biodiversity, public art and activities in the public realm.	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 8.10.10 - Public Realm	Progress the delivery of Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects which comprise of new public spaces at Woodquay and the Galway Cathedral, rejuvenated space at Fishmarket, Eyre Square (North) and increased city centre pedestrianisation.	May result in increased development including construction.
Objective 8.10.13 - Public Realm	Advance an environmental improvement scheme for Shop Street as part of the pedestrian area rehabilitation programme and extend the pedestrian zone, in consultation with local communities and stakeholders.	Construction and disturbance.
Policy 9.1.1 - Flood Risk	Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DECLG and OPW Guidelines for Planning Authorities for Planning Authorities, the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Management (2009), updated/superseding legislation or departmental guidelines and have regard to the findings and relevant identified actions of the Corrib Catchment Flood Risk Management (CFRAM) Study.	May result in construction, disturbance, changes to water levels or tables, changes to surface water flooding with implications for aquatic habitats.
Policy 9.1.2 - Flood Risk	Support and facilitate the implementation of the Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme in conjunction with the OPW to support a climate resilient city, protect against flooding and minimise the impact of future climate events. Support in general the associated mitigation and adaptation measures in order to prevent flooding and coastal erosion, subject to appropriate environmental, visual, built heritage and other relevant considerations.	May result in construction, disturbance, changes to water levels or tables, changes to surface water flooding with implications for aquatic habitats.
Policy 9.1.7 - Flood Risk	Continue to protect the coastal area and the foreshore and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of coastal erosion and/or would cause and escalate coastal erosion in adjoining areas.	Coastal works may impact on coastal habitats (Construction and disturbance).

Screened in ID	Screened in Policy / Objective	Rationale for Potential Impact
Policy 9.3.1 - Water Services	Work in close liaison with Irish Water in the operation of water and wastewater facilities in the city and the upgrade and expansion of the network and the delivery of strategic projects such as the Terryland Water Treatment Plant Intake Works and completion of the Greater Galway Area Drainage Strategy.	Generally, very positive. May result in construction and disturbance impacts.
Policy 9.3.3 - Water Services	Work in conjunction with Irish Water to ensure the provision and maintenance, of a high quality and efficient water supply capable of meeting existing and future needs of the city and support any ongoing water mains rehabilitation and water conservation projects.	May result in construction and disturbance impacts.
Policy 9.3.5 - Water Services	Support and liaise with Irish Water in the provision of a sustainable and effective wastewater drainage collection and treatment system capable of meeting the existing and future needs of the city and MASP area.	Generally, very positive, may result in infrastructural development with associated impacts.
Policy 9.3.7 - Water Services	Support the decommissioning of existing individual effluent treatment systems which include septic tanks, where there is a feasible option to connect to the public sewer network. Galway City Council will collaborate with Irish Water in this regard.	Overall policy will improve water quality, but at an individual level projects may require specific pollution control measures (mitigation).
Policy 9.8.1 - Waste Management	Secure the provision of waste management facilities and infrastructure with appropriate provision for minimisation, recovery and recycling of waste and regulate waste operations in a manner which reflects the 'polluter pays' and 'proximity' principles with particular emphasis on large waste producers, , in accordance with the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Plan 2015-2021, except in relation to incineration and emerging legislation on the transition to a circular economy and the National Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020-2025.	Generally, very positive, may result in infrastructural development with associated impacts.
Policy 9.8.5 - Waste Management	Ensure the sustainable siting of waste facilities in relation to existing and potential surrounding land-uses, transportation and environmental considerations.	Construction, disturbance, increased traffic, emissions.
Policy 9.9.1 - Telecommunications and Smart Technology	Support the development and expansion of telecommunication infrastructure (including the broadband network) within the city where appropriate, subject to environmental, visual and residential amenity considerations.	Low level infrastructural impact, construction and disturbance.
Policy 9.9.2 - Telecommunications and Smart Technology	Ensure that developers of masts facilitate the co-location of antennae with other operators in order to avoid an unnecessary proliferation of masts. Where this is not possible operators will be encouraged to co-locate so that masts and antennae may be clustered.	Generally positive. Some construction, disturbance impacts.
Policy 9.9.4 - Telecommunications and Smart Technology	Facilitate the rollout of digital infrastructure to implement a world class digital infrastructure and sensor network that will provide real time data and smart city solutions.	Low level infrastructural impact, construction and disturbance, possibly in sensitive areas.
Policy 9.10.1 - Energy and Associated Infrastructure	Support the infrastructural renewal and strategic development of the national transmission grid system and energy networks in the city, underground where at all possible, including the overhead high voltage lines necessary to provide the required networks in accordance with the Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure 2012.	Infrastructural impacts. Construction, disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation, impacts on species, habitat/community simplification, physical damage, possible pathway for invasive non-native species introduction/spread.
Policy 10.1.4 - City	Encourage a living city centre by requiring a residential	May result in increased

Screened in ID	Screened in Policy / Objective	Rationale for Potential Impact
Centre	content in new developments and promoting a high quality urban environment in the design and layout of new schemes.	development including construction and disturbance.
Policy 10.1.7 - City Centre	Maintain and enhance the quality of the city centre public realm and enhance accessibility and connectivity to and within the city centre through improvements to the network of streets, footpaths and public spaces and through implementation of the public realm strategy.	May result in increased development including construction and disturbance.
Policy 10.1.8 - City Centre	Support a diversity of uses in the city centre public realm including markets, outdoor seating and dining, arts and culture events to add to the vitality and vibrancy of the city.	Disturbance.
Policy 10.1.10 - City Centre	Improve the public realm and residential amenities of existing city centre communities at Woodquay and Bowling Green by the implementation of improvement schemes.	May result in increased development including construction and ongoing disturbance.
Policy 10.1.12 - City Centre	Progress the implementation of Public Realm Strategy civic space improvement projects within the city centre at Fishmarket, Cathedral, Eyre Square North, Courthouse Square and the Small Crane.	May result in increased development.
Policy 10.1.17 - City Centre	Maintain and enhance the quality of the city centre public realm and enhance accessibility and connectivity to and within the city centre through implementation of measures included in the Galway Transport Strategy.	May result in increased development including construction and disturbance.
Policy 10.2.1 - Strategic Regeneration and Brownfield Sites	Facilitate and enable the redevelopment of strategic Regeneration and Opportunity sites in the city to support the sustainable and compact growth of the city which will add value and create more attractive places in which people can live and work and achieve alignment with the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF and the Regional Policy Objectives of the RSES and implementation of the Core Strategy.	May result in increased development including construction and disturbance, impacts on habitats.
Policy 10.3.4 - Salthill	Continue to improve the amenity recreational quality of the area through the preparation of a strategy for the long-term management and enhancement of the promenade and by the implementation of environmental and coastal improvement schemes. This shall include for appropriate flood risk assessment and management measures.	Coastal works may impact on coastal habitats (Construction and disturbance). Increased recreation may result in increased disturbance and habitat fragmentation along the protected areas.
Policy 10.4.1 - Westside	Enhance the quality of the urban environment at Westside through the creation of a more enclosed, strong street edge on CI zoned lands along the Seamus Quirke Road, creating a high quality active and vibrant streetscape.	May result in construction and disturbance.
Policy 10.5.1 - Ardaun	Develop Ardaun, in accordance with the Local Area Plan taking a co-ordinated and phased approach that will contribute to the integration of land use, urban form and structure, transportation and natural heritage to create a new urban village and a sustainable living and working environment.	May result in increased development and associated impacts.
Policy 10.6.1 - Murrough	Develop the Murrough area in accordance with a Local Area Plan which will reserve a substantial bank of land for recreational purposes, allow for public access and allow for mixed-use development which will create a sustainable neighbourhood and maximise the sustainable development of appropriate recreation facilities.	May result in increased development and associated impacts.
Objective 10.27.8 -	Upgrade public facilities including provision of	May result in increased

Screened in ID	Screened in Policy / Objective	Rationale for Potential Impact
Salthill	outdoor/indoor showers, changing facilities and toilets and supports for water based activities.	development and associated impacts.
Objective 10.27.9 - Salthill	Support proposals for the development of a destination tourism and recreational attraction at the Leisureland and Salthill park sites with the potential to provide modern, purpose built recreation, civic and cultural facilities to serve the city and region.	May result in increased development and associated impacts.
Objective 10.27.10 - Ardaun	Implement the Local Area Plan for Ardaun.	May result in increased development and associated impacts.

4.5 Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and Ex-Situ Impacts

4.5.1 Article 10

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive refers to features outside of European sites which are of importance to species protected under the Habitats Directive. Article 10 states:

"Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.

Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the mitigation, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species."

4.5.2 Ex-situ Impacts

Ex-situ impacts relate to indirect impacts to European sites within a ZOI. Examples of indirect impacts include the effects of habitat degradation on species, the downstream effects of reduced water quality on riparian or aquatic habitats and the introduction of invasive non-native species. Indirect impacts relate to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive in the maintenance of ecological corridors.

4.5.2.1 Annex Habitats and Species outside of European Sites

Many species are particularly mobile, and will utilise a variety of habitats for different reasons (e.g. during storm events coastal birds may move inland for protection). A number of the land using zonings e.g. residential, industrial and recreational uses have the potential to impact on qualifying habitats and species of European sites which may be present in the plan area. Annexed habitats and species are found outside the European sites. A catchment-based approach may be particularly useful for aquatic species.

The habitats and species detailed in Table 4-4 have been recorded from within the plan outline (compiled from the ecology surveys for the N6 Galway City Ring Road Natura Impact Statement (Galway City Transport Project, 2018), N6 Galway City Transport Project Route Selection Report (Arup 2015) and NBDC records).

Table 4-4: Annex Habitat and Species outside of European Sites within the Plan area

Annex I habitat	Annex II Species
[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	[6216] Slender green feather-moss (Varnished hook-moss) - <i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>
*[3180] Turloughs	[1833] Slender Naiad - <i>Najas flexilis</i>
[4010] Wet Heaths	[1355] Otter - <i>Lutra lutra</i>
[4030] Dry Heaths	[1303] Lesser Horseshoe Bat - <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>
*[6210] Orchid Rich Calcareous Grassland	[1106] Atlantic Salmon - <i>Salmo salar</i> (only in fresh

	water)
[6410] <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	[1096] Brook Lamprey - <i>Lampetra planeri</i>
[6510] Lowland Hay Meadows	[1095] Sea Lamprey - <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
[7210] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>	
[7230] Alkaline fens	
[7130] Blanket Bog (*if active)	
[7140] Transition Mires	
*[91E0] Residual alluvial forests	
*[8240] Limestone pavements	

4.6 Potential Cumulative and In-combination Impacts

A full assessment on the potential in-combination effects of plans and projects is presented in Appendix D.

4.6.1 National Plans and Projects with potential Cumulative and In-combination Effects

National Plans and Projects that could have potential cumulative and in-combination effects were identified and are described below:

4.6.1.1 Project Ireland 2040

Project Ireland 2040 is the government's long-term overarching strategy to make Ireland a better country for all of its people. Alongside the development of physical infrastructure, Project Ireland 2040 supports business and communities across all of Ireland in realising their potential. The National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan (NDP) combine to form Project Ireland 2040. Development of infrastructure may have localised adverse impacts. Actions that may arise as a result of Project Ireland 2040 will be considered at a project level, which will ensure that any cumulative or in-combination impacts are addressed. A NIS was prepared for the NPF and the NPF and Plan require adherence to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

Due to the high-level nature of this Plan, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

4.6.1.2 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021

The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) (DoHLGH, 2018) for Ireland 2018-2021 sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2021 (DoHPLG, 2018a). Changes from previous River Basin Management Plans is that all River Basin Districts are merged as one national River Basin District. The Plan provides a more coordinated framework for improving the quality of our waters - to protect public health, the environment, water amenities and to sustain water-intensive industries, including agri-food and tourism, particularly in rural Ireland.

The first cycle of River Basin Management Plans included the Western River Basin District - River Basin Management Plan 2009 - 2015 (WFD, 2009). The plans summarised the water bodies that may not meet the environmental objectives of the WFD by 2015 and identified which pressures are contributing to the environmental objectives not being achieved. The plans described the classification results and identified measures that can be introduced in order to safeguard waters and meet the environmental objectives of the WFD:

- Prevent deterioration of water body status
- Restore good status to water bodies
- Achieve protected areas objectives
- Reduce chemical pollution of water bodies

With effective implementation of the RBMP, it can be expected to see the Plan's ambitious suite of measures translated into tangible improvements in water quality in over 700 water bodies around Ireland. The investment of €1.7 billion in waste-water infrastructure over the period of this Plan to 2021 will see over 250 projects in urban areas

progressed and decisive steps towards sustainable and efficient water use will be taken. Assessment of risks to water quality in the planning processes will be enhanced and there will be more analyses of water quality carried out at a catchment level. Development related to the RBMP may have localised adverse impacts that will be assessed on a project level, however; overall impacts that may arise as a result of the RBMP are likely to be positive in nature. Due to the high-level nature of this Plan, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

4.6.1.3 Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP)

The Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP) (IFI, 2008) is an OPW funded project that is being coordinated and managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Programme focuses on the enhancement of drained Salmonid rivers in Ireland. The EREP involves two different approaches to enhancement, these being capital enhancement and enhanced maintenance respectively. Infrastructural works that arise as a result of the EREP have the potential to impact other designated features, however, the effects will overall be positive. Actions that may arise as a result of the EREP will be considered at a project level, which will ensure that any cumulative or in-combination impacts are addressed. Due to the high-level nature of this Programme, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

4.6.1.4 Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020

The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 (DoCCA, 2018) is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: 1) Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; 2) Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; 3) Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and 4) Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. Due to the high-level nature of this Programme, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

4.6.2 Regional Plans and Projects with Potential Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

Regional Plans and Projects that could have potential cumulative and in-combination effects were identified and are described below:

4.6.2.1 Regional Spatial Economic Strategy 2020 - 2032

The Regional Spatial Economic Strategy 2020 - 2032 (RSES) for the Northern and Western Assembly area supports the implementation of the NPF and the relevant economic policies and objectives of Government. The RSES provides a roadmap for regional development, with the aim of creating healthy places and promoting sustainable communities. A NIR was prepared for the RSES and the RSES and Plan require adherence to the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Due to the high-level nature of this Plan, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

4.6.2.2 Galway City Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)

The MASP area includes Galway City and its environs and the county settlements of Bearna, Oranmore and Baile Chláir. The MASP is a strategic planning framework which identifies Strategic Growth Areas and opportunities for regeneration. It identifies key infrastructure, services and facilities that will be required to support sustainable city growth and regeneration. It sets out how the NPF population targets can be met in accordance with the principles of sustainable development with the aim to deliver compact growth. The NIR for the RSES includes for the MASP area, the RSES and Plan require adherence to the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Due to the high-level nature of this Plan, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

4.6.2.3 Shellfish Water Action Programmes / Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish

Under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive, Ireland is obliged to establish measures to protect shellfish waters against pollution and to safeguard certain shellfish populations from various harmful consequences, resulting from the discharge of pollutant substances into the sea. Shellfish Action Plans will next be reviewed on a priority basis starting in 2021 which is in line with the third River Basin Cycle under the Water Framework Directive.

The implementation of Groundwater and Surface water Pollution Reduction Programmes will ensure compliance with the EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC)..; Overall impacts that may arise as a result of the Programmes are likely to be positive in nature. Actions that may arise as a result of the Programmes, must be assessed further at a project level. Due to the high-level nature of these Programmes, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail.

4.6.2.4 Groundwater Protection Schemes

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI), in partnership with Local Authorities, have completed Groundwater Protection Schemes. Groundwater Protection Schemes have been completed on a county-by-county basis. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. Use of a scheme will help to ensure that within the planning and licensing processes due regard is taken of the need to maintain the beneficial use of groundwater (GSI, 2021b). A Groundwater Protection Scheme has not been developed for County Galway to date.

4.6.2.5 Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies and their product — Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) — are at the core of the national policy for flood risk management and the strategy for its implementation. The aim of the CFRAM Studies is to:

- assess flood risk, through the identification of flood hazard areas and the associated impacts of flooding;
- identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks for localised high-risk areas and within the catchment as a whole; and
- prepare a strategic Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and associated Strategic
- Environmental Assessment (SEA) that sets out the measures and policies that should be pursued to achieve the most cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk.

The programme of measures resulting from the CFRAM studies may perpetuate significant effects on European sites (Lough Corrib SAC, Lough Corrib SPA, Galway Bay Complex SAC, Inner Galway Bay SPA, Cregganna Marsh SPA, Rahasane Turlough SAC, Rahasane Turlough SPA, Castletaylor Complex SAC, Kiltiernan Turlough SAC, and Lough Fingall Complex SAC) in view of their conservation objectives. However, the Galway City Development Plan includes the requirement for any development taking place within the city to undergo Screening for Appropriate Assessment and/or Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary.

4.6.2.6 Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (draft)

Galway County Development Plan (GCDP) (2022 - 2028) is currently being prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000, having recently gone through a public consultation process.

The NIR is being produced to assess potential impacts to European Sites as a result of the plan. Actions that may arise from the Galway CDP will be considered at a project level where appropriate, to ensure that any cumulative or in-combination impacts are addressed.

4.6.2.7 Clare County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (draft)

Clare County Development Plan (2022 - 2028) is being prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000. A NIR is being produced to assess potential impacts to European Sites as a result of the plan.

4.6.3 Key Local Plans with potential Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

Local plans and projects that could have potential cumulative and in-combination effects were identified and are described below.

4.6.3.1 Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 - 2021

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Galway 2015-2021 was developed by Galway City Council through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), in line with guidelines issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The plan sets out objectives and actions to a) promote and support economic development and b) promote and support local and community development in Galway City, both by Galway City Council itself and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

4.6.3.2 Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014 - 2024

The Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) aims to raise awareness of and promote the conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the City. The Galway City BAP provides a framework for the conservation of biodiversity at a local level and helps ensure that national and international targets for biodiversity conservation can be achieved, while at same time addressing local priorities. Therefore, overall impacts will be positive. However, due to the high-level nature of this Plan, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

4.6.3.3 Galway City Climate Adaption Strategy 2019 - 2024

The Climate Adaption Strategy (2019 - 2024) for Galway City aims to make Galway City resilient to the effects of climate change. The Strategy sets out 31 objectives for the adaptation of Galway City Council to the projected impacts of climate change. In order to achieve the objectives, the Strategy includes 68 actions and sub actions to be implemented by Galway City Council over the next ten years. The sub actions are prioritised with 49 sub actions to be delivered in the short-term, i.e., within the next five years. Therefore, overall impacts will be positive. However, due to the high-level nature of this Plan, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

4.6.4 Major Projects/Plans within plan area

Project	Description	Assessment of Cumulative/In-combination impact
Galway Harbour	A proposal for the development and extension of port facilities at Galway Harbour is ongoing and under consideration by An Bord Pleanála. An NIS and addendum is under consideration and the project is being considered for approval under Article 6(4) of the Directive.	Despite the fact that the Proposed Galway Harbour Extension would have some measurable impact on Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA, Lough Corrib SAC and Lough Corrib SPA, elements of the Plan will not act cumulatively to result in any adverse effects on these European sites via the same potential impact pathways, due to the mitigation measures of the Plan outlined in this NIR and those outlined in the NIS prepared for Galway Harbour. These mitigation measures also include the requirement for any project arising from the Plan to be assessed in terms of its potential to impact on European site integrity in-combination with any other plans and projects. There is therefore no potential for in-combination effects to occur with the Plan as a result of the proposed development and extension of port facilities at Galway Harbour.
Galway Transport Strategy	The GTS sets out a series of actions and measures, covering infrastructural, operational and policy elements to be implemented in Galway over the next 20 years and sets out a framework to deliver the projects in a phased manner. An	The AA of the GTS identified that, in the absence of mitigation measures, the GTS had the potential to adversely affect the integrity of the following European Sites through a range of impact pathways: Lough Corrib SAC, Lough Corrib SPA, Galway Bay Complex SAC, Inner Galway Bay SPA, Ross Lake and Woods SAC, Cregganna Marsh SPA, Rahasane Turlough

	NIS has been prepared for the project.	<p>SAC, Rahasane Turlough SPA, Castletaylor Complex SAC, Kiltiernan Turlough SAC and Lough Fingall Complex SAC. An AA has been carried out in relation to the GTS which concluded that the GTS, either alone or in-combination with any other plans or projects, and in consideration of the mitigation measures therein, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites. The mitigation measures of the Plan outlined in this NIR also include the requirement for any project arising from the Plan to be assessed in terms of its potential to impact on European site integrity in-combination with any other plans and projects.</p> <p>There is therefore no potential for in-combination effects to occur from this plan in conjunction with the Galway Transport Strategy.</p>
Galway Public Realm Strategy (GPRS) 2019	The Strategy provides a vision of place, design guidance and outlines proposals to improve Galway's streets and public spaces. It is accompanied by three manuals (Design Manual, Activity Manual and Delivery Manual) to support the Strategy's implementation. A NIR was prepared which highlighted both positive and negative impacts from the GPRS.	Some potential for impact has been identified in the NIR for the Galway Public Realm Strategy 2019. The potential for impact has been mitigated for in Section 4.4 of the NIR for the GPRS. Alongside the mitigation policies of the Plan outlined in this NIR, which includes the requirement for any project arising from the Plan to be assessed in terms of its potential to impact on European site integrity in-combination with any other plans and projects, ensures that there will be no potential for in-combination effects to occur from this Development Plan.
Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme	This is a significant flood relief scheme for the city and has recently gone through the first public consultation stage.	The EIA and AA process will be followed in terms of environmental assessment of the project. The mitigation policies of the Plan outlined in this NIR, includes the requirement for any project arising from the Plan to be assessed in terms of its potential to impact on European site integrity in-combination with any other plans and projects and ensures that there will be no potential for in-combination effects to occur from this Development Plan.

4.6.4.1 Planning Applications

Planning and infrastructure may have localised adverse impacts. The City Development Plan includes policies to ensure any plan or project follows the AA process where it is required.

Due to the high-level nature of this Plan, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail, and therefore actions that may arise as a result of these planning applications will be considered at a project level. This will ensure that any cumulative or in-combination impacts are addressed. Project level assessments will also be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.

4.6.5 Conclusion of Cumulative and In-combination Impacts Assessment

The sources of impact from the Plan and other effects likely to arise from the above plans and projects have been identified. The Plan has robust protective strategies, policies and objectives to ameliorate any potential impacts - see Chapter 5 for details of both inherent mitigation within development focussed policies/objectives, and free-standing policies to protect European Sites, including adherence to the requirement of the relevant EU Directives and environmental considerations. Therefore, it can be concluded that through the implementation of the policies and objectives of the Plan no negative in-combination effects to European sites are expected through the implementation of the Plan.

5 Mitigation Measures to Protect Habitats and Species

Galway City Development Plan will not in itself, cause any adverse impacts to the overall integrity of the European sites within the ZOI of the Plan. However, projects that arise as a result of the Plan may have adverse effects.

Projects stemming from the Galway City Development Plan will apply a range of standard processes and measures that will mitigate potential environmental impacts. The applicability of processes and particular measures will be dependent on the nature and scale of each project.

Chapter 5 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity, Recreation and Amenity host the majority of the mitigation policies that provide overarching, inbuilt protection from adverse impacts of the plan. Some policies may appear in a number of sub-categories to ensure inclusion at the higher as well as more specific areas of the plan.

Table 5-1 Policies contained within the Draft Galway City Development Plan that directly protect the Natura 2000 network

Policy ID	Mitigation Policy
Policy 2.3.3 - Renewable Energy	Ensure that the development of renewable energy and its associated infrastructure avoids negative impacts on European sites and adhere to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
Policy 5.1.1 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support sustainable use and management of areas of ecological importance, parks and recreation amenity areas and facilities through an integrated green network policy approach in line with the Galway Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and where superseded by the Greenspace Strategy, where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites.
Policy 5.1.15 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated European sites.
Policy 5.2.1- Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network (including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and associated national legislation.
Policy 5.2.2 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	<p>Ensure that all plans or projects within the Plan area will only be authorised and /or supported after the competent authority has ascertained based on scientific evidence, screening for appropriate assessment and /or a Habitats Directive Assessment that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The plan or project will not give rise to an adverse direct, indirect or secondary effect on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or ii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or iii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.

Policy ID	Mitigation Policy
Policy 5.2.3 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect, conserve and promote the nationally designated sites of ecological importance, including existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHA and pNHAs) in the city.
Policy 5.2.4 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect, conserve and support the development of an ecological network throughout the city which will improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
Policy 5.2.7 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Encourage, in liaison with the NPWS, the sustainable management of features which are important for the ecological coherence of the network of European sites and essential, by their linear or continuous nature or as stepping stones for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
Policy 5.2.9 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated sites.
Policy 5.2.10 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect and conserve rare and threatened habitats and their key habitats, (wherever they occur) listed on Annex I and Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and listed for protection under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000.
Policy 5.2.11 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Ensure that plans and projects with the potential to have a significant impact on European sites (SAC or SPA) whether directly, indirectly or in combination with other plans or projects are subject to Appropriate Assessment, under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and associated legislation and guidelines, to inform decision making.
Policy 5.2.15 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect the ecological integrity of statutory Nature Reserves, refuges for fauna and Annex I habitats.
Policy 5.3.1 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Protect and maintain the integrity of the coastal environment and waterways by avoiding significant impacts and meeting the requirements of statutory bodies, national and European legislation and standards.
Policy 5.3.7 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Have regard to European and national best practice when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any designated European sites, protected coastal and marine fauna and flora.
Policy 9.1.6 - Flood Risk	Ensure any proposed measure designed to alleviate flooding/coastal erosion is subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, where appropriate.
Policy 9.10.3 - Energy and Associated Infrastructure	Ensure that the infrastructural renewal and development of energy networks avoid negative impacts on European sites and adhere to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43 EEC).

Built into the Plan is embedded mitigation to protect the European Sites, primarily Policy 5.2.2 which states: *"Ensure that all plans or projects within the Plan area will only be authorised and /or supported after the competent authority has ascertained based on scientific evidence, screening for appropriate assessment and /or a Habitats Directive Assessment that :*

- i. The plan or project will not give rise to an adverse direct, indirect or secondary effect on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or*
- ii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or*

iii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000."

This Policy provides a comprehensive level of protection to the Natura 2000 network from plans or projects promoted by the Local Plan within the Plan area.

There are a number of additional policies/objectives that provide mitigation in a more indirect manner to the Natura 2000 Network e.g. through enhancing local biodiversity which may play a role in providing support and resilience to the Natura 2000 sites; or by provision of protection for water quality, which would play an important role in the health of the ecosystems of a Natura 2000 site.

Table 5-2 Policies/objectives contained within the Draft Galway City Development Plan to indirectly protect the Natura 2000 network

Policy/Objective ID	Mitigation Policy/Objective
Policy 2.2.11 - Climate Action	Support initiatives to advance good soil management, carbon capture and carbon sequestration where feasible in the city.
Policy 2.3.1 - Renewable Energy	Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy within the city, and support national initiatives which offer sustainable alternatives to dependency on fossil fuels and a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, subject to the avoidance of unduly negative visual and environmental impacts, or impacts on residential amenity.
Policy 3.6.2 - Inner Residential Areas	Enhance inner residential areas such as Claddagh, Shantalla and Bohermore, through the implementation of environmental improvement schemes and the protection of all open spaces, including existing green spaces.
Objective 4.8.13 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Ensure biodiversity and appropriate greening are incorporated, into greenways, segregated cycleways and pathways where appropriate and ensure that paths and structures are constructed from suitable materials and incorporating a SUDS approach that supports and contributes to ecological connectivity and biodiversity.
Policy 5.1.3 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the retention and enrichment of biodiversity throughout the city in recognition of the need to protect and restore biodiversity to increase the resilience of natural and human systems to climate change.
Policy 5.1.4 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017- 2021) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) and support the actions of the City Council's Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness and biodiversity.
Policy 5.1.5 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support climate action through implementation of nature based solutions that enhance biodiversity in the green network, including measures such as tree planting, SUDS, use of green infrastructure. Such measures will be informed by the Greenspace strategy.
Policy 5.1.6 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Promote the integration of nature based solutions in all new developments as appropriate to contribute to the city's climate resilience and require large scale development proposals to include a green infrastructure and biodiversity plan.
Policy 5.1.11 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the Healthy Green Spaces initiative which seeks to improve the quality of green spaces in the city, to enhance climate change resilience, aesthetic value, biodiversity and improve public health and wellbeing.
Policy 5.1.17 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Enhance linkages and connectivity within the green network identified in Table 4.1.
Policy 5.1.19 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Ensure that all passive and active recreational proposals are considered in the context of potential impact on the environment, sites of ecological and biodiversity importance and general amenity.

Policy/Objective ID	Mitigation Policy/Objective
Policy 5.1.23 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Continue to implement measures to increase and restore biodiversity in open spaces and road verges through the no mow grass management initiative, and ornamental pollinator projects such as the perennial bulb planting scheme.
Policy 5.2.6 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect Local Biodiversity Areas, wildlife corridors and stepping stones based on the Galway Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2024 and support the biodiversity of the city and in the Council's role/responsibilities, works and operations, where appropriate.
Policy 5.2.8 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Support the actions of the Galway City Council Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and any update and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness and biodiversity, the protection of wildlife corridors and the prevention of wildlife habitat fragmentation.
Policy 5.2.13 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Support the inclusion of natural features, such as trees, hedgerows, stone walls, ponds and the use of green design features and the incorporation of biodiversity measures in developments layouts.
Policy 5.2.14 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Support and implement measures to control and manage alien/invasive species, where appropriate.
Policy 5.3.2 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Conserve and protect natural conservation areas within the coastal area and along waterways and ensure that the range and quality of associated habitats and the range and populations of species are maintained.
Policy 5.3.5 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin Management Plan in relation to the protection of water quality of surface waters, groundwater and coastal waters.
Policy 5.3.12 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure the protection of the River Corrib as a Salmonid River, where appropriate.
Policy 5.3.13 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Restrict the location of structures other than structures with essential links to the waterway and public utilities within 10 metres of the River Corrib in G agricultural zoned lands.
Policy 5.3.17 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Protect and maintain, where feasible, undeveloped riparian zones and natural floodplains along the River Corrib and its tributaries.
Policy 5.3.18 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, on protected species.
Policy 5.4.2 - Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees	Make Tree Preservation Orders for individual trees or groups of trees within the city, where appropriate.
Policy 5.4.3 - Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees	Integrate existing trees and hedgerows on development sites where appropriate and require tree planting, as part of landscaping schemes for new developments.
Policy 5.4.4 - Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees	Continue to promote partnerships with the community for the management and improvement of biodiversity in local open spaces, through schemes such as the Green Flag Awards.
Policy 5.5.6 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Ensure biodiversity and greening is incorporated into all greenways, segregated cycleways and pathways where appropriate and ensure that paths and structures are constructed from suitable materials that contribute to aesthetics, sustainability and safety.
Policy 5.10.2 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Prevent developments which could cause environmental pollution or injury to general amenities.
Policy 5.10.3 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Ensure agricultural development complies with the measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and imminent draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 and future plans.
Policy 5.10.5 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Restrict the location of structures other than structures with essential links to the waterway, within ten metres of the River Corrib, in G zoned lands.
Objective 5.10.7 - Green Spaces	Prepare and implement a Tree Planting Strategy for the city which will provide for

Policy/Objective ID	Mitigation Policy/Objective
- Short term	long-term planting, protection and maintenance of trees, hedgerows and woodlands.
Objective 5.10.8 - Green Spaces - Short term	Prepare and implement a plan which identifies suitable parts of the road and street network for the planting of trees and plant species that are biodiversity rich. Promote good practice in hedgerow maintenance, including along roads.
Objective 5.10.9 - Green Spaces - Short term	Continue to implement measures to increase and restore biodiversity in open spaces and road verges through the no mow grass management initiative and ornamental pollinator projects such as the perennial bulb planting scheme.
Objective 5.10.12 - Green Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Explore the potential for developing lands adjacent to Terryland Castle, Merlin Castle and Menlough Castle for public realm and landscaping to enhance the context of the Castles.
Policy 6.1.8 - General	Support measures that will enable decarbonisation of the economy and specific projects that that will help deliver the aims of the European Green Deal.
Policy 6.5.5 - Enterprise and Innovation	Encourage enterprise and business to transition to a circular economy where waste and resource use is minimised and where positive environmental, economic and social impacts can be delivered.
Policy 8.7.4 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Encourage innovation in architecture and promote energy efficiency and green design.
Policy 8.8.5 - Public Realm	Promote nature based SUDS solutions in the public realm where possible to enhance biodiversity and resilience to climate change.
Policy 9.1.4 - Flood Risk	Protect and promote sustainable management and uses of water bodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains.
Policy 9.1.8 - Flood Risk	Protect and maintain, where feasible, undeveloped riparian zones and natural floodplains along the River Corrib and its tributaries.
Policy 9.2.1 - Water Quality	Support the actions of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and future River Basin Management Plan in order to promote and achieve a restoration of good status, reduce chemical pollution and prevent deterioration of surface, coastal and groundwater quality, where appropriate.
Policy 9.2.2 - Water Quality	Continue to pursue the maintenance of good bathing water quality at the city beaches through monitoring and management actions in accordance with the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008.
Policy 9.2.4 - Water Quality	Maintain and extend the Blue Flag Beaches status in regard to water quality, infrastructure and amenity provision for beaches in the city.
Policy 9.2.5 - Water Quality	Protect the city's groundwater resource in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (SI No. 9 of 2010) or any updated legislation and limit any development which has potential to impact the objectives for protection, enhancement and/or restoration.
Policy 9.2.6 - Water Quality	Minimise and control discharges to inland surface water bodies, groundwater and coastal waters to prevent water pollution and protect the environment.
Policy 9.6.2 - Air Quality and Noise	Ensure the design of development incorporates measures to minimise noise levels in their design and reduce the emission and intrusion of any noise or vibration which might adversely impact on amenities, in particular residential amenities where appropriate.
Policy 9.7.1 - Light Pollution	Ensure the design of external lighting minimises the incidence of light pollution, glare and spillage into the surrounding environment and has due regard to the visual and residential amenities of surrounding areas and is so designed to mitigate adverse impacts on wildlife and ecosystems.
Policy 9.8.6 - Waste Management	Promote the implementation of the City Council Litter Management Plan and other litter management initiatives in order to minimise and control the extent of litter

Policy/Objective ID	Mitigation Policy/Objective
	pollution in the city.

5.1 Recommended Mitigation Measures

The existing Plan has robust protective strategies, policies and objectives to ameliorate any potential impacts including adherence to the requirement of the relevant EU Directives and environmental considerations. Additional mitigation measures have been added as below.

Table 5-3 Recommendations

Policy ID.	Background to recommendation	Recommendation
Policy 5.1.4. - Green Network and Biodiversity	Herbicides and pesticides may have a role to play in the management of invasive species, but their use in managing sites for reasons of aesthetic value should be avoided. Increase hedgerows connectivity by improving continuity using locally native species. Promote good practice in hedgerow maintenance, including along roads e.g. including time of cutting to allow prolonged use for foraging berries, where feasible; hedgerow shape and retention of mature trees throughout the hedgerow network, use of good techniques in hedge-cutting.	Recommendation: Support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017- 2021) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) and support the actions of the City Council's Heritage Plan 2016-2021, and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness, biodiversity <i>and best practices</i> .
Policy 5.3.13 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	New guidance <i>Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment. A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate / Flood Risk and Recreational Planning. (IFI, 2020).</i>	Recommendation: <i>Utilise Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment (IFI, 2020) as guidance in Plan.</i>
Policy 5.10.5 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	New guidance <i>Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment. A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate / Flood Risk and Recreational Planning. (IFI, 2020).</i>	Recommendation: <i>Utilise Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment (IFI, 2020) as guidance in Plan.</i>
Policy 9.2.6 - Water Quality	Lower Q values at Terryland/Sandy River in particular are indicative of pollution, which should be addressed through pollution prevention measures and SUDS. Improvements would be beneficial to biodiversity and to the amenity value of the watercourses.	Recommendation: Minimise and control discharges to inland surface water bodies, <i>in particular Terryland/Sandy River</i> , groundwater and coastal waters to prevent water pollution and protect the environment.
Policy 9.7.1 - Light Pollution	Ensure that new developments meet the most up-to-date standards provided for lighting measures, including inclusion of dark zones, and sensor lighting and warmer spectrum lights. <i>Bats and Lighting: Guidance Notes for: Planners, engineers, architects and developers (Bat Conservation Ireland, 2010)</i> incorporates details of suitable lighting designs. Lighting on linear infrastructures can lead to disturbance or disruption along the route of an important ecological corridors, such as hedgerows and watercourses. Greenways and blue spaces often make amenity use of such linear features, and as such lighting should be carefully managed to ensure coherence of the supporting habitats of European sites, as outlined in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	Recommendation: Ensure the design of external lighting minimises the incidence of light pollution, glare and spillage into the surrounding environment and has due regard to the visual and residential amenities of surrounding areas and is so designed to mitigate adverse impacts on wildlife and ecosystems. <i>Inclusion of dark zones and sensor lighting should be included where feasible. Lighting on linear infrastructures, including greenways and blueways, should be carefully managed to ensure the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the</i>

Policy ID.	Background to recommendation	Recommendation
		<i>Habitats Directive.</i>

5.2 Assessment of Mitigation Measures - Timescale, Effectiveness, and Implementation

The mitigation measures, as outlined above, will be applied to any development proposal within the area of the Plan for Galway City. Any plan, project of development proposal, both private and public, will be required to demonstrate how it will meet these measures and comply with the Plan provisions through the development management process.

As part of the development management process, applications will be referred for comments to relevant prescribed authorities for comments, including the NPWS and An Taisce. In addition, monitoring of environmental standards will be carried out by the EPA, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and Irish Water. Irish Water has responsibility for prioritisation of investment in water and wastewater projects.

The provisions of the Plan are effective for six years from the date of the adoption. The mitigation measures will be implemented in most cases as development proposals and projects arise over the life of the Plan. In general, planning permissions last for five years from the date of grant of the permission, the conditions attached to the grant of permission are valid both during construction of development and over the life of the development.

The Plan promotes the strategic importance of the AA process through the Strategic Goals/Core Strategy and policies of the Plan, in addition to specific references and objectives for the protection of European sites. The overall approach to the protection of the wider environment serves indirectly to maintain the integrity and conservation status of the European sites through preservation and extension of the green infrastructure networks which support species that depend on European habitats and also for the protection and improvement of water quality in the city, which underpins the integrity of many of the European sites.

5.3 Monitoring Measures to Safeguard Integrity of Sites

A complete suite of monitoring measures for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna have been identified in the SEA Environmental Report of the Plan. Monitoring commences once the Plan comes into force and continues over the period of the Plan. The frequency of the monitoring process shall be carried out on an ongoing basis through the assessment of planning applications and environmental monitoring programmes. Indicators are indicative and may change over the period of the Plan, taking into consideration factors such as changes to monitoring programmes over time and monitoring arrangements of other stakeholders.

5.4 Residual Impacts

The overarching legislative requirement of the Plan is that the City Council will ensure that any plan/project and any associated works in the City, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to AA Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of relevant European Sites and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained any proposal has scientifically demonstrated that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where, in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.

Given the comprehensive mitigation measures outlined in Tables 5-1 and 5.2, which include both inherent mitigation within development focussed policies, and a number of stand-alone policies to protect European Sites, it is concluded that there will be no residual impacts on the European Sites following the implementation or incorporation of mitigation into the overall strategy, policies and objectives of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029.

6 Conclusion

Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 AA of Galway City Development Plan has been carried out. Implementation of the Plan has the potential to result in impacts to the integrity of the European sites, if unmitigated.

The risks to safeguarding the integrity of the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of impacts in the first place and mitigate impacts where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to the AA process when further details of design and location are known.

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is considered that the Plan 2023-2029 will not have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the European Sites.

Appendices

A Appropriate Assessment Screening - Potential Impact Pathways to European Sites

A source-pathway-receiver model was used to determine which European sites could be potentially impacted as a result of implementation of the Plan. The table below presents European sites, distance from the Plan boundary, pathways (groundwater and surface water) and the presence of Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FWPM) and Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE).

Site Code	European Sites	Within City	Distance (km) from Galway City	FWPM	GWDTE	GW connected	SW connected
000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC		12.39		x	x	x
000054	Moneen Mountain SAC		12.41		x	x	x
000238	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC		17.96		x		x
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC		12.23		x	x	x
000252	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC		17.63		x	x	x
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	x	0.00		x	x	x
000286	Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC		20.74				x
000295	Levally Lough SAC		29.98		x	x	x
000296	Lisnageeragh Bog and Ballinastack Turlough SAC		44.79		x		x
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	x	0.00	x	x	x	x
000299	Lough Cutra SAC		26.99				x
000301	Lough Lurteen Bog/Glenamaddy Turlough SAC		41.31		x		x
000304	Lough Rea SAC		25.33			x	x
000318	Peterswell Turlough SAC		20.60		x		x
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC		11.53		x	x	x
000324	Rosroe Bog SAC		49.65			x	x
000461	Ardkill Turlough SAC		31.78		x		x
000474	Ballymaglancy Cave, Cong SAC		30.18			x	x
000475	Carrowkeel Turlough SAC		38.03		x		x
000479	Cloughmoyne SAC		19.96			x	x
000480	Clyard Kettle-Holes SAC		28.77		x		x
000503	Greaghans Turlough SAC		31.92		x		x
000504	Kilglassan/Caheravoostia Turlough Complex SAC		32.73		x		x
000525	Shrule Turlough SAC		23.36		x		x
000527	Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC		45.15				x
000541	Skealoghan Turlough SAC		32.26		x		x
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC		9.16		x	x	x

Site Code	European Sites	Within City	Distance (km) from Galway City	FWPM	GWDTE	GW connected	SW connected
000994	Ballyteige (Clare) SAC		26.54				x
000996	Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC		15.45		x	x	x
001251	Cregduff Lough SAC		53.03		x	x	
001257	Dog's Bay SAC		54.67			x	
001271	Gortnandarragh Limestone Pavement SAC		12.64			x	x
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC		11.91		x	x	x
001312	Ross Lake And Woods SAC		9.89			x	x
001321	Termon Lough SAC		25.31		x		x
001536	Mocorha Lough SAC		24.63				x
001774	Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC		30.15			x	x
001913	Sonnagh Bog SAC		24.75				x
001926	East Burren Complex SAC		11.63		x	x	x
001932	Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC		46.85	x	x	x	x
002008	Maumturk Mountains SAC		31.61			x	x
002034	Connemara Bog Complex SAC		6.95		x	x	x
002074	Slyne Head Peninsula SAC		62.62		x	x	
002111	Kilkieran Bay And Islands SAC		27.53		x	x	x
002117	Lough Coy SAC		21.02		x		x
002119	Lough Nageeron SAC		48.87			x	x
002129	Murvey Machair SAC		58.37			x	
002179	Towerhill House SAC		45.06				x
002180	Gortacarnaun Wood SAC		29.74				x
002181	Drummin Wood SAC		28.79				x
002197	Derrinlough (Cloonkeenleananode) Bog SAC		33.58			x	x
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC		13.20			x	x
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC		20.74		x		x
002294	Cahermore Turlough SAC		16.82		x		x
002295	Ballinduff Turlough SAC		18.94		x		x
002296	Williamstown Turloughs SAC		43.89		x	x	
002320	Kildun Souterrain SAC		28.37				x
002352	Monivea Bog SAC		18.84			x	x
004005	Cliffs of Moher SPA		33.05				x
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	x	0.00		x	x	x
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	x	0.00		x	x	x
004051	Lough Carra SPA		39.40				x
004056	Lough Cutra SPA		27.01				x

Site Code	European Sites	Within City	Distance (km) from Galway City	FWPM	GWDTE	GW connected	SW connected
004062	Lough Mask SPA		32.45			x	x
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA		11.46		x	x	x
004107	Coole-Garryland SPA		19.50			x	x
004134	Lough Rea SPA		25.38			x	x
004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA		2.41			x	x
004159	Slyne Head To Ardmore Point Islands SPA		42.55			x	
004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA		22.19			x	x
004181	Connemara Bog Complex SPA		11.41			x	x

B Screening for Appropriate Assessment - Assessment of Effects Criteria

Appropriate Assessment Screening - Assessment Criteria

Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European sites:

Carried out at pre-draft stage of Development Plan review process

The individual elements of the Plan have been identified that may result in impacts on European sites. The elements are outlined below:

- Development at designated regeneration sites Ceannt Station, Galway Inner Harbour and Headford Road Area,
- Implementation of Ardaun Local Area Plan,
- Murrough Local Area Plan,
- Key infrastructural projects including the Galway Transport Strategy, and
- Galway City Flood Relief Scheme,
- Development of Galway Harbour,
- Integration of Galway City Climate Adaptation Strategy and other climate action measures,
- Developments along the River Corrib (including greenways, a pedestrian bridge, public realm and amenity improvements and other potential developments),
- Proposed developments at Lough Atalia (including a park development and other recreation related development),
- Proposed coastal developments (including coastal protection, public realm and amenity improvements and greenways),
- Expansion of residential and other type developments.

In addition, the provision of key services to the city such as housing, water supply and transport infrastructure has the potential to impact negatively on European sites.

In order to identify potential 'In Combination Effects', other key plans and projects were identified for this area. Other Plans and projects specific to the relevant European site include the following:

- National Planning Framework - Project Ireland 2040,
- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021,
- Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP)
- Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020
- City Groundwater Protection Schemes
- Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (draft)
- Clare County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (draft),
- Shellfish Water Action Programmes / Pollution Reduction Programmes for shellfish
- Regional Spatial Economic Strategy 2020 - 2032
- Galway City Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)
- Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 - 2021
- Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014 - 2024
- Galway City Climate Adaption Strategy 2019 - 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Applications <p><i>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European sites by virtue of:</i></p>	
Size and Scale	<p>The Plan covers Galway City and includes, or is immediately adjacent to a number of European sites.</p> <p>The size and scale of individual developments within the Plan area will determine the magnitude of direct and indirect impacts on European sites intersecting and outside of the Plan area.</p>
Land take	<p>The Plan may involve development of neighbouring European sites therefore there may be direct impacts in this regard.</p> <p>There is potential for a direct loss or fragmentation of habitats arising from development requirements. The European sites potentially affected are those located within the Plan boundary. See below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galway Bay Complex SAC, • Inner Galway Bay SPA, • Lough Corrib SAC, and • Lough Corrib SPA.
Distance from European Sites or key features of the site	<p>The Distances to European sites are provided in Appendix A.</p> <p>The Plan is adjacent to, or has hydrological connections to, a number of European sites whose favourable conservation status is determined by the hydrological regime. Many of these sites support marine water-dependant or groundwater-dependant qualifying interests (See Section 4.2).</p> <p>The qualifying interests of coastal sites are dependent on the tidal regime and have varying sensitivities to hydrological change and are adversely affected by inappropriate development.</p> <p>Groundwater-dependant features are located within sites in East Galway, which is a highly karstified region.</p> <p>The Plan is adjacent to, or has hydrological connections to, a number of European sites whose favourable conservation status is determined by water quality. There is potential for contamination of freshwater sites, such as Lough Corrib and the River Corrib, through runoff from development during the construction or operational phases.</p> <p>There is the potential for contamination of marine water in Galway Bay during construction or operation of developments, through diffuse runoff, direct outfalls from development, wastewater emissions or through connected</p>

	<p>freshwater features.</p> <p>Contamination may arise in all waters through poor working practices, leakages or accidental spillage of materials if efficient pollution control measures are not fully implemented and maintained.</p> <p>There is potential for disturbance to wildlife from individual elements of the Plan. Sites that are within the Plan area, or immediately adjacent, are significantly at risk of disturbance through inappropriate development. Sources of disturbance include noise, vibration, light, construction and operation activities.</p> <p>Consequently, there is potential for a significant adverse effect on the integrity of these sites and their conservation objectives. The European sites potentially affected are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galway Bay Complex SAC, • Inner Galway Bay SPA, • Lough Corrib SAC, • Lough Corrib SPA, • Ardrahan Grassland SAC, • Castletaylor Complex SAC, • Kiltiernan Turlough SAC, • Lough Fingall Complex SAC, • Rahasane Turlough SAC, • Rahasane Turlough SPA, and • Cregganna Marsh SPA. <p>See Figure 4-1 for map of screened-in European sites.</p>
Emissions	<p>Surface Water Run-off and Pollution Events during the Construction of Lands Zoned for Development in Proximity to Lough Corrib SAC/SPA, Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA</p> <p>Surface water run-off from construction site areas adjacent to the freshwater and coastal areas can potentially cause siltation loadings which has a detrimental effect on fish and other aquatic life. Accumulated silt runoff can compromise the integrity of aquatic biodiversity at both coastal and freshwater sites.</p> <p>The storage of fuels, lubricants and other polluting materials on construction sites adjacent to watercourses will present a risk of a pollution incident occurring. The ingress of pollutants will have the potential to result in significant perturbations to the water quality and could affect the conservation status of qualifying habitats and species downstream in Lough Corrib SAC/SPA, Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA.</p>

	<p>Wastewater</p> <p>All municipal waste discharges from Galway City entering Galway Bay are through the Mutton Island Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). Other major contributions are from discharge of the River Corrib into the Bay. As a result, inputs from the catchment discharging into Lough Corrib and the River Corrib ultimately discharge into the estuary and Bay area. There are also minor contributions from other municipal discharges around the Bay including Carraroe, Spiddal, Ballyvaughan and Kinvara. Additionally, under Project Ireland 2040, an upgrade to Galway City waste water system has been proposed.</p> <p>There is the potential for contamination of marine water in Galway Bay from wastewater emissions. The primary discharge to Galway Bay arises from the Mutton Island WWTP. However, the plant has had a significant positive impact on water quality within the Bay.</p> <p>The Galway City Development Plan set out a number of policies and objectives in relation to wastewater collection and treatment and water services. These policies, if implemented, will protect the River Corrib and by extension Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA areas and other sites listed within the zone of influence from wastewater discharges which may otherwise contaminate water resources and habitats.</p> <p>Noise and Air Emissions</p> <p><i>Construction</i></p> <p>There is potential for noise disturbance to wildlife from development and recreational activities associated with the individual elements of the Plan.</p> <p>Qualifying species of the Inner Galway Bay SPA and Lough Corrib SPA e.g. wild birds and waterfowl can potentially be impacted due to construction and operational activities proposed within the Plan area. Birds are sensitive to extensive noise levels which can alter their distribution and densities. There is potential for disturbance from a range of development types proposed within the Plan boundary and supported by the Plan such as the development of development of Galway Harbour, Galway Transport Strategy projects being advanced including the N6 GCRR and recreational developments along the River Corrib, coast and near Lough Atalia. The sensitivity of the location of any proposed development and the types of disturbance will determine the extent of disturbance among species.</p>
<p>Excavation Requirements</p>	<p>Any new development proposed within the Plan area will involve varying levels of excavation works depending on the scale of the development.</p>

	<p>There is potential for direct impacts to European sites within the Plan boundary area as a result of excavation works. However, excessive runoff and contamination events can potentially have negative consequences for qualifying interests and the conservation objectives of many groundwater based sites within the Plan zone of influence area e.g. Ardahan Grassland SAC; Castletaylor Complex SAC; Kiltiernan Turlough SAC; Lough Fingall Complex SAC; Rahasane Turlough SAC; Rahasane Turlough SPA; Cregganna Marsh SPA.</p> <p>The potential impacts of excavations associated with the construction phase of developments within the Plan area are outlined above in relation to emissions from construction of lands zoned for development.</p>
Transportation requirements	<p>Construction Requirements</p> <p>Proposed construction developments within the Plan area will involve the transport of materials to and from construction areas leading to potential spillages and runoff into watercourses directly linked to European sites e.g., Terryland River and Lough Corrib SAC both draining to Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA. Such materials include; petrol, diesel, top soils, aggregate, hydrocarbons and chemicals. This can result in major adverse impacts on downstream areas of Lough Corrib SAC and coastal areas of Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA.</p> <p>Operational Requirements</p> <p>Due to the proposed transport upgrades as well as a likely increase in population within the Plan area there will likely be increased traffic as a result. This increases the potential for road pollutant runoff into the River Corrib and Terryland River and conduit drains particularly during rainfall events. Pollutants include hydrocarbons and heavy metals runoff which, in excess, can exert to all forms of aquatic life. In addition, such pollutants prevent gaseous exchange at the water surface leading to reduced dissolved oxygen in the water body.</p>
Describe any likely changes to European sites arising as a result of:	
Reduction of habitat area	<p>There is potential for a direct loss or fragmentation of habitats arising from land-take requirements. The European sites potentially affected are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galway Bay Complex SAC • Inner Galway Bay SPA • Lough Corrib SAC • Lough Corrib SPA <p>Direct habitat loss is caused where there is complete removal of a habitat type. Habitat loss can also occur through the reduction of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions. It can arise from the introduction of invasive non-native species, toxic</p>

	<p>contamination, or physical alteration. European sites listed above are vulnerable in relation to water quality as the habitats and species are sensitive to changes in groundwater flow or surface water run-off.</p> <p>There is potential that the designated sites within the functional area of the Plan may be either directly or indirectly adversely affected in this manner through the implementation of the Plan. Development either in isolation or in combination with other similar developments can potentially lead to significant adverse impacts on the environment with long term consequences. Construction of riverside amenities could lead to loss of habitats if inappropriately located within the boundaries of a designated site. Installation of linear infrastructure such as roads and expansion of port facilities can cause negative impact over a wide distance where such infrastructure crosses designated sites and potentially extend tenuous impacts to designated sites located outside the Plan boundary area.</p> <p>Impacts can include habitat or species fragmentation where, for example, birds within Lough Corrib SPA are disturbed through development or infrastructure can disturb the migration of salmon within the Corrib.</p>
Disturbance of key species	<p>Disturbance to species supported by European sites is likely to occur where there is an increase in activity levels from recreation and amenity or from developments within or adjacent to designated areas. Sources of disturbance include noise, vibration, light, construction and operation activities or other sources of disturbance arising from recreation and amenity or from the inappropriate timing of works.</p> <p>Elements of the proposed Plan such as construction activity during new development phases and the proposed traffic and harbour facilities both supported by the Plan has the potential to negatively affect key qualifying species which rely on good water quality particularly in European sites within the boundary of the Plan area. Due to the considerable scale of both the Harbour and Transport projects, there is potential for impacts to extend across European site.</p> <p>Changes in the ecological status of the River Corrib or Terryland River could potentially lead to reduced water quality in hydrologically connected sites i.e. Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA. Reduction in water quality could potentially interfere with the structure and function of these coastal habitats resulting in negative impacts to the distribution or densities of qualifying flora and fauna.</p> <p>Sensitive species likely to occur within the Plan area are Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>, an Annex II species and qualifying species of Lough Corrib SAC and Galway Bay SAC, which are potentially vulnerable to disturbance from proposed</p>

	<p>construction activity and general disturbances within the Plan area. Any alterations to their coastal or freshwater habitats could potentially impact the density and distribution of this species throughout the SAC sites. Migratory salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> and Lamprey species, both key qualifying species of Lough Corrib SAC, are particularly vulnerable to vibration (river sediment immobilisation) and silt/chemical runoff through construction activities.</p> <p>As previously discussed, wildfowl and waterbirds designated for Lough Corrib SPA and Inner Galway Bay SPA are likely to forage in wetland and estuarine habitats of the Plan boundary respectively. Noise from proposed construction activity and increases in traffic and resident populations would possibly deter species from this area temporarily. In addition, disturbance during sensitive periods, such as winter season could negatively affect their distribution and numbers around the SPA areas.</p>
Habitat or species fragmentation	<p>Habitat and species fragmentation can occur through the breaking up of or loss of habitats resulting in interference with existing ecological units. Fragmentation can also result from impediments to the natural movements of species. This is relevant where important corridors for movement or migration are likely to be disrupted such as along river corridors during construction as it could form a barrier to the free movement of species from one habitat to another.</p> <p>Impacts can include habitat or species fragmentation where, for example, newly installed bridges disturb the migration of salmon. Disturbance impacts to birds, can also lead to fragmentation of bird populations from riverside and coastal amenity development such as walking and cycling paths.</p> <p>Indirectly, any alteration to the hydrological regime, contamination events or disturbance would limit the extent of suitable habitat available to support the habitats and species for which the proximal European sites are designated. It is also likely that these events would alter the natural food chain, resulting in likely alterations to the distribution of species. These changes could negatively affect the structure and function of the site, and impact on the long-term distribution of species for which the site is designated.</p>
Reduction in species density	<p>Poor construction practices during developments could result in a reduction in river water quality. Any perturbation to water quality in the River Corrib or Terryland River could, by extension, pose adverse impacts in key species densities occurring within hydrologically connected, Lough Corrib SAC, Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA area.</p> <p>An alteration to the hydrological regime could cause deterioration in the extent and quality of associated habitats such as wetlands and estuarine areas which would in turn</p>

	<p>reduce the extent of habitat available to dependant aquatic species.</p> <p>A reduction in water quality through increased siltation or pollutant loadings would directly affect aquatic plants and animals in the River Corrib and Terryland Rivers and extend a knock-on effect to downstream European sites stated previously.</p>
Changes in key indicators of conservation status	<p>Key indicators of conservation value for those European sites include water quality, hydrogeological and hydrological regime. Impacts on these sites may occur due to the hydrological connection between the sites and the Plan area. Implementation of the Plan could result in alterations to the hydrological regime or physical environment of the sites due to drainage, alteration of flow regime and discharges of pollutants to watercourses. Runoff from proposed developments or discharge from wastewater or storm water from the Plan area to the River Corrib or Terryland River could potentially impact on downstream water quality within those European sites occurring downstream of the Plan area.</p> <p>The European Commission (2006) Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for the Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive outlines key indicators for assessing the conservation status of designated sites.</p> <p>The key indicators for assessing the conservation status of Annex I qualifying habitats are:</p> <p>Specific structures and functions: Raised Bogs, Turloughs, and Alkaline Fens are some of the groundwater dependent habitats within the European sites within the zone of influence of the Plan area. The structure of these habitats and other hydrologically influenced habitats which are connected to the Plan area are dependent on the connectivity and quality of surface and groundwater systems. These habitats function as breeding and foraging habitats for a range of “key species”. This function is maintained by ensuring the hydrological integrity (which includes structure and water quality) of European sites and their associated water bodies/features.</p> <p>It is unclear as to the full potential for adverse impacts on structures and functions of these sites due to lack of detailed mapping indicating pathways. However, a precautionary principle in this case is vital to ensure all potential, albeit tenuous connections are considered.</p> <p>Future prospects: The Plan policies and objectives and the approach of the Plan to ensuring adverse impacts to the environment are avoided will ensure that Plan will not</p>

	<p>negatively influence the status of Annex I habitats which occur within hydrologically connected European sites.</p> <p>The key indicators for assessing the conservation status of Annex II key species are:</p> <p>Range: As outlined above the elements of the Plan will not result in direct impacts to European sites under consideration.</p> <p>Population: Development resulting from the Galway City Development Plan will not be granted planning permission should likely significant effects to populations of key species be identified. Therefore, as only projects which will not result in direct or indirect impacts to the SAC or SPA will be permitted, the populations of key species will not be affected as a result of the proposed zoning variation in the new Plan.</p> <p>Habitat for the species: The mitigation policies and objectives set out in the Plan will ensure that the conservation status of the habitats which support the qualifying species of the European sites is maintained.</p> <p>Future Prospects: The mitigation policies and objectives of the Plan and the recommendations set out in this Appropriate Assessment will ensure that the adoption of the Plan will not jeopardise the future prospects of qualifying species supported by the European sites intersecting the Plan boundary and those within the zone of influence.</p>
Climate change	<p>Climate Action will be a significant cross cutting theme in the City Development Plan.</p> <p>Climate change may result in increased flood levels in the River Corrib increasing flow rates and hydraulic movements downstream to Galway Bay. Pollutant runoff and bank erosion as a result of increased flood events can potentially alter habitat quality in summer breeding sites for migratory birds of the SPA areas which results in an alteration in their distribution elsewhere. As Inner Galway Bay SPA, Cregganna Marsh SPA and Lough Corrib SPA supports a diversity of waterfowl, these factors may be significant in the future.</p>
Describe any likely impacts on the European Site as a whole in terms of:	

<p>Interference with key relationships that define the structure of the site</p>	<p>The surface and groundwater influences of hydrologically connected sites and associated watercourses are the key features that define the structure of the European sites. Any impacts to qualifying habitats; instream habitats; or the connectivity of the freshwater ecosystems will have the potential to negatively impact on the structure of hydrologically connected European sites.</p> <p>The Plan will not result in adverse effects to the qualifying Annex I habitats or instream habitats; providing that the Plan mitigating policies and objectives are adhered too.</p> <p>Potential impacts which could result in adverse effects to the water quality of surface watercourses will in turn have the potential to negatively impact Annex I habitats and/or populations of qualifying species for European sites.</p> <p>The relationship of species and habitats with the abiotic factors that determine the structure and function of aquatic European sites are the key relationship that defines the function of the relevant European sites.</p>
<p>Describe from the above, the elements of the project or plan or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known:</p>	
<p>Following a review of the individual elements of the Plan and other plans and projects it is considered that there is potential for significant adverse effects on individual European sites for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential direct (in situ) and indirect (ex situ) adverse impacts of proposed zoned developments adjacent to Lough Corrib SAC/SPA, Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA and any other important locally connected water-dependent aquatic habitats downstream. • The potential adverse impacts on groundwater dependant European sites within the zone of influence of the Plan area. • The impact of noise disturbance to qualifying species of proximate SPA sites particularly Inner Galway Bay SPA and Lough Corrib SPA. • The size and scale of individual developments within the Plan area will determine the magnitude of impacts on European sites. • The policies and objectives outlined in the Plan will ensure that no elements of the Plan represent a risk to the current range of qualifying habitats supported by European sites. • The scale of magnitude of impacts to European sites is currently unclear; therefore, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment with supporting Natura Impact Report (NIR) is required. 	

C Impact Assessment

Screening Methodology

In accordance with DEHLG guidance, the key to determining if an AA is required for a Plan, is in the assessment of whether the plan and its policies and objectives are likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

Mitigation, Avoidance and Protective Measures

Following the *People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* Case C-323/17, the assessment does not consider protective, avoidance or mitigation measures for stage 1 Screening. These measures are carried forward and considered as part of the stage 2 AA.

Development Policies and Objectives

The development policies have initially been screened following the methodology set out in DTA Publications Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA 2021). Each policy/objective is allocated one or more screening categories, shown in Table C-1 below. The results of the initial screening are shown in Table C-2. Where a number of categories to screen out a policy/objective are applicable, the most relevant categories are listed in the table. The screening outcome includes any relevant in-combination assessment outcomes.

Table C-1: Screening categories for the development policies and objectives (adapted from DTA, 2021) Screening Category

Screening Category	Description	Screening Outcome
A	General statement of policy/ general aspiration.	Out
B	Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan.	Out
D	Environmental Protection / site safeguarding policy.	Out
E	Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out
H	Policy or proposal, the actual or theoretical effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects).	Out
I	Policy or proposal with a likely significant effect on a site alone.	In
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but not likely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination.	Dependant on in-combination test
K	Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.	Screened out after in-combination test
L	Policy or proposal likely to have a significant effect in combination.	Screened in after in-combination test.

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 1			
No.	Strategic Goal / Policy	Screening category	Screen in/out
Strategic Goals			
1	Achieve a high quality of life for all citizens through the provision of a good quality, attractive, built environment, through the protection of the unique natural environment and through facilitation of key economic, cultural and social supports.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
2	Enable Galway to become a city of scale as envisaged in the NPF and a regional driver of sustainable development that can contribute to the economic growth through the provision of balanced and sustainable economic opportunities for development, innovation and investment across all employment sectors and allow the role of the City and Metropolitan Area to harness the strengths and maximise the economic development for the whole Northern and Western Region.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
3	Commit to climate action and the national targeted reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through proactive measures in line with EU and national commitments to enable a just transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy and society in particular through specific promotion, adaptation and mitigation measures.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
4	Apply the principle of sustainability and alignment with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development particularly where they relate to the uses of land, buildings, water, energy, waste and through the encouragement of sustainable modes of transport and the integration of transportation with land use.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
5	Aspire to make Galway an equal and inclusive city, particularly through facilitating all forms of social inclusion in the built environment, including in the public realm, housing, and community facilities and in the ability to access services, amenities, employment opportunities and public transportation.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
6	Protect and enhance the distinctive and diverse natural environment in the city and strengthen the green network and linkages, recognising the biodiversity value of the amenity, the range of recreational benefits this provides, the potential for facilitating active and healthy lifestyles, the effect it can have on the quality of general health and well-being and the value it has for providing an attractive city setting.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
7	Encourage a sense of collective identity and a shared vision through civic	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	OUT

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 1			
No.	Strategic Goal / Policy	Screening category	Screen in/out
	engagement on plans and projects such as the development of a Local Economic and Community Plan for Galway and also on the promotion of specifically focused projects, that will achieve community benefit, foster the indigenous culture and promote the unique form and character of the city, give opportunities for the development of cultural, community and other beneficial infrastructure and enhance and diversify the city economy.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	
8	Integrate land use and transport planning to maximize opportunities for active travel and public transport usage and enable key transport projects included in the Galway Transport Strategy which will deliver multi modal usage, smart mobility and accessibility for all.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
9	Ensure efficient and sustainable use of all water services environmental resources and infrastructure.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
10	Develop a more urban compact form in the city that provides for attractive, integrated, and easily accessible neighbourhoods that are supported by appropriate levels of services and amenities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
Policy 1.1 United Nations Sustainability Goals	Through implementation of the Core Strategy and the policies and objectives of the Development Plan, advance the aims of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
Policy 1.2 National and Regional Framework 1	Ensure consistency with the National Planning Framework and the vision to achieve the shared goals as expressed in the National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
2	Ensure consistency with the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) including the MASP and support the achievement of the associated Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 1			
No.	Strategic Goal / Policy	Screening category	Screen in/out
3	Collaborate with other regional cities in order to harness the combined potential and to maximise opportunities to provide a counterbalance to the growth of Dublin.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
Policy 1.3 Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) 1	Recognise the importance of the Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) in the delivery of strategic growth with critical mass that supports the development of the city and existing surrounding settlements as strong, attractive urban places, supported by a level of services and infrastructure that creates successful, sustainable and socially inclusive communities and which harnesses the strengths associated with scale to maximise economic opportunities and supports investment.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
2	Continue to liaise with Galway County Council in the context of the MASP and other relevant shared planning policy issues to support a consistent integrated approach to sustainable development and meeting population growth targets in the MASP area.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
Policy 1.4 Core Strategy 1	Ensure that sufficient amount of lands are zoned and enabled to meet the demands for a diverse range of uses including housing, employment, services and amenity needs over the lifetime of the plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
2	Support a just transition to a greener, low carbon and climate resilient city and integrate climate mitigation and adaptation measures in all plans and projects.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
3	Support the compact growth of Galway City through appropriate policies that promote co-ordination between land use and locations that can be served by public transport and the walking and cycling networks and enables the delivery of 50% of all new homes within the existing built footprint on lands as set out in the Core Strategy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
4	Support the compact growth of the city by promoting development on designated regeneration and opportunity sites, by the re-development of brownfield and underutilised lands and through encouraging the reuse and adaptation of the existing building stock.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
5	Implement a strategy for settlement that includes for housing on key regeneration and opportunity sites in the city centre, at Ardaun a designated strategic long term growth area and through consolidation and	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 1			
No.	Strategic Goal / Policy	Screening category	Screen in/out
	infill on the balance of suitable lands within the city.		
6	Encourage new neighbourhoods and the consolidation of existing neighbourhoods to develop as sustainable, attractive, well- connected neighbourhoods at appropriate densities, with a high quality of design of buildings and spaces, supported by services, amenities and local enterprises.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
7	Support the local community goals of the LECP to reduce poverty and alleviate disadvantage in the city by proactively promoting all forms of social inclusion, accessibility in the built environment and public realm, housing, community facilities, employment opportunities, and transport.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
8	Ensure that the future growth of the city is undertaken in manner that strikes a balance between enabling development and protection of the environment and the built and natural assets of the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
9	Collaborate with government departments, agencies, and key stakeholders to assist in the delivery of enabling infrastructure, amenities, and community facilities to facilitate compact growth, sustainable neighbourhoods and place making.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
10	Require the preparation of Local Area Plans, Masterplans and design frameworks for those areas which are experiencing and/or likely to experience large scale development or regeneration.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
11	Adopt an active land management approach through enhanced co-ordination with relevant stakeholders and infrastructure providers in the delivery of enabling infrastructure to support implementation of the core strategy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
12	Review Ardaun Local Area Plan to ensure consistency with the Core Strategy and policies and objectives of the 2023-29 Development Plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT
13	Establish a Core Strategy Monitoring framework to measure planning outcomes and evaluate the policy objectives of the City Development Plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	OUT

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 2			
No.	Policy	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 2.1.1 - Circular Economy	Support a successful transition to a circular economy where waste and resources are minimised in accordance with emerging legislation and national strategy.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.1 - Climate Action	Support the implementation of International, European and National objectives as detailed in the following: - The European Green Deal; - The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Acts 2015 to 2021; - The Climate Action Plan (2019) and any updated plan; - The National Climate Adaptation Framework 2018; - The National Climate Change Strategy; - Sectoral Adaptation Plans; - The National Climate Mitigation Plan (when prepared and adopted).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.2 - Climate Action	Support the implementation of national objectives for climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation to achieve a just transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable, carbon neutral economy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.3 - Climate Action	Support through plan policy and objectives, the national objective of the legally binding path to net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of 2030; through implementation of 5 year carbon budgets, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, promotion of sustainable transport, use of renewable resources, improving energy efficiency and supporting nature based solutions.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.4 - Climate Action	Support, facilitate and advance the implementation of policies and actions set out in the Galway City Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.5 - Climate Action	Prepare a five year Climate Action Plan in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2021 and future supporting guidelines and consequently review the development plan to	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

	ensure alignment.		
Policy 2.2.6 - Climate Action	Support national sectoral emissions ceilings and carbon budgets once adopted where applicable.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.7 - Climate Action	Manage the climate risks associated with climate change through the development of climate adaptation measures and sustainable planning and development, including through the planning, design and implementation of the Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme in conjunction with the OPW.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 2.2.8 - Climate Action	Support the implementation of water management measures through mechanisms such as SUDS, rain water harvesting, use of grey water, water storage and nature based solutions to adapt to the impacts of climate change.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 2.2.9 - Climate Action	Support the designated and any future Decarbonising Zone in the city and associated implementation plan promoting measures to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and improve general environmental conditions in this area. (draft by Feb 2022)	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.10 - Climate Action	Support Energy Master Plans prepared by Sustainable Energy Communities in Galway City in particular to support the recommendations of the Galway City Energy Master Plan and associated Energy Action Plan setting out pathways for reducing greenhouse gas emission associated with energy use in Galway City (due to be completed by mid-2022)	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.11 - Climate Action	Support initiatives to advance good soil management, carbon capture and carbon sequestration where feasible in the city.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.12 - Climate Action	Collaborate with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and any other relevant stakeholder in respect of the implementation of existing and future climate change adaption and mitigation strategies and climate action policy to support the transition to a low carbon economy.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.13 - Climate Action	Increase awareness and support behavioural change in relation to climate change, climate resilience and the transition to a low carbon economy.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 2.2.14 - Climate Action	Enable opportunities to activate EC funded projects such as the EU Horizon Europe Missions under the two missions of (i) Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and (ii) Adaptation to Climate Change, including societal transformation.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.15 - Climate Action	Require a climate action statement that considers energy, emissions and sustainable transport as part of every Local Area Plan, masterplan, spatial framework, and regeneration and opportunity site.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.2.16 - Climate Action	Support measures to reduce the reliance on single use plastics in the city with a particular emphasis on taking single use plastic bottles out of use as a measure to be pro-active in supporting the Climate Action Plan.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.3.1 - Renewable Energy	Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy within the city, and support national initiatives, which offer sustainable alternatives to dependency on fossil fuels and a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, subject to the avoidance of unduly negative visual and environmental impacts, or impacts on residential amenity.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 2.3.2 - Renewable Energy	Support and work in partnership with SEAI, local Sustainable Energy Communities and relevant stakeholders in the development of energy efficient and renewable energy projects and investigate and support the potential for the use of emerging renewable technologies in the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 2.3.3 - Renewable Energy	Ensure that the development of renewable energy and its associated infrastructure avoids negative impacts on European sites and adhere to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43EEC).	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 2.3.4 - Renewable Energy	Promote small scale, on-site energy development, where energy generated is primarily required to meet the needs of households, communities and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. Examples could include micro wind/solar energy generation, district heating, geo thermal and air to water energy technologies.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 2.3.5 - Renewable Energy	Support transmission network integration requirements facilitating linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity and gas transmission grid, in a sustainable and timely manner, subject to proper planning and environmental considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 2.3.6 - Renewable	Support the development of appropriate land-based infrastructure at suitable locations in the city to support off- shore renewable energy	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Energy	production subject to appropriate visual, environmental and ecological protection.		
Policy 2.4.1 - Sustainable Building Design and Construction	Increase the energy performance of new buildings in the city by encouraging energy efficiency and energy conservation in the siting, layout, design, and construction of development.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.4.2 - Sustainable Building Design and Construction	Encourage and ensure new development to limit greenhouse gas emissions and make use of opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy including through design, layout, orientation and construction practices.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.4.3 - Sustainable Building Design and Construction	Encourage high standards of energy conservation and improved energy performance in all existing and planned local authority housing and include for a deep retrofit programme of works (currently under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme).	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.4.4 - Sustainable Building Design and Construction	Liaise with the SEAI and other agencies to develop standards, procedures and targets for energy conservation in the Council's housing stock.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.4.5 - Sustainable Building Design and Construction	Support the retrofit and reuse of existing buildings in the interests of sustainability and in line with delivery of the proposed National Aggregated Model of Retrofitting.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.4.6 - Sustainable Building Design and Construction	Promote energy efficiency and sustainability in both existing and new buildings and support the implementation of the EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive and the Building Energy Rating Certification (BER).	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 2.4.7 - Sustainable Building Design and Construction	Support flexibility, accessibility and adaptability in terms of layout and design of new housing.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 3

No.	Policy / Specific Objective	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 3.1.1 - Housing Strategy	Ensure that sufficient suitable lands are zoned to meet the extent of housing needs identified in accordance with the National Planning Framework 2040 (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) targeted population for Galway City, supporting compact growth and regeneration including the requirement that at least 50% of all new homes be delivered within the existing built-up footprint.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 3.1.2 - Housing Strategy	Facilitate the implementation and delivery of the Housing Strategy and HNDA 2023-2029 to meet the identified housing supply targets for the city and to aim for housing choice to be available to meet all needs and incomes.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.1.3 - Housing Strategy	Require as provided for under the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that 10% of lands zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, and any land which is not zoned for residential use or a mix of residential and other uses but in respect of which permission for the development of houses is granted, be reserved for the purposes of social housing. A further 10% shall be reserved for affordable housing in accordance with the aforementioned Acts and any relevant Ministerial guidance and regulations. Any subsequent amendments to the legal requirement to deliver 'Part V' housing during the lifetime of the Housing Strategy will be complied with. Delivery of 'Part V' housing shall be in accordance with relevant legislation and national, regional, and local policy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.1.4 - Housing Strategy	Engage in pre-planning consultation with private sector developers to facilitate the delivery of housing in accordance with the vision for the housing sector as expressed in the national housing strategy "Housing for All-A New Housing Plan for Ireland" Statement 2011 and the requirements of GCC Housing Strategy and Housing Need and Demand Assessment for Galway City.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.1.5 -	Work in collaboration with the Land Development Agency to enhance delivery of the long term strategic needs for social, affordable and cost rental	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Housing Strategy	housing in the city.	effect either alone or in-combination	
Policy 3.1.6 - Housing Strategy	Encourage and facilitate the delivery of housing on vacant sites through maintaining a vacant site register and instituting the associated levy in accordance with the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended).	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.1.7 - Housing Strategy	Support a diverse range of housing types, size and tenures within the City Council's housing developments in the interests of achieving good integration and to allow for a choice of community for all persons.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.8 - Housing Strategy	Support a diverse range of housing types, size and tenures and endeavour to meet the demand for Owner Occupier housing as projected in the Housing Strategy and the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA).	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 3.1.9 - Housing Strategy	Support the specific housing needs of older people including independent living options as well as semi-independent living options and nursing home accommodation. These facilities should be preferably accommodated within established neighbourhoods and at locations that have good access to community facilities and amenities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.1.10 - Housing Strategy	Enable older people to continue to live in their own homes, through adaption where necessary or a home more suitable to their needs through rightsizing.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.11 - Housing Strategy	Promote life time adaptable homes that can accommodate the changing needs of a household over time.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.12 - Housing Strategy	Proactively promote the specific housing needs of persons with disabilities within City Council and AHB housing developments in order to meet the demand for such special needs accommodation in the interests of social inclusion.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.13 - Housing Strategy	Address the demand for additional social housing and housing delivery supports through a number of means including the construction of housing, direct acquisition of housing, delivery in conjunction with AHBs and the use of the RAS, HAPs, on a cost rental basis through affordable housing purchase arrangements, shared equity schemes, and any other appropriate housing delivery. Long term leasing as a social housing delivery option will be considered as a less favourable model and in accordance with Housing For All, will be phased out for new entrants.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.14 - Housing Strategy	Work with the voluntary, community and public sector in addressing the housing needs of homeless people with the endeavour to eliminate homelessness and having regard to the measures in the West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2020 – 2022 and relevant national policy set out	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out

	in Housing For All -A New Housing Plan for Ireland.		
Policy 3.1.15 - Housing Strategy	Encourage the provision of good quality, well regulated, affordable private rented accommodation in order to provide a real choice, stable and attractive housing option to meet the general demands for both short and long term accommodation including for those on social housing support.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.1.16 - Housing Strategy	Support and promote all initiatives that will supplement housing delivery in the city such as the Department of Finance Living City Initiative Scheme (2015); "living over the shop "type development and where appropriate change of use of vacant office space to residential use.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.17 - Housing Strategy	Support the development of high quality and high standard purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) at appropriate locations and of appropriate design (including adequate communal facilities and external communal space to meet the demand for student housing in accordance with the National Student Accommodation Strategy (2017) and any subsequent updates. Change of use from PBSA to any other form of housing will only be considered where it can be demonstrated through evidence based criteria that an over-provision of student housing exists relative to existing and extrapolated need and where appropriate residential standards and amenities can be achieved.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 3.1.18 - Housing Strategy	Support the development of sustainable communities and ensure that all new housing developments – private, public and voluntary are carried out in accordance with the DECLG guidelines Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas (2008) and where applicable to apartments, Section 28 Ministerial guidelines – Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (2020).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.19 - Housing Strategy	Support implementation of government policy in relation to the provision of accommodation for refugees and to facilitate community integration.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.20 - Housing Strategy	Planning applications for multiple housing units will be required to include a Statement of Housing Mix detailing the proposed mix and demonstrating that it provides a sufficient range in unit sizes and types to satisfy community mix including the demographic trend of reduction in average household sizes. The needs of special groups such as older persons and persons with disabilities will be required to be considered as part of this process.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.21 - Housing Strategy	Continue to monitor and review the HNDA as appropriate in accordance with guidance on HNDA methodology issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out

Policy 3.1.22 - Housing Strategy	Review the Housing Strategy two years following adoption as is required under legislation or at a sooner point should it be required in view of trends in the housing market or changes in national policy such as that which may come about following the preparation of revised national spatial policy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.1.23 - Housing Strategy	Ensure the provisions of the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2019 and any other future legislation and guidelines are applied where planning permission is required to control short-term letting accommodation to prevent a negative impact on housing supply and /or an over-concentration of such uses. Notwithstanding this, where planning consent is required under legislation for short term letting, there will be a presumption against allowing such a use in view of the status of the city defined as a rent pressure zone.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.1.24 - Housing Strategy	Ensure delivery of housing contributes to meeting the objectives for emission targets in line with national legislation and imminent National Climate Action Plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 3.1.25 - Housing Strategy	Support service providers in the provision of domestic violence refuges in the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.2.1 - Traveller Accommodation	Implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and any subsequent plan in the interest of providing a satisfactory standard of suitable, sustainable accommodation that meets the needs of the Traveller community. Include for engagement in this regard with the Local Traveller Representative Group, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) Galway County Council and AHB's	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.2.2 - Traveller Accommodation	Support and facilitate the specific accommodation needs of the Traveller community as identified in the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019-2024 through landuse zoning objectives and the development management process, in particular to deliver traveller accommodation as identified in the TAP, to be provided as part of social housing schemes, as group housing schemes, culturally specific housing and through redevelopment and refurbishment of existing halting sites.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 3.3.1 - Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	Promote the development of compact, well designed safe and attractive neighbourhoods that deliver efficient use of land and have effective integration with social and physical infrastructure including public transport, and that will enable the development of successful communities and facilitate the growth strategy for Galway City as envisioned in the NPF and RSES.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.3.2 -	Endeavour to contribute to decarbonisation and achievement of national	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	emission targets in the housing sector through encouraging sustainable densities in housing, adherence to sustainable practices in construction, use of materials and standards, facilitating retrofitting, re-use and effecting Decarbonisation Zones that include residential areas.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	
Policy 3.3.3 - Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	Support neighbourhoods that can meet the needs of an aging and increasingly diverse society and that can accommodate social and physical inclusiveness and contribute to a good quality of life and general wellbeing.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.3.4 - Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	Encourage sustainable neighbourhoods, through appropriate guidelines and standards and through the implementation of local area plans, masterplans / frameworks / area plans.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.3.5 - Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	Encourage higher residential densities at appropriate locations as guided by the Galway Urban Density and Building Height Study. Such locations include strategic regeneration and opportunity sites, and residential and mixed use zoned sites located close to public transport routes and routes identified in the Galway Transport Strategy as suitable for high frequency, public transport services.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.3.6 - Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	Protect and enhance new/existing residential neighbourhoods through appropriate guidelines and standards, preparation of framework plans and through the use of development briefs and design statements.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.3.7 - Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	Ensure the design of residential developments have regard to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) and demonstrate compliance with the Urban Design Manual–A Best Practice Guide and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 3.3.8 - Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	Support through policy and design standards the concept of a “15 minute city” where the daily needs of communities can be accessed within a 15 minute walk, cycle or by public transport.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 3.3.9 - Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept	Ensure designated residential amenity open spaces, which are in use and reflect high residential value and are allied to existing residential developments are protected for such use. Exceptions to allow for infill development will only be considered on underutilised lands which do not contribute positively to the urban structure and form and lack community value. Such development will only be considered where it contributes to place	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

	making and community, improves the quality of the neighbourhood and can enhance the built environment with better informal supervision of the public realm and can, where housing is part of the proposal, provide a mix in size and type of housing units.		
Policy 3.4.1 - Outer Suburbs	Facilitate consolidation of existing residential development and densification where appropriate within the outer suburbs to deliver on population targets while ensuring the reasonable protection of the residential amenities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.4.2 - Outer Suburbs	Ensure that sustainable neighbourhoods are places where housing, streets, open spaces and local facilities come together in a coherent, integrated and attractive form with appropriate community infrastructure delivered in tandem with new growth.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.4.3 - Outer Suburbs	Require the integration of biodiversity measures, green infrastructure and energy efficiency in the design and layout of residential development.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.4.4 - Outer Suburbs	Encourage a mix of housing types and sizes within residential developments.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.4.5 - Outer Suburbs	Encourage the use of homezones within residential developments.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.4.6 - Outer Suburbs	Require residential developments of over 10 units to provide recreational facilities as an integral part of the proposed open space.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.4.7 - Outer Suburbs	Ensure the design and layout of residential developments has regard to adjoining developments.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.4.8 - Outer Suburbs	Encourage the promotion of universal design principles and lifetime adaptability in the design and layout of residential developments.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.4.9 - Outer Suburbs	Promote the use of appropriate placenames for new residential development in accordance with the policy of An Coiste Logainmneacha and in support of recognition of Galway City as a Bilingual city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.5.1 - Established Suburbs	Facilitate consolidation of existing residential development and densification where appropriate while ensuring a balance between the reasonable protection of the residential amenities and the character of the established suburbs and the need to provide for sustainable residential development and	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

	deliver population targets		
Policy 3.5.2 - Established Suburbs	Encourage additional community and local services and residential infill development in the established suburbs at appropriate locations.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.5.3 - Established Suburbs	Enhance established suburbs, such as the Mervue residential area, through the implementation of environmental improvement schemes and the protection of all open spaces including existing green spaces.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 3.5.4 - Established Suburbs	Review and implement the draft regeneration plan for Ballinboile Park entitled A Better Ballinboile in consultation with the local community and stakeholders.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.5.5 - Established Suburbs	Prepare a regeneration plan focusing on the open space areas in Ballybaan in consultation with the local community and stakeholders.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.6.1 - Inner Residential Areas	Protect the quality of inner residential areas including Claddagh, Shantalla and Newcastle (to Quincentenary Bridge) by ensuring that new development through consolidation, infill and redevelopment does not adversely affect their character and has regard to the prevailing pattern, form and density of these areas.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.6.2 - Inner Residential Areas	Enhance inner residential areas such as Claddagh, Shantalla and Bohermore, through the implementation of environmental improvement schemes and the protection of all open spaces, including existing green spaces.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 3.7.1 - City Centre Residential Areas	Prioritise the provision of new homes on designated regeneration and opportunity sites in the city centre at appropriate scales to enable the development of new sustainable city centre communities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.7.2 - City Centre Residential Areas	Protect and enhance established city centre residential communities by discouraging encroachment from commercial development and unacceptable infill developments.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.7.3 - City Centre Residential Areas	Enhance city centre residential areas through implementation of environmental improvement schemes and improvements to the public realm, including, where appropriate, homezones and recreational facilities in conjunction with local residents.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.7.4 - City Centre Residential Areas	Encourage the expansion of the city centre residential community by requiring a residential content in new development proposals.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 3.7.5 - City Centre Residential Areas	Consider the redevelopment of the City Council car park at Bowling Green to meet social and or affordable housing needs.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.8.1 - Low Density Residential Areas	Protect Low Density Residential Areas by reason of their character, environmental vulnerability and limited services capacity, and ensure new development has regard to the prevailing pattern, form and density of these areas.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.8.2 - Low Density Residential Areas	Protect the characteristics of these areas through development standards and guidelines.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.9.1 - Village Envelopes/Areas	Strengthen the character of specified villages through encouraging appropriate development. Vehicular access to Coolagh Briarhill village shall be limited to the existing road access only. The objective for a proposed cycle network link from this road is indicative and an alternative alignment outside the village envelope is preferable.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.9.2 - Village Envelopes/Areas	Protect and enhance the character and amenity of Menlough and prepare a plan for the area, which will include for flood mitigation measures.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.9.3 - Village Envelopes/Areas	Reinforce the identity of Castlegar through protection and enhancement of existing amenities and through provision of additional community facilities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 3.10.1 - Mews Housing Development	Prepare a co-ordinated plan for areas of the city which have potential for mews housing development in consultation with local residents.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Section 3.9 Specific Objectives			
Objective 3.9.1	Prepare an environmental improvement scheme for the Mervue residential area.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 3.9.2	Prepare environmental improvement schemes for Claddagh, Shantalla and Bohermore residential areas.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 3.9.3	Prepare a regeneration plan for the open space areas of Ballybane.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 3.9.4	Review and update the draft regeneration plan for Ballinfolle Park entitled 'A	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

	Better Ballinfolle' and implement actions where feasible and subject to funding.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	
Objective 3.9.5 -	Develop best practice advice and guidelines for the design of homezones.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 3.9.6	Review guidance in conjunction with Recreational and Amenity, and Environment Section on open space design, hard and soft landscaping, recreational facilities and biodiversity enrichment.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 3.9.7	Prepare a plan for the Menlough area. This will include guidance on new design and conservation and will explore the amenity potential of the area.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 3.9.8	Prepare a plan for the Castlegar area in consultation with local residents taking cognisance of strategic proposals in the immediate area.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 4			
No.	Policy/ Specific Objective	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 4.1.1 - General	Develop a compact city, where sustainable land use and transportation are integrated and where there is choice and accessibility to a range of transport modes, with increasing support for a shift to more sustainable modes in line with national aims on climate action and where safety and ease of movement is provided to and within the City and onward to the wider area of the MASP, County Galway and the Northern and Western Region.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.1.2 - General	Align with the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF and the regional policy objectives of the RSES in the promotion of sustainable patterns of transport and in the support for the delivery of key transport infrastructure that will enable development to take place in accordance with the Core Strategy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 4.1.3 - General	Support the implementation of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) which will advance the delivery and modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport and also enable planned integration of land use and transport within the city and the greater MASP area in consultation with Galway County Council, NTA and TII and service providers.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 4.1.4 - General	Support the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and the associated implementation programme which will deliver a high quality public transport network, provide and encourage the use of other sustainable modes of transport, and facilitate the efficient movement of private vehicles and freight.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.1.5 - General	Support the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and the outcomes of the planned evidenced based review to be carried out in conjunction with Galway County Council and the NTA. This review will consider all transport modes including the feasibility of a light rail option and will not preclude the advancement of the Cross City Link route to planning consent stage.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 4.1.6 - General	Continue to progress a sustainable transport solution for the city through the implementation of measures included in the GTS and required supporting projects in particular the N6 GCRR project.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 4.2.1 - Land Use and Transportation	Promote close co-ordination between land use and transportation through policies, land use zoning and objectives.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.2.2 - Land Use and Transportation	Support and facilitate the integration of land-use and transportation in order to facilitate compact city growth, supported by sustainable modes of transport that will encourage economic well-being and ensure the movement of people and goods in a manner that is sustainable, safe and provides ease of access for all, enhances quality of life and supports a reduction in transport related greenhouse gas emissions.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.2.3 - Land Use and Transportation	Provide for the development of high volume, trip intensive, developments such as commercial centres and employment hubs at locations that will minimise the need, distance and time taken to travel and promote the use of sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport to access these locations.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.2.4 - Land Use and Transportation	Promote effective sustainable residential densities in the city particularly along and close to the existing and planned public and sustainable transport route network.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.2.5 - Land Use and Transportation	In line with Core Strategy and to give direction for future settlement expansion prepare Local Area Plans and masterplans where appropriate that includes for integration of land use with transportation.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.2.6 - Land Use and Transportation	Encourage the concept of a “15 minute city” where land use policies facilitate residents to access their daily needs within a 15 minute walk or bike ride and thereby reduce the dependence on car transport.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 4.3.1 - Public Transport	Support the implementation of Bus Connects Galway and the overall bus transport network which will include for a high frequency cross-city network of services and all associated infrastructural requirements, traffic management and priority arrangements.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.2 - Public Transport	Promote the availability of the city bus network including the priority measures for use by the national, regional and tour bus services.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.3 - Public Transport	Facilitate public transport interchanges and associated proposals for transfer ticketing and flexible payment methods.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.4 - Public Transport	Prioritise the provision of park and ride facilities at appropriate locations so that they align with the bus network and cross-city link route to create the necessary modal shift to reduce car dependency.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.5 - Public Transport	Promote access to public transport services for those attending primary and post primary schools in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.6 - Public Transport	Ensure ease of access to all bus termini in the city centre and facilitate tourist coach drop-off /pick up locations and bus layover areas	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.7 - Public Transport	Support measures which aim to improve the service capacity of the Galway City inter urban rail transport network including for the development of commuter rail services, with a preference for a twin track approach from the city to Athenry.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.8 - Public Transport	Support measures to develop Ceannt Station as an integrated multi modal transport hub which facilitates easy interchange between national, regional and local transport services.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.9 - Public Transport	Continue to support taxi services at appropriate locations including proximate to public transport corridors and where feasible permit use of bus priority infrastructure.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.3.10 - Public Transport	Support the modal change to public transport under the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) through modal change targets for walking, cycling, and public transport within the lifetime of the City Development Plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 4.4.1 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Support the Galway Transport Strategy proposals for a primary cycle network to facilitate safe and convenient medium distance journeys.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.4.2 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Support the Galway Transport Strategy proposals for a secondary cycle network and feeder links to facilitate safe and convenient local journeys and to afford linkage into the primary cycle network.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.4.3 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Support the National Greenway Strategy and proposed Greenways as part of the primary cycle network and as part of a links to Bearna, Oranmore, Maigh Cuilinn and Oughterard.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 4.4.4 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Implement a structured programme of improvements across the whole city pedestrian network and at street crossings.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.4.5 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Facilitate cycling on the proposed Bus Connects Galway Routes where appropriate including on the proposed Cross-City Link.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.4.6 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Support and promote initiatives such as Park and Stride, Green Schools Travel and Safe Routes to School Programmes, School Streets and the concept of having safe routes to school.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.4.7 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Improve bicycle parking at key destinations and near bus stops /interchanges.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.4.8 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Promote, facilitate and maintain maximum connectivity and permeability for pedestrians and cyclists in the design and management of new public and private projects and in upgrading and retrofitting existing developments in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019) and Permeability a Best Practice Guide, NTA (2015).	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	IN
Policy 4.4.9 - Sustainable	Ensure facilities for pedestrians and cyclists are designed in accordance with national standards.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect	Out

Mobility - Walk and Cycle		either alone or in-combination	
Policy 4.4.10 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Promote the implementation of a Wayfinding Scheme with provision of directional information and signage at appropriate locations across the city as part of the implementation of the Public Realm Strategy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 4.4.11 - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	Promote and facilitate the development of Public Bike/other share schemes across the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.5.1 - Transport Demand Management Measures	Support GTS measures for a reduction of car movements through the city centre, to be achieved by specific traffic management arrangements including the implementation of a City Centre Access Network.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.5.2 - Transport Demand Management Measures	Support the GTS proposals to prioritise public transport movements in the city centre through the implementation of a designated public transport route, the Cross-City Link.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 4.5.3 - Transport Demand Management Measures	Promote changes in the management of car parking, including for the reduction of on-street parking, improved access arrangements and a review of pricing structures that will encourage greater sustainable mobility.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.5.4 - Transport Demand Management Measures	Implement the GTS proposals for a HGV management strategy and a loading and delivery strategy in the city centre.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.5.5 - Transport Demand Management Measures	Support and promote the use of smarter mobility and Intelligent Transport Solutions (ITS) to increase efficiency, safety and co-ordination across all transport networks.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.5.6 - Transport	Promote the implementation of Travel Plans with employers and schools.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect	Out

Demand Management Measures		either alone or in-combination	
Policy 4.5.7 - Transport Demand Management Measures	Increase the use of sustainable transport modes including public transport through targeted promotion and encouragement of behavioural change.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.6.1 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Support the N6 Galway City Ring Road project in conjunction with Galway County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in order to develop a transportation solution to address the existing congestion on the national and regional road network.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 4.6.2 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Enhance the delivery of an overall integrated transport solution for the city and environs by supporting the reservation of the designed strategic road corridor to accommodate the N6 GCRR project.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 4.6.3 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Support the proposals in the Galway Transport Strategy for design interventions, revised traffic management arrangements and priority arrangements for walking, cycling and public transport on the road network.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 4.6.4 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Implement improvements on the general road network, including new links and junction revisions where needed in the interest of safety and convenience.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 4.6.5 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Implement best practice in road and street design as set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013) as updated (2019).	B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Out
Policy 4.6.6 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Support reduced speed limits in the city centre and residential areas of the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.6.7 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Promote accessibility for people with disabilities and people with reduced mobility and have regard to best practice guidance from the National Disability Authority (NDA).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 4.6.8 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Promote a permeable urban and suburban environment in accordance with best practice guidance as provided for in Permeability a Best Practice Guide (NTA 2015) and implement permeability schemes in existing areas where appropriate, permeability proof proposed developments and endeavour to retain existing local links with enhancements where needed.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.6.9 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Support national policy and guidance with regard to protection of the National Road network including the strategic function of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network. Development objectives will be in accordance with the DOECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.7.1 - Galway Port	Support proposals for development and extension of port facilities and an extension of the rail line to the port, which are of strategic importance to the City and the northern and western region.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 4.8.1 - Low Emission Infrastructure	Support the development of low emission fuel infrastructure and associated technologies.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 4.8.2 - Low Emission Infrastructure	Support and facilitate the switch to Electric Vehicles through supporting the expansion of the Electric vehicle charging network at appropriate locations within the city in association with relevant agencies and stakeholders.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Section 4.8 Specific Objectives			
Objective 4.8.1 - Public Transport	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the provision of the 'Cross City Link' as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the Cross City Link and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.8.2 - Public Transport	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the development of a public bus network in accordance with the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the public bus network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Objective 4.8.3 - Public Transport	Facilitate the delivery of the Bus Connects Programme serving the City and the MASP area by securing and maintaining any required route reservations.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 4.8.4 - Public Transport	Develop the Tuam Road Multi-modal Corridor from Claregalway to Moneenageisha Cross via Joyces Road in conjunction with Galway County Council and reserve lands accordingly.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.8.5 - Public Transport	Provide for bus transport and infrastructure along the Western Distributor Road.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.8.6 - Public Transport	Identify appropriate locations in the city to accommodate tour bus parking facilities and drop off/pick up points in accordance with the Tour Bus Parking Study.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 4.8.7 - Public Transport	Reserve lands parallel with the rail line from the city centre to the eastern city boundary for future rail sustainable transport requirements and to provide for possible commuter rail stops.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.8.8 - Public Transport	Provide measures to allow for the repair/replacement of Wolfe Tone Bridge in the interests of safety and accommodate pedestrian improvements where feasible.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.8.9 - Public Transport	Identify through a review of the Galway Transport Strategy the need for bus transport in areas of Galway City currently not serviced by bus transport to include rural Bushypark, Circular Road, Upper Ballymoneen Road and Menlo and other locations as appropriate.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 4.8.10 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the development of a cycle network including for a core, secondary and feeder network in accordance with the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the cycle network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.8.11 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Provide cycle parking facilities at appropriate locations including the City Centre, District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, close to public transport interchanges, schools, beaches, cemeteries and parks and where appropriate in residential areas.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 4.8.12 - Sustainable	Develop the National Greenway Network in the city, in particular the National Galway to Dublin Cycleway and the Galway to Clifden Greenway	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Mobility – Walk and Cycle	in conjunction with the NTA, TII and Galway County Council.		
Objective 4.8.13 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Ensure biodiversity and appropriate greening are incorporated, into greenways, segregated cycleways and pathways where appropriate and ensure that paths and structures are constructed from suitable materials and incorporating a SUDS approach	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Objective 4.14 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Provide pedestrian and cycle bridge crossing of the River Corrib adjacent to the Salmon Weir Bridge.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.15 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Provide a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the piers of the Old Clifden Railway Line from the Headford Road Regeneration area to NUIG campus.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.16 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Investigate the potential for the construction of a new pedestrian bridge from Gaol Road to Newtownsmyth.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 4.17 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Prioritise improvements to pedestrian movements and safety within the city centre including extension of pedestrianisation, provision of wider footpaths and shared streets.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 4.18 - Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle	Prioritise improvements to pedestrian movements and safety between the City Centre, Woodquay and Bóthar na mBan to the Headford Road Regeneration area.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.19 - Galway Transport Strategy Measures	Implement the programme of actions and measures as provided for in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and on a phased and co-ordinated basis, based on priority needs.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.20 - Transport Demand Management Measures	Re-organise car parking in the city in particular to reduce on-street provision in the city centre and along key sustainable transport routes as provided for in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 4.21 -	Expand the use of mobility management and smart technologies in	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Transport Demand Management Measures	conjunction with service providers and the NTA.		
Objective 4.22 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Reserve the route corridor of the N6 Galway City Ring Road (N6 GCRR) project as approved with conditions and modifications by An Bord Pleanála which accommodates the designed strategic road and the associated bridge crossing of the River Corrib.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.23 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Give priority to the reservation the N6 GCRR designed strategic road corridor and any associated land requirements over other land uses and objectives in the City Development Plan and prohibit developments within the designed strategic road corridor which could potentially prejudice the development of this strategic road and river crossing.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.24 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Investigate and develop road improvements, junction improvements and traffic management solutions in the context of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and strategic developments, to maximise the operating efficiency and safety of the network having regard to the requirements of all categories of road users and road network capacity constraints. Such solutions or interventions will be developed in conjunction with the relevant agency, such as the TII, NTA, and the Department of Transport, and will, where necessary, be subject to the requirements and consenting procedures of the Planning and Development Acts and the Roads Acts.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.25 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Provide for upgrading of the Tuam Road (N83) from Bóthar na dTreabh (N6) to the city boundary and including the realignment of the Castlegar Road/ Tuam Road (N83) junction.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.26 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Facilitate a new access to Merlin Park Hospital from the Dublin Road.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.27 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Implement general road widening and street improvements for safety and convenience including at Bóthar na Cóiste.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.28 - Road and Street Network and	Complete the N6 Multimodal Corridor Improvement Scheme and scheduled upgrades to Martin roundabout to improve the functioning of the junctions, provide for pedestrian and cycle movements and to facilitate	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Accessibility	public transport.		
Objective 4.29 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Ensure that along the Western Distributor Road, new access points will only be considered where adequate traffic and public safety can be ensured, where the objective to provide bus lanes can be secured and where the proposal provides improved permeability and contributes to the public realm. Minimum distances between existing and proposed junctions of 100m will be required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 4.30 - Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Implement the traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the provision of the City Centre Access Network as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated route and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the City Centre Access Network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.31 Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Reserve land for a strategic link road from Sean Mulvoy Road to Sandy Road, the location and alignment of which shall be based on optimum transport and sustainable planning and development considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 4.32 Road and Street Network and Accessibility	Investigate the possibility of, with a view to providing an additional/ alternative access and egress for Boireann Bheag estates, Roscam in order to help alleviate chronic traffic congestion on the Doughiska road artery at peak times.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 5			
No.	Policy/ Specific Objective	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 5.1.1 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support sustainable use and management of areas of ecological importance, parks and recreation amenity areas and facilities through an integrated green network policy approach in line with the Galway Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and where superceded by the Greenspace Strategy, where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 5.1.2 - Green Network and	Support the actions of the Galway Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and the upcoming Greenspace Strategy with particular emphasis on the	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Biodiversity	progression and completion of both the existing South Park and Kingston Land Masterplans.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	
Policy 5.1.3 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the retention and enrichment of biodiversity throughout the city in recognition of the need to protect and restore biodiversity to increase the resilience of natural and human systems to climate change.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.1.4 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017- 2021) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) and support the actions of the City Council's Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness and biodiversity.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.1.5 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support climate action through implementation of nature based solutions that enhance biodiversity in the green network, including measures such as tree planting, SUDS, use of green infrastructure. Such measures will be informed by the Greenspace strategy.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.1.6 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Promote the integration of nature based solutions in all new developments as appropriate to contribute to the city's climate resilience and require large scale development proposals to include a green infrastructure and biodiversity plan.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.1.7 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Ensure sufficient recreation and amenity open space for the future development of the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.1.8 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Achieve a sustainable balance between meeting future recreational needs (both passive and active) and the preservation of the city's biodiversity and ecological and cultural heritage.	B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 5.1.9 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Continue to acquire and develop lands zoned for recreation and amenity use. These lands will be used predominately for public use, but opportunities for public/private partnerships will also be investigated where a high standard of recreation facility will be developed and where opportunities for public access is provided.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	IN
Policy 5.1.10 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the outcomes of the Greenspace Strategy and any objectives to progress delivery of new urban parks including an additional urban park close to the city centre.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out
Policy 5.1.11 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the Healthy Green Spaces initiative which seeks to improve the quality of green spaces in the city, to enhance climate change	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out

Biodiversity	resilience, aesthetic value, biodiversity and improve public health and wellbeing.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	
Policy 5.1.12 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Improve accessibility to the City Parks, recreation and amenity areas and facilities and include for sustainable modes of transport, where appropriate.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Out
Policy 5.1.13 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Retain, extend and enhance opportunities for recreation within the green network for all members of the community including people with disabilities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.1.14 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Retain where appropriate the grounds of schools, colleges, sports clubs and other institutional facilities for recreation and amenity use allowing for increases in the capacity of the institutions or clubs and for policies in relation to CF zoned lands.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.1.15 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated European sites.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies M - Bespoke area, site or case-specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site	Out
Policy 5.1.16 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Promote the multi-use of indoor and outdoor (both private and public) recreation and leisure facilities and amenities to accommodate a diverse range of recreational needs.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	IN
Policy 5.1.17 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Enhance linkages and connectivity within the green network identified in Table 4.1.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 5.1.18 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Promote public art, cultural events and exhibitions as an important part in the design of facilities, open space and amenities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.1.19 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Ensure that all passive and active recreational proposals are considered in the context of potential impact on the environment, sites of ecological and biodiversity importance and general amenity.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 5.1.20 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Ensure that notwithstanding land use zoning objectives, significant change of use from existing recreational facilities will only be considered if it is clearly demonstrated that either the loss of such a facility would not have an unacceptable impact on recreation and amenity provision in	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

	the city, or if an alternative facility is provided of equal or preferably superior benefit to the local community or the city's hierarchy of facilities and amenities.		
Policy 5.1.21 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the actions of the Galway Sports Partnership Strategic Plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.1.22 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Support the actions of the National Physical Activity Plan (DH, 2021) and National Sports Policy 2018-2027 (DTTS, 2018).	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.1.23 - Green Network and Biodiversity	Continue to implement measures to increase and restore biodiversity in open spaces and road verges through the no mow grass management initiative, and ornamental pollinator projects such as the perennial bulb planting scheme.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.1.24 - Green Network and Biodiversity	The Council will pursue a range of funding sources, by way of development contributions and other Council income, along with Exchequer and EU funding to support the implementation of the plan. Where appropriate, the City Council Annual Service Delivery Plans will be focused on the delivery of the Plan objectives.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.2.1 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network (including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and associated national legislation.	H - Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.2.2 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Ensure that all plans or projects within the Plan area will only be authorised and /or supported after the competent authority has ascertained based on scientific evidence, screening for appropriate assessment and /or a Habitats Directive Assessment that: i. The plan or project will not give rise to an adverse direct, indirect or secondary effect on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or ii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and	H - Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out

	undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or iii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.		
Policy 5.2.3 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect, conserve and promote the nationally designated sites of ecological importance, including existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHA and pNHAs) in the city.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.2.4 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect, conserve and support the development of an ecological network throughout the city which will improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 5.2.5 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Continue to recognise sites of County Geological Interest in the city identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and protect such sites from inappropriate development and protect geological NHAs should they become designated and notified to the Local Authority, during the lifetime of the Plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Out
Policy 5.2.6 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect Local Biodiversity Areas, wildlife corridors and stepping stones based on the Galway Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2024 and support the biodiversity of the city and in the Council's role/responsibilities, works and operations, where appropriate.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.2.7 -	Encourage, in liaison with the NPWS, the sustainable management of	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way	Out

Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	features which are important for the ecological coherence of the network of European sites and essential, by their linear or continuous nature or as stepping stones for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	as to protect European sites from adverse effects	
Policy 5.2.8 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Support the actions of the Galway City Council Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and any update and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness and biodiversity, the protection of wildlife corridors and the prevention of wildlife habitat fragmentation.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.2.9 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated sites.	H - Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.2.10 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect and conserve rare and threatened habitats and their key habitats, (wherever they occur) listed on Annex I and Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and listed for protection under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000.	H - Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.2.11 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Ensure that plans and projects with the potential to have a significant impact on European sites (SAC or SPA) whether directly, indirectly or in combination with other plans or projects are subject to Appropriate Assessment, under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and associated legislation and guidelines, to inform decision making.	H - Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.2.12 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Achieve a sustainable balance between meeting future recreational needs (both passive and active) and the protection of the city's ecological heritage.	B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 5.2.13 - Protected Spaces:	Support the inclusion of natural features, such as trees, hedgerows, stone walls, ponds and the use of green design features and the	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out

Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	incorporation of biodiversity measures in developments layouts.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	
Policy 5.2.14 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Support and implement measures to control and manage alien/invasive species, where appropriate.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.2.15 - Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance	Protect the ecological integrity of statutory Nature Reserves, refuges for fauna and Annex I Habitats.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.3.1 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Protect and maintain the integrity of the coastal environment and waterways by avoiding significant impacts and meeting the requirements of statutory bodies, national and European legislation and standards.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.3.2 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Conserve and protect natural conservation areas within the coastal area and along waterways and ensure that the range and quality of associated habitats and the range and populations of species are maintained.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.3.3 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Develop and enhance the recreational and amenity potential of the city's waterways and coastal area, while not compromising the ecological importance of these areas.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	IN
Policy 5.3.4 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Investigate the extensive water resource in the city with a view to exploring where public access and enjoyment can be improved and where potential sustainable uses and water based recreation can be developed to the benefit of the city, and have regard to ecological conservation and safety considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	IN
Policy 5.3.5 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin Management Plan in relation to the protection of water quality of surface waters, groundwater and coastal waters.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Waterways			
Policy 5.3.6 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure development and uses adhere to the principles of sustainable development and restrict any development or use which negatively impact on water quality.	B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 5.3.7 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Have regard to European and national best practice when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any designated European sites, protected coastal and marine fauna and flora.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects M - Bespoke area, site or case-specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site	Out
Policy 5.3.8 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure the conservation of the canal corridor and require that developments abutting the canal relate to the context of the adjacent environment and contribute to the overall amenity, and explore the possibility of opportunities for public access.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.3.9 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Work with stakeholders, including IW, OPW, EPA, Inland Fisheries and Corrib Navigation Trust in the management of the river and canal systems.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.3.10 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Encourage uses which will facilitate conservation of the industrial archaeology legacy of mill buildings, warehouses and associated features.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.3.11 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure that developments located adjacent to the River Corrib do not adversely effect the safe and accessible navigation of the river.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.3.12 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure the protection of the River Corrib as a Salmonid River, where appropriate.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.3.13 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Restrict the location of structures other than structures with essential links to the waterway and public utilities within 10 metres of the River Corrib in G agricultural zoned lands.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.3.14 - Blue	Facilitate sustainable flood defence and coastal protection works in	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant	IN

Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	order to prevent flooding and coastal erosion, subject to environmental and visual considerations as guided by the Corrib go Cósta, Galway Flood Relief Scheme project.	effect on a site alone	
Policy 5.3.15 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Maintain and extend the achievement of the Blue Flag Beach Status in co-operation with IW.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.3.16 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure any development within the aquatic environment shall be carried out in consultation with prescribed bodies and with adherence to their guidelines.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out
Policy 5.3.17 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Protect and maintain, where feasible, undeveloped riparian zones and natural floodplains along the River Corrib and its tributaries.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 5.3.18 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, on protected species.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out
Policy 5.3.19 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	The Council will seek to designate shore fishing areas at appropriate locations in the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.3.20 - Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	Implement the outcomes of the emerging strategy for the marine environment set out in the forthcoming Marine Planning and Development Management legislation.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	IN
Policy 5.4.1 - Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees	Manage and develop woodlands in the ownership of Galway City Council for natural heritage, recreation and amenity use, including Terryland Forest Park, Merlin Park Woods and Barna Woods/Lough Rusheen City Park.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.4.2 - Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees	Make Tree Preservation Orders for individual trees or groups of trees within the city, where appropriate.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 5.4.3 - Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees	Integrate existing trees and hedgerows on development sites where appropriate and require tree planting, as part of landscaping schemes for new developments.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.4.4 - Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees	Continue to promote partnerships with the community for the management and improvement of biodiversity in local open spaces, through schemes such as the Green Flag Awards.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.5.1 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Continue to develop and improve the greenway network in the city, providing alternative accessible circulation routes for pedestrians and cyclists, for the enjoyment of the entire community.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.5.2 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Develop a strategic citywide coastal greenway from east to west linking riverside walkways, having due regard to nature conservation considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.5.3 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Facilitate linked greenways from the city into the county area in particular to Bearn, Oranmore and Maigh Cuillinn as identified in the Galway Transport Strategy and investigate the potential for an additional link to the Tonabrocky area.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.5.4 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Support the use of boreens in the city for passive recreation, active travel and for the promotion of linkage to the green network.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.5.5 -	Provide controlled access and linkages into all parks/public open	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant	IN

Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	spaces, areas of natural heritage, including along waterways, where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites.	effect on a site alone	
Policy 5.5.6 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Ensure biodiversity and greening is incorporated into all greenways, segregated cycleways and pathways where appropriate and ensure that paths and structures are constructed from suitable materials that contribute to aesthetics, sustainability and safety.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 5.5.7 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Create, enhance and maintain accessible and safe public rights of way, where appropriate for pedestrian convenience, including public lighting where appropriate.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.5.8 - Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way	Promote and facilitate safe and convenient walking and cycling routes through land use policy and the implementation of measures set out in the Galway Transport Strategy.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.6.1 - Community Spaces: Child Friendly City	Enhance and promote Galway as a 'Child Friendly City' which will help children understand and feel secure in their environment and will encourage them to experience and respect the natural heritage of the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.6.2 - Community Spaces: Child Friendly City	Support the right of the child to play by ensuring the creation and maintenance of inclusive natural and built play areas within every community.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.6.3 - Community	Maintain and enhance existing play areas and provide new, accessible and safe play areas for all in accordance with the Council's commitment	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect	Out

Spaces: Child Friendly City	to the Barcelona Declaration, policies in relation to Social Inclusion, the Recreation and Amenity Needs Study, and any subsequent strategies including the future Greenspace Strategy.	either alone or in-combination	
Policy 5.6.4 - Community Spaces: Child Friendly City	Continue the improvement and development of playground facilities as outlined in the Council's Recreation and Amenity Needs Study.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.6.5 - Community Spaces: Child Friendly City	Enhance the provision of facilities for older children and teenagers within the city, including skateboarding areas, teenage shelters, ball walls and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs).	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.7.1 - Community Spaces: Protected Views of Special Amenity Value and Interest	Protect views and prospects of special amenity value and interest, which contribute significantly to the visual amenity and character of the city, through the control of inappropriate development.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.7.2 - Community Spaces: Protected Views of Special Amenity Value and Interest	Require landscaping schemes as part of planning applications to have regard to such views and limit any planting which could have a detrimental impact on the value of protected views.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.8.1 - Community Spaces: Allotments, Community Gardens and Cemeteries	Continue to provide and facilitate allotments and community gardens in the city subject to Council approval.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.8.2 - Community Spaces: Allotments, Community Gardens and Cemeteries	Maintain existing burial grounds and provide new city cemetery site(s) in the city or city environs and approach cemetery design with an emphasis on landscaping and natural amenities.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Policy 5.9.1 - Open Spaces: Public Realm	Implement the public realm strategy for the public domain which contributes to the creation and maintenance of high quality and successful open spaces.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.10.1 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Encourage sustainable agricultural activities, protect the rural character of these lands and where appropriate provide for sustainable recreation/amenity opportunities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.10.2 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Prevent developments which could cause environmental pollution or injury to general amenities.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 5.10.3 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Ensure agricultural development complies with the measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan 2018 -2021 and imminent draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 and future plans.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Out
Policy 5.10.4 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Provide for limited residential development in A zoned agricultural lands.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 5.10.5 - Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands	Restrict the location of structures other than structures with essential links to the waterway, within ten metres of the River Corrib, in G zoned lands.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Section 5.10 Specific Objectives			
Objective 5.10.1 - Blue spaces - Short term	Prepare a master plan for Lough Atalia and Renmore Lagoon to include the upgrading of the amenity park, walkways, ecological areas and development of water based recreation, forming part of a wider coastal path network.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.2 - Blue spaces - Short term	Support the development of the Great Western Blueway on River Corrib and Lough Corrib in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.3 - Blue spaces - Short term	Investigate the feasibility of a restoration project for the tidal pools at Salthill taking into consideration technical feasibility, funding, management and maintenance, public safety, climate change considerations and impacts on the environment and European sites.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.4 -	Investigate possible locations for the provision of municipal water based	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant	IN

Blue spaces - Medium/Long Term	recreation infrastructure along the River Corrib and canal system.	effect on a site alone	
Objective 5.10.5 - Blue spaces - Medium/Long Term	Initiate the preparation of a river conservation management plan in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. The purpose of the plan will include examination of best locations for the development of water based activities that will minimise environmental, biodiversity and ecological impacts.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	D Out
Objective 5.10.6 - Green Spaces - Short term	Continue the preparation of master plans for parks, in accordance with the Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and where superseded by Greenspace strategy in consultation with all stakeholders including Barna/Lough Rusheen Park, Merlin Woods City Park (Doughiska RA zoned Land), Terryland Forest Park and Castlepark RA lands and a key management objective will be to maintain and enhance their biological diversity.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.7 - Green Spaces - Short term	Prepare and implement a Tree Planting Strategy for the city which will provide for long-term planting, protection and maintenance of trees, hedgerows and woodlands.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 5.10.8 - Green Spaces - Short term	Prepare and implement a plan which identifies suitable parts of the road and street network for the planting of trees and plant species that are biodiversity rich.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 5.10.9 - Green Spaces - Short term	Continue to implement measures to increase and restore biodiversity in open spaces and road verges through the no mow grass management initiative and ornamental pollinator projects such as the perennial bulb planting scheme.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 5.10.10 - Green Spaces - Short term	Implement masterplan for South Park and for the Kingston RA lands.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.11 - Green Spaces - Short term	Examine the potential for provision of an athletics running track at Doughiska in the context of the Greenspace Strategy.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.12 - Green Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Explore the potential for developing lands adjacent to Terryland Castle, Merlin Castle and Menlough Castle for public realm and landscaping to enhance the context of the Castles.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.13 - Green Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Support the incorporation of art sculptures and installations in parks and open spaces, in accordance with the City's Arts Plan and the Per Cent for Arts Scheme.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out

		A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	
Objective 5.10.14 - Green Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Retain car parking of approximately 30 car parking spaces for amenity purposes east of Merlin Park Woods at Doughiska.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.15 - Community Spaces - Short term	Implement green infrastructure measures for key public spaces as identified in the Galway Public Realm Strategy.	B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 5.10.16 - Community Spaces - Short term	Develop equipped children's play facilities in accordance with the Council's annual playground programme.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 5.10.17 - Community Spaces - Short term	Undertake a feasibility assessment to identify the type and optimum locations for multipurpose/synthetic/floodlit playing facilities to include play facilities for the 0-6 age group.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Objective 5.10.18 - Community Spaces - Short term	Undertake a feasibility assessment to identify the type and optimum locations for new skateboard facilities throughout the city as part of the Greenspace Strategy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Objective 5.10.19 - Community Spaces - Short term	Acquire and develop a new city cemetery site(s) in the city or city environs and approach cemetery design with an emphasis on landscaping and natural amenities.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.20 - Community Spaces - Short term	Facilitate the extension of existing coastal greenway and linkages from Bearna to Oranmore in conjunction with the greenway measures as identified in the Galway Transport Strategy.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.21 - Community Spaces - Short term	Facilitate the implementation of the National Galway to Dublin Greenway and Galway to Clifden Greenway.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.22 - Community	Ensure pedestrian access to Mutton Island is retained for heritage and amenity purposes subject to safety protocol.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Spaces - Short term			
Objective 5.10.23 - Community Spaces - Short term	Extend the riverside walk relating to the development of the proposed Clifden Railway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge at Waterside.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.24 - Community Spaces - Short term	Prepare a strategy for the long-term improvement and enhancement of the Salthill Promenade.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 5.10.25 - Community Spaces - Short term	Continue to compile and review an Inventory of existing public rights of ways in the city and make these publicly available.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 5.10.26 - Community Spaces - Short term	Upgrade Millers Lane for passive recreation and retain and enhance the biodiversity of this greenway.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.27 - Community Spaces - Short term	Develop a Community Centre/ Sports Hall, a swimming pool with associated ancillary facilities on a phased basis adjoining and linked with the existing changing rooms at Doughiska on RA zoned lands.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.28 - Community Spaces - Short term	Provide for additional allotment/community gardens in the city subject to Council approval.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 5.10.29 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Prepare an amenity environs plan in conjunction with Galway County Council which includes the greenway linkages as identified in the Galway Transport Strategy and accommodate additional links to the Tonabrocky area.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 5.10.30 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Explore greenways to link Merlin Woods City Park, Murrough LAP area from Ballyloughane and Liam Mellows GAA lands to Lough Atalia within the coastal greenway.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.31 - Community	Develop a number of greenways within the city including: • Coastal walk extending from Galway Docks to Roscam Point. • Riverside walk along	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Spaces - Medium/Long Term	the western side of the River Corrib in conjunction with NUIG to terminate at the access road beside the running track which links Galway/Moycullen road at Dangan to the River Corrib. • Riverside walk from the Dyke road to NUIG lands on the opposite side of the River Corrib via the proposed Clifden Railway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge with funding provided under the URDF Call 2. • Riverside walk along the eastern side of the River Corrib from the Dyke Road to the pier at Menlough. A deviation from the route indicated on the development plan map may be permitted, any alternative alignments shall maximise amenity benefits. • Riverside Walk along the northern side of the Terryland River from the Dyke Road to the point where it disappears underground at Glenanail to the rear of Glenburren Park. • Riverside walk along western side of the River Corrib from O'Briens Bridge to Wolfe Tone Bridge.		
Objective 5.10.32 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Investigate the potential of providing services, for example kiosks, public toilets and food trucks, in or in close proximity to public parks and open spaces and along the coast and waterways.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.33 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Upgrade existing boreens in the city for passive recreation and to enhance their biodiversity value and explore potential where feasible for active travel use.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	IN
Objective 5.10.34 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Support the development of large scale sports facilities in the city funded under the Large Scale Sports Facilities Fund.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.35 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Support the provision of a hockey facility with an all-weather pitch with a suitable playing surface for hockey in the west of the city and to support the provision of a further facility suitable for hockey elsewhere in the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.36 - Community Spaces - Medium/Long Term	The Council will support the provision of changing facilities at playing pitches in the city based on an assessment of need for such facilities. A minimum one dressing room per Local Electoral area will be considered and priority will be given to Doughiska, Hazel/Laurel Park and Millers Lane, in consultation with local residents and sports clubs.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.37 - Community	Work with all stakeholders and explore the development of a multi-use community complex to include but not be restricted to floodlit grass and	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Spaces - Medium/Long Term	Astro turf playing facilities, community training and performance space, multi-purpose meeting rooms, changing facilities and outdoor training areas with enhanced walkways.		
Objective 5.10.38 - Open spaces - Short term	Progress the acquisition of lands for recreation and amenity purposes, and other lands which will enhance the extent of the green network, in particular key linkages and lands for active and passive recreation.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Objective 5.10.39 - Open spaces - Short term	Acquire and develop predominately for public use, lands zoned for recreation and amenity use in conjunction with new housing at Castlegar, Doughiska, Terryland Valley, Ballymoneen, Knocknacarra, Roscam and Ardaun.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.40 - Open spaces - Short term	Develop and expand guidelines in relation to new development: • Best practice advice for design of homezones. • Best practice advice for open space. • Best practice for green infrastructure and nature based solutions	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 5.10.41 - Open spaces - Medium/Long Term	Identify and expand active recreation facilities for older persons throughout the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 5.10.42 - Open spaces - Medium/Long Term	Identify and provide recreation facilities for persons with disabilities throughout the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 6			
No.	Policy	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 6.1.1 - General	Support and facilitate the role of Galway as a Regional City and driver of sustainable economic growth for the whole Northern and Western Region through the provision of balanced and sustainable economic and employment opportunities for development, enterprise, innovation and investment across all employment sectors consistent with the goals and objectives of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, including Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 6.1.2 - General	Support the ambitions for strong sustainable economic growth as set out in the Regional Policy Objectives of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP).	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.1.3 -	Ensure sufficient resources including land and infrastructure are	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

General	available within the city to facilitate sustainable inward investment that will encourage the development of a resilient and diverse local enterprise sector and enhance economic opportunities on existing commercial and enterprise areas, on key regeneration and opportunity sites and at other appropriate locations while facilitating integration between employment, housing and transport in particular sustainable transport modes.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	
Policy 6.1.4 - General	Support the review and preparation of a new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the city to ensure the local level framework is in place to support sustainable economic growth and community improvements.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 6.1.5 - General	Provide for opportunities for growth, innovation and investment across all sectors in order to create a resilient and diverse city economy that will maximise high value employment opportunities for the entire workforce and facilitate measures for a just transition in society.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.1.6 - General	Maintain and enhance the attractiveness of the city and the quality of life it supports in order to sustain investment, quality employment opportunities and to attract and retain an appropriately skilled workforce.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.1.7 - General	Co-operate with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the SME and entrepreneurial eco-system, Galway County Council, Universities, Higher Institutes of Education, LEO, Solas and other agencies in meeting the needs of industry, training, reskilling and innovation.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.1.8 - General	Support measures that will enable decarbonisation of the economy and specific projects that that will help deliver the aims of the European Green Deal.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 6.1.9 - General	Enable a flexible approach to allow for ongoing technological transformation in the economy and rapid changes in working practices and business agility where these are not detrimental to amenity and support good live /work practices.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.1.10 - General	Co-operate with Galway County Council in the promotion and servicing of IDA lands, designated as business and technology parks at Parkmore, Athenry and Oranmore.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.1.11 - General	Sustain and expand the role of the city and MASP as a regional attractor for Foreign Direct Investment.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.1.12 - General	Facilitate strategic opportunities for job creation on designated lands at Ragoon/Knocknacarra and at Ardaun enabling integration with adjacent	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

	existing and future settlements, while encouraging low carbon trip patterns and contributing to achieving the benefits of the “15 minute neighbourhood concept”.		
Policy 6.1.13 - General	Facilitate the development of the designated District, Neighbourhood and Local centres at a scale appropriate to serve the associated catchment areas while encouraging low carbon trip patterns and contributing to achieving the benefits of the “15 minute neighbourhood concept”.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.1.14 - General	Support the economic performance of the city and wider MASP area through implementation of the phased plan of transport measures as provided for in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) including those relating to public transport, walking, cycling, and the N6 GCRR strategic road project.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.2.1 - Commercial Sector	Preserve the city centre as the prime focus for city centre commercial activities and enable complementary uses and activities, including compact residential development that will enhance the unique sense of place, the vitality and vibrancy of this area.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.2.2 - Commercial Sector	Encourage and facilitate the regeneration of city centre sites at Ceannt Station Quarter, and the Inner Harbour and at Headford Road, to include for a range of uses including higher value commercial office space capable of accommodating a business and technology enterprise.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.2.3 - Commercial Sector	Encourage and facilitate the development of other designated regeneration sites in the city for mixed use development appropriate to the scale and context of each site.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.2.4 - Commercial Sector	Support the preparation of a masterplan for the regeneration of NUI Galway lands and buildings at Nun’s Island and the framework such a plan will give for implementation of associated URDF supported projects, subject to standard assessment requirements and environmental considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.3.1 - Industrial Sector	Prioritise investment and expansion in high tech manufacturing, innovation research and development at existing strategic key employment locations at Mervue, Parkmore, Briarhill, Dangan and Ballybrit on the designated regeneration and opportunity sites.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.4.1 - Knowledge Economy, Technology	Promote a Smart City approach through application of new innovations and digital technologies to support economic growth, citizen engagement, enhance the quality and performance of urban services	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Industries and Life Sciences	and to reduce costs and consumption of resources		
Policy 6.5.1 - Enterprise and Innovation	Promote the development of knowledge based enterprise and support research and innovation hubs and incubation facilities within the city in association with other agencies.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.5.2 - Enterprise and Innovation	Continue to support and facilitate the development of start-up enterprises for local indigenous enterprises.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.5.3 - Enterprise and Innovation	Recognise the value of social enterprise in the city and support the objectives of the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 as further affirmed under the national commitment to support the Toledo Declaration.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.5.4 - Enterprise and Innovation	Support the development of the higher institutes of education and the strong collaborative research, innovation, development and training roles that they have with industry to create innovative growth opportunities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.5.5 - Enterprise and Innovation	Encourage enterprise and business to transition to a circular economy where waste and resource use is minimised and where positive environmental, economic and social impacts can be delivered.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 6.5.6 - Enterprise and Innovation	Support the harnessing of knowledge and innovation to reduce carbon footprint of enterprise in the City and create local added value and employment from the required Just transition of society.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.6.1 - Office Sector	Encourage a high quality of workplace environment through architectural design, layout, landscaping and facilities where these can contribute positively to the health and wellness of the workforce and to the urban landscape.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.6.2 - Office Sector	Encourage innovation in the workplace through digitisation, remote & flexible work practices and support hub working.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.7.1 - Health and Education Sector	Support and facilitate the sustainable development of the strategic health and knowledge institutions in their primary functional roles and also where they contribute to innovation, research, training and skills development.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.8.1 - Tourism	Recognise the significant contribution that national and international tourism makes to the local economy and the vitality of the city and	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

	facilitate, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and key stakeholders, the sustainable development of associated infrastructure, attractions including a destination attraction of scale and events particularly where they reflect the distinctive history, culture and environment of Galway and highlight the significance of Galway as the only city on the “Wild Atlantic Way “ and as a gateway to the Northern and Western Region.		
Policy 6.8.2 - Tourism	Encourage the continuing diversification in the tourism offer in the city in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland in particular through the development of greenways, blueways and connections with the evolving network of walking trails and promote opportunities in all activities and facilities that contribute to decarbonisation	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.8.3 - Tourism	Protect the distinctive built and natural heritage of the city and seek to maintain and implement improvements in the public realm that will sustain the attraction of the urban environment for visitors and citizens alike and will increase opportunities for the use of outdoor space and support events and gatherings.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.8.4 - Tourism	Work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and key stakeholders to support the hospitality sector and promote tourism related facilities including a sustainable range of tourism accommodation.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.8.5 - Tourism	Support the preparation and development of a Galway Tourism brand and maximise on the legacy of the designation of Galway as European Capital of Culture 2020.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.8.6 - Tourism	Support the city as a destination city and support adoption of the VICE model for Destination management to ensure Sustainable Tourism which considers the interaction between Visitors, the Industry that serves them, the Community that hosts them and their collective impact on, and response to the Environment.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	IN
Policy 6.9.1 - Marine Sector and Renewable Energy	Promote, encourage and facilitate the sustainable growth and competitiveness of enterprise activities associated with the ocean and coastal economy including transport, trade, fishing, aquaculture, research, marine industries, renewable energy, tourism and leisure.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.9.2 - Marine Sector and Renewable Energy	Support the migration of industrial uses from the inner harbour area to suitable locations to enable regeneration of the inner harbour area in line with national and regional objectives.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.9.3 - Marine Sector and	Support offshore industries, particularly wind energy which will contribute to a low carbon economy and generate employment.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Renewable Energy			
Policy 6.9.4- Marine Sector and Renewable Energy	Support the sustainable re- development and extension of the Port of Galway and the diversification and expansion of activities subject to environmental, visual, economic viability and transportation considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.10.1 - Creative Economy and Gastronomy Sectors	Promote the city as a hub for the Creative Economy, building on the distinctive culture, arts, and creative legacy in the city, including UNESCO City of Film Designation, and recognising the particular value of these activities in the economy of the city and the importance of this economy to the region as identified in the RSES and by the Western Development Commission.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.10.2 - Creative Economy and Gastronomy Sectors	Recognise the importance that recreation and amenity facilities, natural and built heritage, public realm and arts and cultural infrastructure are to maintaining the competitiveness of the city and continue to maintain and develop these assets through implementation of local plans and strategies including the public realm strategy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.10.3 - Creative Economy and Gastronomy Sectors	Enable the development of gastronomy as a sustainable enterprise, supporting SME's, producers, food entrepreneurs, hospitality sector, tourism and the associated development of infrastructure, marketing and events that will strengthen the distinctive brand of Galway City and County and extend the legacy from the designation of Galway as a European Region of Gastronomy in 2018.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.11.1 - Retail Strategy	Adopt the retail hierarchy for the city as identified in the strategy and restrict retail development at each level on the hierarchy to a scale and nature commensurate with catchment demands	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.11.2 - Retail Strategy	Provide for an appropriate range and scale of retail services throughout the city at locations accessible by walking cycling and public transport in accordance with the settlement strategy and population target for the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.11.3 - Retail Strategy	Review the strategies and policies for retailing within two years of adoption of the plan following the preparation of a joint retail study with Galway County Council, in order to best assess the impact on the disruption in the industry accelerated by the Covid -19 pandemic, to ensure sufficient policy support to create a positive framework for continued vitality and investment in the main retail areas especially the city centre, through regeneration, an increased mix in complementary uses including residential and to ensure an informed and consistent	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

	approach to policies relating to shared retailing activities in line with national policy.		
Policy 6.11.4 - Retail Strategy	Enhance the city centre as the primary retail service centre in the MASP area, through promotion of appropriate uses, regeneration, an increased mix in complementary uses including residential, leisure, cultural uses and through investment in public realm, amenities and sustainable transport infrastructure.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.11.5 - Retail Strategy	Improve access and permeability in the city centre and other designated centres with particular emphasis on improving the public realm with a focus on an increase in pedestrianisation and enhanced access by public transportation, cycling and walking.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.11.6 - Retail Strategy	Support a diversity of uses in the public realm including markets, outdoor seating and dining, arts and culture events to add to the vitality and vibrancy of the city and the retail experience.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.11.7 - Retail Strategy	Encourage a high quality retail environment through implementation of the GTS and PRS and other initiatives that combined, contributes to creating places that are attractive, vibrant, sustainable and safe.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 6.11.8 - Retail Strategy	Have regard to the Galway City Shopfront Design Guidelines and support Irish language and bilingual signage.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.11.9 - Retail Strategy	Have regard to the Retail Design Manual (2012), a companion document to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) to ensure that retail developments provide a high quality of architecture and urban design.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 6.11.10 - Retail Strategy	Require that major proposals for retail development should be supported by a Retail Impact Assessment (RIA), prepared in line with the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) and that demonstrates compliance with the strategies in the Development Plan in particular the objective to not negatively impact on the vitality and vibrancy of an existing retail centre in particular the city centre.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 6.11.11 - Retail Strategy	Encourage retail development to include for measures that can contribute positively to climate action and to increased investment in the circular economy in alignment with the national strategy to significantly reduce Ireland's circularity gap.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 6.12.1 Retail Hierarchy -	Protect and enhance the city centre, designated as the most important shopping area in the Galway MASP and county area and as a major	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Metropolitan City Centre	centre in the Northern and Western Region and facilitate a mixed expansion of services including high order comparison retailing in conjunction with service retailing, an enhanced shopping experience and cultural and entertainment facilities through appropriate and sensitive re-development, infill and development on designated regeneration in conjunction with implementation of key public realm and sustainable transport projects.		
Policy 6.12.2 Retail Hierarchy - Metropolitan City Centre	Direct strategic investment in commercial, civic, cultural and retail, particularly high order comparison goods and specialist retailing into the city centre where they can enhance vitality and viability through a mix of uses, reuse of vacant sites and revitalisation to contribute to regeneration and the maintenance of a compact core area.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 6.12.3 Retail Hierarchy - Metropolitan City Centre	Strengthen the vitality of the city centre and its resilience to changing retail trends and consider measures to support a sustainable retail environment taking into account flexibility of uses and retail formats, complementary uses and a quality retail experience.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 6.12.4 Retail Hierarchy - Metropolitan City Centre	Support the development of a vibrant, night time culture and economy through sustainable measures and promote the need for the associated transport supports, measures to ensure a safe environment, and for diversity in entertainment and creative offerings.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 6.12.5 Retail Hierarchy - Metropolitan City Centre	Ensure that the design of city centre retail developments, including extensions and modifications, respond positively to the unique setting, distinctive character and quality of the built and natural environment of Galway.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 6.12.6 - Retail Hierarchy - District, Neighbourhood and Local Centres	Promote the vitality and viability of the District Centres and encourage the provision of an appropriate range of retail, non-retail, community and leisure services. Such retail services should be mainly of a convenience or lower order comparison type in order to protect the prime role of the city centre for shopping. Some locations may also have capacity for residential uses where it can sustainably complement the use mix without diminishing the primary commercial objective.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.12.7 - Retail Hierarchy - District, Neighbourhood and Local Centres	Promote and protect Neighbourhood Centres in their role as providers of a mix of local services including retailing of a basic, predominantly convenient nature that are so located to be easily accessible by the catchment they serve and where they can contribute to the concept of the 15 minute neighbourhood.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.12.8 - Retail	Promote and protect small scale local shops in residential areas, in	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Hierarchy District, Neighbourhood and Local Centres	accordance with the neighbourhood concept, where they can fulfil a role in the provision of day to day convenience needs and where they do not have a negative impact on existing amenities.		
Policy 6.12.9 - Retail Hierarchy District, Neighbourhood and Local Centres	Restrict and direct bulky goods retailing to existing identified retail parks and to a more limited extent to district centre and restrict the sale of ancillary items associated with an otherwise bulky good to sales space of not more than 20% of the total net retail floorspace of the relevant retail unit in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 6.12.10 - Retail Hierarchy District, Neighbourhood and Local Centres	Have regard in general to the assessment guidelines for specific retail formats as provided for in Section 4.11 of the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 7			
No.	Policy/ Specific Objective	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 7.1.1 - General	Support and facilitate the sustainable development of community, social and cultural infrastructure in collaboration with key stakeholders that affords inclusive opportunities for everyone to shape their own lives, enables communities to realise their full potential and that contributes to a high quality of life and wellbeing for all who live work and visit the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.1.2 - General	Support and facilitate key infrastructure and actions that encourages expanded development of the city's culture, arts and creative industries and strengthens the linguistic heritage.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.1.3 - General	Facilitate a balanced and equitable provision of community social and culture services and facilities in collaboration with key stakeholders in alignment with the core/settlement strategy through policies, zoning objectives and specific designations.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.1.4 - General	Work in partnership with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to achieve the aims of Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to ensure that Galway City is an equal and inclusive city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.1.5 -	Promote and facilitate in conjunction with key stakeholders the co-location of community services and infrastructure to allow for shared use	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect	Out

General	for a variety of purposes including health, education, social and local enterprise and community activities.	either alone or in-combination	
Policy 7.1.6 - General	Encourage design flexibility in buildings of culture, arts and community use, so that the buildings can be adapted in ways, which allow for a diversity of different uses and include for accessibility for all, including people with disabilities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.1.7 - General	Explore innovative models of delivery, ownership and management of community facilities and infrastructure.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.1.8 General	Support the refurbishment of community and cultural venues to improve the energy efficiency performance of these buildings to reduce the carbon footprint of the cultural and community activity that takes place within them.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.2.1 - Creative City	Promote Galway as a city of for culture and arts excellence, a hub for the creative and cultural industries and support Everybody Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2025.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Policy 7.2.2 - Creative City	Support and facilitate the aims of the New Directions: Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026 and Action Plan 2021-2024.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Policy 7.2.3 - Creative City	Facilitate and encourage the provision of new and improved arts and culture facilities in the city and in district and neighbourhood centres and where identified in New Directions: Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Policy 7.2.4 - Creative City	Implement the actions of the Galway City Council Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and subsequent plans.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Policy 7.2.5 - Creative City	Participate in the 'Per cent for Art' Scheme where the Council's capital and infrastructure projects are supported by the scheme to deliver public art and the associated community engagement in conjunction with the Galway City Arts Office.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Policy 7.2.6 - Creative City	Facilitate the delivery of public art by ensuring large-scale developments incorporate and deliver works of public art that facilitate interpretation of place and community.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN

Policy 7.2.7 - Creative City	Enable expansion of accessible arts and culture infrastructure by requiring such facilities to be integrated into planned development on designated regeneration and opportunity sites.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.2.8 - Creative City	Ensure that future culture and arts facilities are located, designed and laid out to be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, in particular the sustainable networks and associated proposals included for in the Galway Transport Strategy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.2.9 - Creative City	Support the delivery of strategic arts and cultural infrastructure in the city including the expansion of the City Museum; a new arts performance and exhibition space; a municipal gallery; a new city public library; a creative and cultural hub for children and young people and other key infrastructure as identified in Everybody Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2025 and New Directions: Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.2.10 - Creative City	Support the use of public outdoor spaces for public performance, festivals, events and engagement with the arts and culture activities in accordance with Galway City Public Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying manuals.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.2.11 - Creative City	Support a creative hub for multidisciplinary artists that can provide space for a range of activities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.2.12 - Creative City	Co-ordinate with other service providers in the provision of culture, arts and community facilities and where appropriate support the temporary use of vacant buildings/sites for arts and cultural purposes.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.1 - Inclusive City	Proactively promote all forms of social inclusion, where feasible in land use planning particularly in the built environment and public realm, housing, community facilities, employment opportunities, transport and accessibility.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.2 - Inclusive City	Proactively promote the various aims of the Council to give effect to the Barcelona Declaration and support universal design principles to make Galway a more accessible and disability friendly city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.3 - Inclusive City	Support the objectives of the Social Inclusion Office in promoting a socially inclusive society in the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 7.3.4 - Inclusive City	Ensure meaningful public participation, engagement and knowledge sharing in the planning process and in relation to other strategic policy and projects within the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.5 - Inclusive City	Promote the concept of 'life-time adaptability' and access for all in housing design in the built environment.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.6 - Inclusive City	Facilitate the implementation of the Housing Strategy, in particular with regard to reducing undue segregation and in specialist housing provision.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.7 - Inclusive City	Co-operate with the Access for All Network and other organisations representing people with disabilities to provide equal access for all citizens particularly in the area of housing, transport, built environment and the public realm within the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.8 - Inclusive City	Support the participation of the city in the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network and the implementation of the Healthy Galway City Strategy 2019-2021.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.9 - Inclusive City	Support the Galway City & County Age Friendly programme.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.3.10 - Inclusive City	Support the development of an accessible and safe resource centre for the LGBT+ community.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.4.1 - Bilingual City	Protect and promote the distinctive cultural and linguistic heritage of the city and continue to support Galway's status as a Bilingual City and recognise the importance of the Irish language as a cultural, community and economic resource.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.4.2 - Bilingual City	Promote the use of the Irish language in the naming of new residential developments, public roads and parks and encourage the use of Irish/ bilingual signage in the commercial and public realm.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.4.3 - Bilingual City	Support and facilitate the development of infrastructure, which promotes the cultural and linguistic heritage of the city, where appropriate.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.4.4 - Bilingual City	Support the implementation of Plean Tenga Chathair na Gaillimhe 2020-2026 and the designation of the city as a Gaeltacht Service Town.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.5.1 -	Facilitate a balanced and equitable provision of diverse community	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Community Facilities	services and facilities in collaboration with key stakeholders in alignment with the core/settlement strategy through policies, zoning objectives and specific designations	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	
Policy 7.5.2 - Community Facilities	Support the location and concentration of local community facilities and services in accordance with the aim to build sustainable, compact neighbourhoods in line with the '15 Minute City' concept so that these can be easily accessible by walking and cycling. Where larger scaled facilities and services are provided these should be aligned with existing /proposed public transport links.	B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Out
Policy 7.5.3 - Community Facilities	Ensure that all facilities designed for community use are suitable for use by people of all ages and abilities in accordance with the Building for Everyone – Universal Design Guidance.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.5.4 - Community Facilities	Encourage and facilitate the provision of community facilities and local services of a nature and scale appropriate to serve the needs of the local community in tandem with the development of residential areas.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.5.5 - Community Facilities	Maintain existing burial grounds and make provision for new cemeteries and associated services such as a crematorium to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.6.1 - Education	Ensure that sufficient land is reserved for the establishment, improvement or expansion of education facilities within the city in accordance with the settlement strategy, targeted population and in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills (DES).	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.6.2 - Education	Support the ongoing development and provision of third level education, further education and lifelong learning in the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 7.6.3 - Education	Facilitate the upgrade and expansion of existing education facilities and the provision of new education facilities as required, including to: Support the future improvement and sustainable expansion of NUI Galway; Support the development of GMIT and the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA) approved designation as a Technological University; Support the role of the GTI in the delivery of education; Support the role of the GRETB in the delivery of Further Education and Training in the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.6.4 - Education	Ensure that the design and layout of all educational establishments incorporate facilities for sustainable transport measures and public transport.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.6.5 -	Ensure that safe and easy access for people with disabilities is	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Education	incorporated in the design of all education developments.		
Policy 7.6.6 - Education	Support the further development and diversification of third level education institutions in the city, including the promotion of knowledge based industry linked research and innovation hubs and facilities.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.6.7 - Education	Encourage the multi-use of school facilities for other community uses outside of school hours to maximise community benefit and use of resources.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 7.7.1 - Childcare	Facilitate the development of childcare facilities, including afterschool services, at a number of suitable locations, such as, within residential areas, places of employment, city centre, neighbourhood and district centres, schools, in the vicinity of educational and community establishments and adjacent to public transport nodes in consultation with the Galway Childcare Committee.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.7.2 - Childcare	Contribute to the provision of childcare facilities by requiring that such facilities be provided in conjunction with residential developments over 75 dwelling units. An exception can only be considered where it can be clearly established and professionally supported that adequate childcare facilities already exist to service the area and where acceptable alternative arrangements to support childcare, play and or other child specific facilities are deemed acceptable.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.8.1 - Healthcare Facilities	Promote the delivery and enhancement of health care facilities in the city having regard to the designated role of Galway as a Regional City under the NPF/RSES.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.8.2 - Healthcare Facilities	Support the development and expansion of existing healthcare infrastructure by the HSE, statutory and voluntary agencies and private healthcare providers to support the provision of healthcare, including community based care, mental health and social care services as appropriate and in accordance with the local need and the regional role of the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.8.3 - Healthcare Facilities	Ensure healthcare facilities are delivered in tandem, and at an appropriate scale, with new residential development and in locations that are easily accessed by walking, cycling and public transport.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.8.4 - Healthcare Facilities	Support the delivery of an enhanced regional healthcare service, including for a new Emergency Department at UCGH and expanded hospital services at Merlin Park Hospital that will serve the Metropolitan Area and the wider regional catchment.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Policy 7.9.1 - Institutional Lands	Facilitate and promote the development of institutional land within the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.9.2 - Institutional Lands	Retain institutional lands and only allow consideration for change in use where it is demonstrated that certain institutional lands are surplus to requirements, the Council will consider residential use or uses compatible with that of adjoining zones or specifically require that the lands be retained for alternative institutional uses. Where residential development is permitted a reserve of a minimum of 20% of the total site area for communal open space will be required.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 7.9.3 - Institutional Lands	Promote the retention of public access to institutional lands where this has been traditionally enjoyed or where there is a significant amenity associated with the lands.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Section 7.7 Specific Objectives			
Objective 7.7.1 -	Support the delivery of actions and objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan in partnership with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and in conjunction with key stakeholders.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 7.7.2 -	Facilitate the on-going development of community facilities in neighbourhood areas and emerging new communities such as at Ardaun.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 7.7.3 -	Facilitate the upgrading of existing community facilities in terms of energy efficiency in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the activities taking place therein.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 7.7.4 -	Undertake a Social and Community Infrastructure Audit in conjunction with the LECF/LCDC and relevant stakeholders to establish a baseline of services in the city and to ensure adequate community facilities are provided to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 7.7.5 -	Support proposals to repurpose Lenaboy Castle as a creative and cultural hub for children.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 7.7.6 -	Develop a new City public library in conjunction with Galway County Council and national funding.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 7.7.7 -	Progress the redevelopment of Galway City Museum as a transformative project to meet the vision of the Atlantic Museum Galway.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 7.7.8 -	Support the provision of a new arts performance and exhibition space	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant	IN

	and a municipal gallery in the city.	effect on a site alone	
Objective 7.7.9 -	Support proposals for the development of a destination tourism and recreational attraction at the Leisureland and Salthill park sites with the potential to provide modern, purpose built recreation, civic and cultural facilities to serve the city and region.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 7.7.10 -	Implement actions from strategies and plans that support the development of culture and heritage in the city including: Cultural Strategy, Arts Strategy and Action Plan, Heritage Plan, Tourism Strategy and City Museum Strategic Plan.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 7.7.11 -	Establish and develop new cemetery sites to serve the city, which can accommodate associated services such as a crematorium to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 7.7.12 -	Work with relevant stakeholders and service providers to investigate the delivery of community facilities to serve the community of Ballybane including: - A Family Resource Centre in conjunction with TUSLA;- A community crèche and early years education service;- Outdoor and indoor amenities for all age groups;- A Primary and secondary school in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills (DES).	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 7.7.13 -	Support the development of a permanent site for a post primary school in the East of the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 7.7.14 -	Support the development of a permanent site for a primary school in the West of the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 8			
No.	Policy/Specific Objective	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 8.1.1 - Record of Protected Structures	Protect structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures, in accordance with legislation and DEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 8.1.2 - Record of Protected Structures	Ensure new development enhances the character or setting of a protected structure.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.1.3 - Record of Protected Structures	Avoid protected structures becoming endangered by neglect or	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant	IN

Structures	otherwise by taking timely appropriate action.	effect on a site alone	
Policy 8.1.4 - Record of Protected Structures	Have regard to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in the assessment of development.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.1.5 - Record of Protected Structures	Consider the inclusion of buildings and structures of special interest or of distinctive heritage value in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and consider any recommendations for inclusion in the RPS made by Ministerial Recommendation.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.1.6 - Record of Protected Structures	Consult with the DHLGH and have regard to recommendations of the DHLGH on planning applications relating to protected structures.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.1.7 - Record of Protected Structures	Implement proactive measures to encourage the conservation of protected structures.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.1.8 - Record of Protected Structures	Promote sustainable building design, best conservation practice and the appropriate maintenance, adaption and reuse of historic buildings.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.2.1 - Architectural Conservation Area	Protect and enhance the character and special interest of designated Architectural Conservation Areas, in accordance with legislation and DEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.2.2 - Architectural Conservation Area	Prepare and implement management plans for the conservation and enhancement of designated Architectural Conservation Areas.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.2.3 - Architectural Conservation Area	Ensure that developments within an Architectural Conservation Area respects and enhances the character and special interest of the ACA.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.2.4 - Architectural Conservation Area	Ensure the character of Architectural Conservation Areas is preserved by protecting and conserving historic street furniture and paving features and ensure that new street furniture and surfacing is designed to be compatible with the character of the ACA.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.3.1 - Vernacular Heritage	Encourage the conservation and rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing structures that contribute to the character of the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 8.3.2 - Vernacular Heritage	Take cognisance of the 'The Inventory of Thatched Buildings' in the assessment of any proposed works to such structures.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Policy 8.4.1 - Archaeology	Protect and promote the archaeological heritage of the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.4.2 - Archaeology	Ensure that proposed development within the designated city centre Zone of Archaeological Notification is not detrimental to the character of an archaeological site or its setting.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.4.3 - Archaeology	Have regard to the archaeological recommendations of the DHLGH on any planning applications.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.4.4 - Archaeology	Endorse the sustainable use of archaeological heritage as an educational and cultural resource and promote public awareness of the archaeological heritage of the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.4.5 - Archaeology	Require the surveying, recording or excavation of archaeological heritage during the development process, where appropriate.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.4.6 - Archaeology	Seek the preservation in situ or, at a minimum, preservation by record of archaeological sites/monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places and of previously unknown sites, features or objects of archaeological interest that are revealed through development activity.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.4.7 - Archaeology	Ensure that any development proposal with potential to impact on archaeological heritage includes for an archaeological assessment. This includes within terrestrial, riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal environments.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.5.1 - Industrial Archaeology	Promote the protection of the varied industrial heritage of the city and encourage greater appreciation and public awareness of this heritage.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.6.1 - Galway City Walls	Secure preservation in situ of the historic medieval city walls and seek to protect and enhance their settings.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.6.2 - Galway City Walls	Support the implementation of recommendations set out in the 'Galway City Walls Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan (2013)'.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Policy 8.6.3 - Galway City Walls	Progress the Atlantic Museum extension and the associated interpretation of the city walls and medieval features of the city	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 8.7.1 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Encourage high quality urban design in all developments.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.7.2 - Urban Design and	Improve qualitative design standards through the application of design guidelines and standards of the Development Plan, the 'Galway Public	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Placemaking	Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying design, activity and delivery manuals', 'Galway Shopfront and Signage Design Guidelines (2012)' and 'Design Guidelines Canopies (2011)'.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	
Policy 8.7.3 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Ensure that development delivers high quality urban design, place making and public realm that contributes to urban regeneration in the city and that is resilient to potential impacts of climate change.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.7.4 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Encourage innovation in architecture and promote energy efficiency and green design.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.7.5 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Progress the implementation of the Ardaun Local Area Plan 2018-2024.	J - Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	IN
Policy 8.7.6 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Prepare Local Area Plans, masterplans and spatial/design frameworks which provide an urban design framework to contribute to the development of sustainable, vibrant working and living environments.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.7.7 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Promote sustainable and inclusive urban design, urban form and architecture that positively contributes to the city's existing character and distinctiveness.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.7.8 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Adhere to the Galway City Urban Density and Building Height Study (2021) and promote development which incorporates high quality sustainable and inclusive urban design, urban form and architecture that positively contributes to the city's character, heritage and neighbourhood areas.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.7.9 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Proposals for buildings which are taller than the prevailing benchmark heights will only be considered where they do not have an adverse impact on the context of historic buildings, ACA's, residential amenity or impinge upon strategic views, in accordance with the Urban Density and Building Height Study for the city.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 8.7.10 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Promote the reuse and adaptation of derelict and vacant buildings.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 8.8.1 - Public Realm	Progress implementation of the Public Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying manuals including the delivery of enhancement projects and a typology of streets and public spaces that positively contributes to the city's environment and heritage.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	IN

Policy 8.8.2 - Public Realm	Build upon Galway's distinctive materiality and character to inform the design of the public realm.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.8.3 - Public Realm	Rationalise materials, street furniture and planting in Galway to create well-designed, coordinated public realm.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.8.4 - Public Realm	Prioritise the safe movement of people on streets and create a high quality environment through design promoting connectivity, accessibility and the principles of universal design.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.8.5 - Public Realm	Promote nature based SUDS solutions in the public realm where possible to enhance biodiversity and resilience to climate change.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 8.8.6 - Public Realm	Promote the important role that public space plays in providing for informal social interaction and maximise opportunities for outdoor gathering places, play areas and outdoor public seating, where appropriate and in accordance with the Public Realm Strategy and accompanying manuals.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 8.8.7 - Public Realm	Support measures in the GTS to ensure that qualitative public realm considerations are integrated into GTS projects promoting sustainable transport use and the pedestrianisation of specific city centre streets.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.8.8 - Public Realm	Establish strong links between the city centre and regeneration areas of the Harbour, Ceannt Station and Headford Road and at Nuns Island.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.8.9 - Public Realm	Prioritise the creation of public spaces in the development of regeneration areas and opportunity sites and deliver high quality public realm.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 8.8.10 - Public Realm	Promote high standards of design, materials and workmanship in the public realm. Ensure that such works adhere to the principles and guidance of the Public Realm Strategy and has regard to the distinctive character of an area.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Section 8.10 Specific Objectives			
Objective 8.10.1 - Built Heritage	Facilitate the conservation, adaptation and reuse of the waterworks building at Terryland Water Treatment Plant.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 8.10.2 - Built Heritage	Progress implementation of Conservation Management Plan recommendations for Merlin Castle, Terryland Castle and Menlough Castle.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 8.10.3 - Built Heritage	Progress implementation of Conservation Management Plan for the Browne Doorway.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Objective 8.10.4 - Built Heritage	Advance the preparation of Architectural Conservation Area Management Plans within the city and review and complete the Eyre Square ACA Management Plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Objective 8.10.5 - Vernacular Heritage	Increase public awareness of the vernacular heritage of the city including through publication of 'The Inventory of Thatched Buildings'.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 8.10.6 - Urban Design and Placemaking	Require the use of design statements and masterplans/ spatial frameworks for development where appropriate.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 8.10.7 - Public Realm	Establish a cross-departmental working group to coordinate public realm strategy implementation and develop and deliver a proactive maintenance and management strategy, in liaison with external agencies delivering public realm works.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 8.10.8 - Public Realm	Support public realm enhancement projects contained in the Public Realm Strategy and accompanying manuals and their integration with GTS projects, environmental improvements and initiatives relating to climate adaption, biodiversity, public art and activities in the public realm.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 8.10.9 - Public Realm	Examine outputs of the Galway City Mobility Management Team for the sustainable use of outdoor space and streets.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 8.10.10 - Public Realm	Progress the delivery of Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects which comprise of new public spaces at Woodquay and the Galway Cathedral, rejuvenated space at Fishmarket, Eyre Square (North) and increased city centre pedestrianisation.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 8.10.11 - Public Realm	Prepare an environmental improvement scheme for Bowling Green. and carry out further public realm improvements at Raven Terrace	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out
Objective 8.10.12 - Public Realm	Carry out a Civic Improvement Scheme for the Small Crane Square.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out
Objective 8.10.13 - Public Realm	Advance an environmental improvement scheme for Shop Street as part of the pedestrian area rehabilitation programme and extend the pedestrian zone, in consultation with local communities and stakeholders.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 8.10.14 - Public Realm	Create a number of small-scale microspaces in the city centre by redesigning 'leftover' spaces and the conversion of car parking spaces to parklets.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 8.10.15 -	Carry out an audit of existing street furniture poles and signage in the	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Public Realm	public realm, with the aim of removing redundant elements.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	
Objective 8.10.16 - Public Realm	Carry out an audit of existing roads and public realm spaces in Galway in order to itemise in priority order the specific locations which need to be modified to improve accessibility.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 9			
No.	Policy	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 9.1.1 - Flood Risk	Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DECLG and OPW Guidelines for Planning Authorities for Planning Authorities, the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Management (2009), updated/superseding legislation or departmental guidelines and have regard to the findings and relevant identified actions of the Corrib Catchment Flood Risk Management (CFRAM) Study.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	IN
Policy 9.1.2 - Flood Risk	Support and facilitate the implementation of the Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme in conjunction with the OPW to support a climate resilient city, protect against flooding and minimise the impact of future climate events. Support in general the associated mitigation and adaptation measures in order to prevent flooding and coastal erosion, subject to appropriate environmental, visual, built heritage and other relevant considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.1.3 - Flood Risk	Ensure the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 are taken into consideration in the assessment of developments in identified areas of flood risk and require site specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and associated design and construction measures where appropriate.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.1.4 - Flood Risk	Protect and promote sustainable management and uses of water bodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.1.5 - Flood Risk	Ensure flood risk is incorporated into the preparation of any future local area plans, framework plan and masterplans in the city	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy 9.1.6 - Flood Risk	Ensure any proposed measure designed to alleviate flooding/coastal erosion is subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, where appropriate.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.1.7 - Flood Risk	Continue to protect the coastal area and the foreshore and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of coastal erosion and/or would cause and escalate coastal erosion in adjoining areas.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.1.8 - Flood Risk	Protect and maintain, where feasible, undeveloped riparian zones and natural floodplains along the River Corrib and its tributaries.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.2.1 - Water Quality	Support the actions of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and future River Basin Management Plan in order to promote and achieve a restoration of good status, reduce chemical pollution and prevent deterioration of surface, coastal and groundwater quality, where appropriate.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 9.2.2 - Water Quality	Continue to pursue the maintenance of good bathing water quality at the city beaches through monitoring and management actions in accordance with the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out
Policy 9.2.3 - Water Quality	Ensure development adheres to prevailing environmental standards and guidelines and accords with emerging legislation and strategy on the marine environment.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.2.4 - Water Quality	Maintain and extend the Blue Flag Beaches status in regard to water quality, infrastructure and amenity provision for beaches in the city.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out
Policy 9.2.5 - Water Quality	Protect the city's groundwater resource in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (SI No. 9 of 2010) or any updated legislation and limit any development which has potential to impact the objectives for protection, enhancement and/or restoration.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 9.2.6 - Water Quality	Minimise and control discharges to inland surface water bodies, groundwater and coastal waters to prevent water pollution and protect the environment.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Out
Policy 9.3.1 - Water Services	Work in close liaison with Irish Water in the operation of water and wastewater facilities in the city and the upgrade and expansion of the network and the delivery of strategic projects such as the Terryland	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

	Water Treatment Plant Intake Works and completion of the Greater Galway Area Drainage Strategy.		
Policy 9.3.2 - Water Services	Support the delivery of the objectives of the Irish Water Water Services Strategic Plan (2015) and implementation of the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.3.3 - Water Services	Work in conjunction with Irish Water to ensure the provision and maintenance, of a high quality and efficient water supply capable of meeting existing and future needs of the city and support any ongoing water mains rehabilitation and water conservation projects.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.3.4 - Water Services	Encourage all significant water users to use best practices in water conservation and continue to promote water conservation measures in the design of all new development in the city, such as rainwater harvesting and re-use of grey water, in liaison with Irish Water.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.3.5 - Water Services	Support and liaise with Irish Water in the provision of a sustainable and effective wastewater drainage collection and treatment system capable of meeting the existing and future needs of the city and MASP area.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.3.6 - Water Services	Support the Irish Water ongoing watermain rehabilitation and water leak reduction programme in order to conserve the city's water supply.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.3.7 - Water Services	Support the decommissioning of existing individual effluent treatment systems which include septic tanks, where there is a feasible option to connect to the public sewer network. Galway City Council will collaborate with Irish Water in this regard.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.4.1 - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)	Ensure the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and sustainable surface water drainage management, wherever practical in the design of development to enable surface water run-off to be managed as near its source as possible and achieve wider benefits such as sustainable development, water quality, biodiversity local amenity and climate adaptation.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.4.2 - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)	Promote the use of green infrastructure e.g. green roofs, green walls, bioswales, planting and green spaces for surface water retention purposes as an integrated part of SUDS and to deliver all the ancillary benefits.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.5.1 - Safe Environment - Control of Major	Consult with the Health and Safety Authority (also known as the National Authority for Occupational and Health Standards) when changing any policies/objectives and assessing any proposed relevant developments	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out

Accident Hazards Directive (Seveso III Directive)	in or in the vicinity of sites identified under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Directive (Seveso III Directive), in order to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and to limit their consequences to the environment and community.		
Policy 9.5.2 - Safe Environment - Control of Major Accident Hazards Directive (Seveso III Directive)	Ensure that major developments comply with the requirements of the Galway City Major Emergency Plan.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 9.6.1 - Air Quality and Noise	Maintain air quality to a satisfactory standard by regulating and monitoring atmospheric emissions in accordance with EU policy directives on air quality and Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive (2008/50/EC) by promoting and supporting initiatives to reduce air pollution and by increasing the use of sustainable transport modes and developing urban woodlands, encouraging tree planting, conserving and creating green open space.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.6.2 - Air Quality and Noise	Ensure the design of development incorporates measures to minimise noise levels in their design and reduce the emission and intrusion of any noise or vibration which might adversely impact on amenities, in particular residential amenities where appropriate.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out
Policy 9.6.3 - Air Quality and Noise	Consider the details of Galway City Council Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 2019-2023 in the assessment and design of relevant development applications in the interests of protecting future amenity.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 9.6.4 - Air Quality and Noise	Implement environmental noise mitigation measures as outlined in Galway City Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.6.5 - Air Quality and Noise	Promote best practice in the implementation of radon prevention and mitigation measures in partnership with relevant agencies.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.7.1 - Light Pollution	Ensure the design of external lighting minimises the incidence of light pollution, glare and spillage into the surrounding environment and has due regard to the visual and residential amenities of surrounding areas and is so designed to mitigate adverse impacts on wildlife and ecosystems.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 9.7.2 - Light	Require all new developments to be designed with the inclusion of	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Pollution	energy efficient lighting schemes.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	
Policy 9.8.1 - Waste Management	Secure the provision of waste management facilities and infrastructure with appropriate provision for minimisation, recovery and recycling of waste and regulate waste operations in a manner which reflects the 'polluter pays' and 'proximity' principles with particular emphasis on large waste producers, in accordance with the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Plan 2015-2021, except in relation to incineration and emerging legislation on the transition to a circular economy and the National Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020-2025.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	IN
Policy 9.8.2 - Waste Management	Have a waste management system in the city in line with EU and national policies, which prioritises waste prevention, minimisation, recycling and reuse and accords with the outcomes of the Circular Economy Bill 2021 and the associated strategy.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 9.8.3 - Waste Management	Support the objectives and targets of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Plan 2015-2021 relating to Galway City and any subsequent Waste Plan.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.8.4 - Waste Management	Ensure that adequate recycling facilities and bring facilities are provided within the city, including where those are required in association with the layouts of new residential, industrial and commercial developments and where they comply with the requirements of the Environment Section of the Council.	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 9.8.5 - Waste Management	Ensure the sustainable siting of waste facilities in relation to existing and potential surrounding land-uses, transportation and environmental considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.8.6 - Waste Management	Promote the implementation of the City Council Litter Management Plan and other litter management initiatives in order to minimise and control the extent of litter pollution in the city.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Out
Policy 9.8.7 - Waste Management	Ensure that development on contaminated lands include appropriate remediation measures.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.9.1 - Telecommunications and Smart Technology	Support the development and expansion of telecommunication infrastructure (including the broadband network) within the city where appropriate, subject to environmental, visual and residential amenity considerations.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.9.2 - Telecommunications	Ensure that developers of masts facilitate the co-location of antennae with other operators in order to avoid an unnecessary proliferation of	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN

and Smart Technology	masts. Where this is not possible operators will be encouraged to co-locate so that masts and antennae may be clustered.		
Policy 9.9.3 - Telecommunications and Smart Technology	Ensure that development for telecommunication and mobile phone installations take cognisance of the Planning Guidelines for Telecommunications Antennae and Support (DECLG, Circular Letter PL07/12) and in relation specifically to new free standing masts and antennae, locations in the immediate proximity to residential areas, schools and other community facilities will only be considered where all other more suitable options, including opportunities to locate on tall buildings, rooftops and co –location with existing masts, have been exhausted following an evidenced based evaluation of potential sites.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.9.4 - Telecommunications and Smart Technology	Facilitate the rollout of digital infrastructure to implement a world class digital infrastructure and sensor network that will provide real time data and smart city solutions.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.9.5 - Telecommunications and Smart Technology	Support the actions of the draft Galway City Digital Strategy (2020-2024).	C - Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Out
Policy 9.10.1 - Energy and Associated Infrastructure	Support the infrastructural renewal and strategic development of the national transmission grid system and energy networks in the city, underground where at all possible, including the overhead high voltage lines necessary to provide the required networks in accordance with the Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure 2012.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 9.10.2 - Energy and Associated Infrastructure	Support the deliver a sustainable electricity system and ensure transition to a low-carbon economy in accordance with ambitions for decarbonisation of the energy sector.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 9.10.3 - Energy and Associated Infrastructure	Ensure that the infrastructural renewal and development of energy networks avoid negative impacts on European sites and adhere to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43 EEC).	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Out

Table C-2: Screening for Chapter 10			
No.	Policy/ Specific Objective	Screening category	Screen in/out
Policy 10.1.1 - City Centre	Maintain and enhance the resilience of the city centre by reinforcing its dominant role for commerce, shopping, tourist, cultural and leisure activities, enhancing its vitality and attractiveness as a place to work, live and visit.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 10.1.2 - City Centre	Control the proliferation of uses which could lead to the deterioration of retailing on the principal shopping streets.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 10.1.3 - City Centre	Control the negative impact caused by dominance, due to proliferation or scale, of particular uses.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 10.1.4 - City Centre	Encourage a living city centre by requiring a residential content in new developments and promoting a high quality urban environment in the design and layout of new schemes.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.1.5 - City Centre	Encourage use of vacant upper floors in the city centre and promote city centre living through measures such as the Living City Initiative.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 10.1.6 - City Centre	Maintain and enhance the environmental quality of the city centre to support city centre living and to ensure a safe and attractive legible environment.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 10.1.7 - City Centre	Maintain and enhance the quality of the city centre public realm and enhance accessibility and connectivity to and within the city centre through improvements to the network of streets, footpaths and public spaces and through implementation of the public realm strategy.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.1.8 - City Centre	Support a diversity of uses in the city centre public realm including markets, outdoor seating and dining, arts and culture events to add to the vitality and vibrancy of the city.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.1.9 - City Centre	Ensure new developments incorporate design features that complement the character of the city centre.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 10.1.10 - City Centre	Improve the public realm and residential amenities of existing city centre communities at Woodquay and Bowling Green by the implementation of improvement schemes.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.1.11 - City Centre	Enhance the quality of the urban environment in the West Area and Ravens Terrace through improvements to the public realm, enhanced	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

	linkages and through implementation of the Public Realm Strategy and traffic management measures.		
Policy 10.1.12 - City Centre	Progress the implementation of Public Realm Strategy civic space improvement projects within the city centre at Fishmarket, Cathedral, Eyre Square North, Courthouse Square and the Small Crane.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.1.13 - City Centre	Support initiatives to enhance the image and attractiveness of the city centre in co-operation with local businesses, communities and other stakeholders.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 10.1.14 - City Centre	Ensure the development of significant city centre sites is carried out to high standards and in the context of an overall masterplan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 10.1.15 - City Centre	Support and facilitate the development of innovative enterprise initiatives within the city centre in collaboration with education providers, Enterprise Ireland and other stakeholders.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 10.1.16 - City Centre	Expand in conjunction with relevant stakeholders the provision of free public Wifi hotspots within the city centre.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Policy 10.1.17 - City Centre	Maintain and enhance the quality of the city centre public realm and enhance accessibility and connectivity to and within the city centre through implementation of measures included in the Galway Transport Strategy.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.2.1 - Strategic Regeneration and Brownfield Sites	Facilitate and enable the redevelopment of strategic Regeneration and Opportunity sites in the city to support the sustainable and compact growth of the city which will add value and create more attractive places in which people can live and work and achieve alignment with the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF and the Regional Policy Objectives of the RSES and implementation of the Core Strategy.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.3.1 - Salthill	Enhance the role of Salthill as an urban village, recreation and coastal amenity area for the city and service centre for the surrounding residential neighbourhoods.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 10.3.2 - Salthill	Ensure high quality in the design of new developments and have regard to the distinctive character of Salthill.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Policy 10.3.3 - Salthill	Enhance the public realm of Salthill including the implementation of an environmental improvement scheme carried out in consultation with local businesses, residents and key stakeholders, with particular focus on the main commercial street and in the vicinity of Seapoint and D'Arcy	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

	roundabout.		
Policy 10.3.4 - Salthill	Continue to improve the amenity recreational quality of the area through the preparation of a strategy for the long-term management and enhancement of the promenade and by the implementation of environmental and coastal improvement schemes. This shall include for appropriate flood risk assessment and management measures.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.4.1 - Westside	Enhance the quality of the urban environment at Westside through the creation of a more enclosed, strong street edge on CI zoned lands along the Seamus Quirke Road, creating a high quality active and vibrant streetscape.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.5.1 - Ardaun	Develop Ardaun, in accordance with the Local Area Plan taking a co-ordinated and phased approach that will contribute to the integration of land use, urban form and structure, transportation and natural heritage to create a new urban village and a sustainable living and working environment.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Policy 10.6.1 - Murrough	Develop the Murrough area in accordance with a Local Area Plan which will reserve a substantial bank of land for recreational purposes, allow for public access and allow for mixed-use development which will create a sustainable neighbourhood and maximise the sustainable development of appropriate recreation facilities.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Section 10.27 Specific Objectives			
Objective 10.27.1 - City centre Area	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the Ceannt Station Site.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 10.27.2- City centre Area	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the Inner Harbour.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 10.27.3 - Headford Road Area	Prepare a Local Area Plan for the Headford Road area (south of the Bodkin junction).	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 10.27.4 - Headford Road Area	In advance of the adoption of the Headford Road LAP, any proposals to advance development of the Dyke Road Regeneration site by the GCC/LDA having regard to the socio-economic benefits for the city will be considered, subject to the preparation of a masterplan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 10.27.5 - Regeneration and Opportunity Sites	Require the preparation of masterplans and spatial frameworks to inform development proposals.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 10.27.6 -	Prepare a strategy for the long term development and enhancement of	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

Salthill	the character of Salthill village and promenade which provides for guidelines for good urban design and the development of high quality architectural standards for new developments and redevelopments.		
Objective 10.27.7 - Salthill	Carry out an environmental improvement scheme for Salthill.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out
Objective 10.27.8 - Salthill	Upgrade public facilities including provision of outdoor/indoor showers, changing facilities and toilets and supports for water based activities.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 10.27.9 - Salthill	Support proposals for the development of a destination tourism and recreational attraction at the Leisureland and Salthill park sites with the potential to provide modern, purpose built recreation, civic and cultural facilities to serve the city and region.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 10.27.10 - Ardaun	Implement the Local Area Plan for Ardaun.	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	IN
Objective 10.27.11 - Murrough	Prepare a Local Area Plan for Murrough.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Out

D Potential Cumulative and In-Combination Impacts

Plans	Level	Description	Potential impacts	Mitigation Measures
NATIONAL PLANS AND PROJECTS				
Project Ireland 2040	National	Sets the vision and strategy for the development of Ireland to 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment.	Yes - negative	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021	National	Sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2021. Ireland is required to produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Water quality in Ireland has deteriorated over the past two decades. The Plan provides a more coordinated framework for improving the quality of our waters — to protect public health, the environment, water amenities and to sustain water-intensive industries, including agri-food and tourism, particularly in rural Ireland.	Yes - positive	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
Environmental River Enhancement Programme	National	The Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP) is an OPW funded project that is being co-ordinated and managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland. The programme focuses on the enhancement of drained Salmonid rivers in Ireland.	Yes - positive	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020	National	The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to	Yes - negative	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.

Plans	Level	Description	Potential impacts	Mitigation Measures
		guide implementation: 1) Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; 2) Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; 3) Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and 4) Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.		
REGIONAL PLANS AND PROJECTS				
Regional Spatial Economic Strategy 2020 - 2032	Regional	The RSES provides a roadmap for regional development, with the aim of creating healthy places and promoting sustainable communities. The RSES Growth Framework provides a clear sustainable strategy for compact growth and delivering those key elements known to inform business location choices. It identifies a pathway through the inclusion of a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway. The RSES provides a high-level development framework for the Northern and Western Region that supports the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the relevant economic policies and objectives of Government.	Yes - negative	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
Galway City Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)	Local / Regional	The MASP area includes Galway City and its environs and the county settlements of Bearna, Oranmore and Baile Chláir. The MASP is a strategic planning framework which identifies Strategic Growth Areas and opportunities for regeneration. It identifies key infrastructure, services and facilities that will be required to support sustainable city growth and regeneration. It sets out how the NPF population targets can be met in accordance with the principles of sustainable development with the aim to deliver	Yes - negative	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.

Plans	Level	Description	Potential impacts	Mitigation Measures
		compact growth.		
Shellfish Water Action Programmes / Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish	National / Regional	Under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive Ireland is obliged to establish measures to protect shellfish waters against pollution and to safeguard certain shellfish populations from various harmful consequences, resulting from the discharge of pollutant substances into the sea.	Yes - positive	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	Local /Regional	Provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	Yes - positive & negative	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	Regional	The aim of the CFRAM Studies is to: - assess flood risk, through the identification of flood hazard areas and the associated impacts of flooding; - identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks for localised high-risk areas and within the catchment as a whole; and - prepare a strategic Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that sets out the measures and policies that should be pursued to achieve the most cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk.	Yes - negative	The programme of measures resulting from the CFRAM studies may perpetuate significant effects on European sites (Lough Corrib SAC, Lough Corrib SPA, Galway Bay Complex SAC, Inner Galway Bay SPA, Cregganna Marsh SPA, Rahasane Turlough SAC, Rahasane Turlough SPA, Castletaylor Complex SAC, Kiltiernan Turlough SAC, and Lough Fingall Complex SAC) in view of their conservation objectives. However, the Galway City Council Development Plan includes the requirement for any development taking place within the city to undergo Screening for Appropriate Assessment and/or Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary. No negative in-combination effects to European sites are expected.
Galway County Development Plan 2022 -	Regional	Sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Galway	Yes - negative	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant

Plans	Level	Description	Potential impacts	Mitigation Measures
2028 (draft)				project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
Clare County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (draft)	Regional	Sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Clare	Yes - negative	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
KEY LOCAL PLANS				
Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 - 2021	Local	The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Galway 2015-2021 was developed by Galway City Council through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), in line with guidelines issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The plan is for a six-year period and has set out objectives and actions to a) promote and support economic development and b) promote and support local and community development in Galway City, both by Galway City Council itself and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Yes - negative	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014 - 2024	Local	The Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) aims to raise awareness of and promote the conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the City. The Galway City BAP provides a framework for the conservation of biodiversity at a local level and helps ensure that national and international targets for biodiversity conservation can be achieved, while at same time addressing local priorities.	Yes - positive	Project level assessments will be required to determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
Galway City	Local	The Climate Adaption Strategy (2019 - 2024) for	Yes - positive	Project level assessments will be required to

Plans	Level	Description	Potential impacts	Mitigation Measures
Climate Adaption Strategy 2019 - 2024		Galway City aims to make Galway City resilient to the effects of climate change. The Strategy sets out 31 objectives for the adaptation of Galway City Council to the projected impacts of climate change. In order to achieve the objectives, the Strategy includes 68 actions and sub actions to be implemented by Galway City Council over the next ten years. The sub actions are prioritised with 49 sub actions to be delivered in the short-term, i.e., within the next five years.		determine any potential mitigation measures, as these will be dependent on the relevant project and any potential impacts that may arise as a result of this.
MAJOR PROJECTS IN PLAN AREA				
Galway Harbour	Local	A proposal for the development and extension of port facilities at Galway Harbour is ongoing and under consideration by An Bord Pleanála. An NIS and addendum is under consideration and the project is being considered for approval under Article 6(4) of the Directive.	Yes - negative	Despite the fact that the Proposed Galway Harbour Extension would have some measurable impact on Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA, Lough Corrib SAC and Lough Corrib SPA, elements of the Plan will not act cumulatively to result in any adverse effects on these European sites via the same potential impact pathways, due to the mitigation measures of the Plan outlined in this NIR and those outlined in the NIS prepared for Galway Harbour. These mitigation measures also include the requirement for any project arising from the Plan to be assessed in terms of its potential to impact on European site integrity in-combination with any other plans and projects. There is therefore no potential for in-combination effects to occur with the Plan as a result of the proposed development and extension of port facilities at Galway Harbour.
Galway Transport Strategy	Local/ Regional	The GTS sets out a series of actions and measures, covering infrastructural, operational and policy elements to be implemented in Galway over the next	Yes - negative	The AA of the GTS identified that, in the absence of mitigation measures, the GTS had the potential to adversely affect the integrity

Plans	Level	Description	Potential impacts	Mitigation Measures
		20 years and sets out a framework to deliver the projects in a phased manner. An NIS has been prepared for the project		of the following European Sites through a range of impact pathways: Lough Corrib SAC, Lough Corrib SPA, Galway Bay Complex SAC, Inner Galway Bay SPA, Ross Lake and Woods SAC, Cregganna Marsh SPA, Rahasane Turlough SAC, Rahasane Turlough SPA, Castletaylor Complex SAC, Kiltieman Turlough SAC and Lough Fingall Complex SAC. An AA has been carried out in relation to the GTS which concluded that the GTS, either alone or in-combination with any other plans or projects, and in consideration of the mitigation measures therein, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites. the mitigation measures of the Plan outlined in this NIR also include the requirement for any project arising from the Plan to be assessed in terms of its potential to impact on European site integrity in-combination with any other plans and projects. There is therefore no potential for in-combination effects to occur from this plan in conjunction with the Galway Transport Strategy.
Galway Public Realm Strategy (GPRS) 2019	Local	The Strategy provides a vision of place, design guidance and outlines proposals to improve Galway's streets and public spaces. It is accompanied by three manuals (Design Manual, Activity Manual and Delivery Manual) to support the Strategy's implementation. A NIR was prepared which highlighted both positive and negative impacts from the GPRS.	Yes-both positive and negative	Some potential for impact has been identified in the NIR for the Galway Public Realm Strategy 2019. The potential for impact has been mitigated for in Section 4.4 of the NIR for the GPRS. Alongside the mitigation policies of the Plan outlined in this NIR, which includes the requirement for any project arising from the Plan to be assessed in terms of its potential to impact on European site integrity in-combination with any other plans

Plans	Level	Description	Potential impacts	Mitigation Measures
				and projects, ensures that there will be no potential for in-combination effects to occur from this Development Plan.
Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme	Local	This is a significant flood relief scheme for the city and has recently gone through the first public consultation stage	Yes	The EIA and AA process will be followed in terms of environmental assessment of the project. The mitigation policies of the Plan outlined in this NIR include the requirement for any project arising from the Plan to be assessed in terms of its potential to impact on European site integrity in-combination with any other plans and projects ensures that there will be no potential for in-combination effects to occur from this Development Plan.

E Conservation Objectives

E.1.1 Conservation Objectives of European sites

The integrity of a European site (referred to in Article 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive) is determined based on the conservation status of the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA as set out above.

European and National legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as SAC and SPA. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites. According to the EU Habitats Directive, favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

E.1.2 Conservation Objectives for Galway Bay Complex SAC [Site Code: 000268]

Situated on the west coast of Ireland, the SAC site comprises the inner, shallow part of a large Bay which is partially sheltered by the Aran Islands. The Burren karstic limestone fringes the southern sides and extends into the sublittoral. West of Galway city the bedrock geology is granite. There are numerous shallow and intertidal inlets on the eastern and southern sides. A number of small islands composed of glacial deposits are located along the eastern side. A diverse range of marine, coastal and terrestrial habitats, including several listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, occur within the site, making the area of high scientific importance

This large coastal site is of immense conservation importance, with many habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, four of which have priority status: lagoon, Cladium fen, turlough and orchid-rich calcareous grassland. The examples of shallow bays, reefs, lagoons and salt marshes are amongst the best in the country. The site supports an important common seal colony and a breeding otter population, both species that are listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, and six regular Annex I EU Birds Directive species. The site also has four Red Data Book plant species, plus a host of rare or scarce marine and lagoonal animal and plant species. The site supports two wintering species having populations of international importance and a further sixteen species having populations of

International importance. The breeding colonies of sandwich tern, common tern and cormorant are also of national importance. Also of note is that seven of the regularly occurring species are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, such as red-throated diver, black-throated diver, great northern diver, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, sandwich tern and common tern.

Site specific conservation objectives have been prepared for the Galway Bay Complex SAC (NPWS, 2013). The detailed conservation objectives for each of the qualifying interests are provided in the Conservation Objectives document available on the NPWS website, as follows:

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000268.pdf

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.3 Inner Galway Bay SPA [Site Code: 004031]

Galway Bay SPA is a very large, marine-dominated, site comprising the inner bay with subsidiary bays and inlets and it is a very important ornithological site. The shallow waters provide excellent habitat for great northern divers, black-throated divers, scaup, long-tailed duck and red-breasted merganser. All of these populations are of national importance. The intertidal areas and shoreline provides feeding and roosting habitat for wintering waterfowl, with brent goose having a population of international importance and a further eleven species having populations of national importance. Four of the regular wintering species are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive - golden plover, bar-tailed godwit and the two diver species. Breeding birds are also of importance, with significant populations of sandwich terns and common terns, both also being listed on Annex I of the EU Directive. A large cormorant colony occurs on Deer Island.

Site specific conservation objectives have been prepared for the Inner Galway Bay SPA. The detailed conservation objectives for each of the qualifying interests are provided in the Conservation Objectives document available on the NPWS website, as follows;

<http://www.npws.ie/media/npwsie/content/images/protectedsites/conservationobjectives/CO004031.pdf>

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.4 Lough Corrib SAC [Site Code: 000297]

Lough Corrib is situated to the north of Galway city and is the second largest lake in Ireland. This site is of major conservation importance and includes fourteen habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Six of these are priority habitats - petrifying springs, Cladium fen, active raised bog, limestone pavement, bog woodland and orchid-rich calcareous grassland. The other annexed habitats present include hard water lakes, lowland oligotrophic lakes, oligotrophic to mesotrophic lakes, floating river vegetation, alkaline fens, degraded raised bogs, Rhynchosporion vegetation, Molinia meadows and old oak woodlands. Species present on the site that are listed on Annex II of this directive are sea lamprey, brook lamprey, Atlantic salmon, white-clawed crayfish, freshwater pearl mussel, otter, lesser horseshoe bat, slender naiad (also listed under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999) and the moss Drepanocladus vernicosus. The shallow, lime-rich waters of the southern basin of the lake support one of the most extensive beds of stoneworts (Charophytes) in Ireland. The alkaline fen vegetation includes the slender cottongrass (*Eriophorum gracile*), a species protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999. Wet meadows occur in seasonally flooded areas close to the lakeshore

Site specific conservation objectives have been prepared for the Inner Lough Corrib SAC. The detailed conservation objectives for each of the qualifying interests are provided in the Conservation Objectives document available on the NPWS website, as follows;

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000297.pdf

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.5 Lough Corrib SPA [Site Code: 004042]

Lough Corrib is one of the top ornithological sites in the country, and easily qualifies for international importance on the basis of numbers of wintering birds using it. It is also of international importance for its population of Pochard. There are a further seven species of wintering waterfowl that have populations of national importance. Its populations of breeding gulls and terns are also notable, with nationally important numbers of Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Common Gull and Black-headed Gull. The site is now the most important in the country for nesting Common Scoter. It is of note that several of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Golden Plover, Common Tern and Arctic Tern. The site has been relatively well monitored for birds in recent years. Research is required into the reasons for the decline of the breeding gull populations

There are no site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Corrib SPA. However, the generic conservation objectives set out by the NPWS for the maintenance of habitats and species within European sites at favourable conservation status condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I species for which the SPA has been selected.

E.1.6 Ardrahan Grassland SAC [Site Code: 002244]

This site lies immediately west and north of Ardrahan in south Co. Galway. The site contains a good example of limestone pavement, a priority habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, a small though excellent example of the Annex I habitat alpine heath, along with one other Annex I habitat, juniper scrub. The southern and western part of the area is of significant interest due to the low intensity of management in the area. In the north of the site juniper scrub forms a dense mat over limestone pavement. Further south it occurs on higher undulating ground over a species-rich calcareous heath. Brackloon Lough occurs in the south of the site and is a fine example of a small shallow marl lake, one of very few in this locality. Although small the lake seems in a relatively natural state. Two small turloughs are also present within the site. Bird species recorded from the site include snipe, mute swan and curlew

Site specific conservation objectives have been prepared for the Ardrahan Grassland SAC. The detailed conservation objectives for each of the qualifying interests are provided in the Conservation Objectives document available on the NPWS website, as follows;

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002244.pdf

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.7 Castletaylor Complex SAC [Site Code: 000242]

This site is situated approximately 4km southeast of Kilcolgan and lies in gently undulating limestone topography. Although relatively small in area, the site contains a diverse range of habitats, including five EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitats - turloughs, limestone pavement, orchid-rich calcareous grassland, alpine heath and juniper scrub. The first three of these are listed as priority habitats under the Directive. The site supports an extensive area of sedge fen vegetation. The eastern and much of the southern parts of the site are dominated by dry broadleaved woodland. Some mature planted conifers are found to the south of the road. The turlough does not hold any significant wintering populations of birds, owing to the extreme oligotrophic conditions.

There are no site-specific Conservation Objectives for Castletaylor Complex SAC. However, the generic conservation objectives set out by the NPWS for the maintenance of habitats and species within European sites at favourable conservation status condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.8 Kiltiernan Turlough Complex SAC [Site Code: 001285]

Kiltiernan Turlough is a simple, linear depression running south westwards from the main Galway-

Limerick road. The site is listed for the Annex I priority habitat turloughs and, as such, the site is of considerable conservation significance. Kiltiernan Turlough is an example of a partly modified, relatively dry turlough, without any accumulation of peat. It includes a variety of typical dry turlough vegetation types and is notable for the presence of the rare plant species, alder buckthorn and fen violet.

Site specific conservation objectives have been prepared for the Kiltiernan Turlough Complex SAC. The detailed conservation objectives for each of the qualifying interests are provided in the Conservation Objectives document available on the NPWS website, as follows;

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001285.pdf

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.9 Lough Fingall Complex SAC [Site Code: 000606]

This site is situated immediately south-east of Ballindeereen and within 2km of Galway Bay. This site is of great conservation importance for the presence of six habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, including four

priority habitats. The transitions and gradations between habitats, for example between turloughs, lakes and limestone pavement, gives rise to a range of physical conditions that favour many uncommon species. In addition, the site supports an internationally important population of Lesser Horseshoe bats. The site is of local importance for wintering waterfowl, particularly Lapwing (max. count 381 in 1995/96), and has breeding Lapwing (6 pairs 1996). Some scarce invertebrate species have been recorded from the Lough Fingall area.

Site specific conservation objectives have been prepared for the Lough Fingall Complex SAC. The detailed conservation objectives for each of the qualifying interests are provided in the Conservation Objectives document available on the NPWS website, as follows;

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000606.pdf

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.10 Rahasane Turlough SAC [Site Code: 000322]

Rahasane Turlough lies in gently undulating land, approximately 2km west of Craughwell, Co. Galway. Rahasane Turlough is of international significance as an Annex I priority habitat under the EU Habitats Directive and it is of major ecological significance as an example of a large turlough, which still function naturally.

Site specific conservation objectives have been prepared for the Rahasane Turlough SAC. The detailed conservation objectives for each of the qualifying interests are provided in the Conservation Objectives document available on the NPWS website, as follows;

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000322.pdf

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.11 Rahasane Turlough SPA [Site Code: 004089]

Rahasane Turlough SPA is of high ornithological importance and supports seven species of national importance. The wigeon and golden plover populations are of particular note as they each represent approximately 4% of the national totals of these species. The occurrence of Greenland white fronted goose, whooper swan and golden plover is of importance as these species are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. It is the most important turlough for birdlife in the country. In a relatively recent national survey, it was also rated very highly for its vegetation, and supports two rare species listed in the Irish Red Data Book.

There are no site-specific Conservation Objectives for Rahasane Turlough SPA. However, the generic conservation objectives set out by the NPWS for the maintenance of habitats and species within European sites at favourable conservation status condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

E.1.12 Cregganna Marsh SPA [Site Code: 004142]

Cregganna Marsh is situated 3km south of Oranmore, to the west of the Galway — Ennis road. The birds using this site form part of the Rahasane flock. Greenland white-fronted goose is an Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. The dominant habitats on the site are lowland wet grassland and improved grassland, but areas of limestone pavement and other exposed rock, hazel scrub, freshwater marsh, drainage ditches and dry grassland are also represented. The site is of major conservation importance as a feeding site for a nationally important flock of Greenland white-fronted geese.

There are no site-specific Conservation Objectives for Cregganna Marsh SPA. However, the generic conservation objectives set out by the NPWS for the maintenance of habitats and species within European sites at favourable conservation status condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

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