

SEA STATEMENT

FOR

VARIATION No. 2 TO THE **GALWAY CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN** **2023-2029** (AS VARIED)

for: Galway City Council



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

by: CAAS Ltd.



OCTOBER 2026

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Legislative Context

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for Variation No. 2 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029, as varied.

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use. The SEA Directive is transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended, and the European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025 (SI No. 456 of 2025).

1.2 Content of the SEA Statement

Where SEA is undertaken, the Regulations require that a Statement referred to as an SEA Statement, or Information on the Decision, is made available to the public and the competent environmental authorities after the making of the Variation.⁷

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Variation;

- b) how the following have been taken into account during the preparation of the Variation:
 - the environmental report,
 - submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Proposed Variation and Environmental Report, and
 - any transboundary consultations (these are not relevant to this SEA).
- c) the reasons for choosing the Variation in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Variation.

1.3 Implications of SEA for the Variation

Screening for SEA was undertaken in advance of public consultation on the Proposed Variation No. 2. It was determined that SEA was not required.

All Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 were subject to Screening for SEA and it was determined that SEA was required for Proposed Material Alterations to Sites 1, 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c.

The findings of the SEA were expressed in an Environmental Report which was subject to public consultation alongside the Proposed Material Alterations.

The Proposed Material Alteration to Site No. 1 was not made as part of the Variation, with zoning as per the original Proposed Variation made as part of the Variation for this site. Proposed Material Alterations to Sites 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c were made as part of the Variation, with/without minor modification following public consultation on the Proposed Material Alterations.

Galway City Council have been provided with the findings of the SEA during their consideration of the Variation and before the Variation was made.

Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Variation

2.1 Overview

Environmental considerations were presented to the Council for its consideration through:

1. Consultations;
2. Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process;
3. Appropriate Assessment;
4. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
5. Consideration of alternatives;
6. Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure evidence-based planning;
7. Integration of environmental considerations into the Variation's Zoning provisions; and
8. Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the Variation and the existing, already in force, Development Plan, as varied.

All parts of the Variation-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

2.2 Consultations

As environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations, as amended, the following authorities were sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made: Environmental Protection Agency; Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment; Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and Galway County Council.

Detail on submissions made on foot of the SEA scoping notice is provided under Section 3.2.

Detail is also provided on submissions that were made on the Proposed Variation/Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation and/or the SEA

Environmental Report while they were on public display (see Section 3.3).

2.3 Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process

Individual environmental sensitivities that were prepared by the SEA, considered by the Planning Team and presented to the Members included the following:

- European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas);
- Other Ecological Designations (including Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas);
- Status of Surface and Ground Waters;
- Various entries to the Water Framework Directive's Register of Protected Areas;
- Groundwater Vulnerability;
- Water Services Capacity, Performance and Demand;
- Cultural heritage (archaeological and architectural) sensitivities; and
- Landscape Designations.

A number of these sensitivities are mapped on Figures 2.1 to 2.3.

2.4 Appropriate Assessment

Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken for the original Proposed Variation No. 2 and it was determined that Stage 2 AA was not required.

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA) derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in

combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European Site in view of its conservation objectives.

Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation were subject to Screening for AA and it was determined that Stage 2 AA was not required.

2.5 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the existing Development Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The SFRA has informed the provisions of the existing Plan.

SFRA was also undertaken for the original Proposed Variation No. 2 and it was demonstrated that the Plan, as varied, would continue to be consistent with the Ministerial Guidelines on Flood Risk Management.

SFRA was undertaken for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation and it was found that all Proposed Material Alterations relate to sites that have already been demonstrated to be situated within Flood Zone C by the "Galway City Development Plan Stage 2 SFRA Addendum I" that was appended to the Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 that accompanied the Proposed Variation on public display. Therefore it was found that, the Plan, as varied, with or without the Proposed Material Alterations, would continue to be consistent with the Flood Risk Management Ministerial Guidelines.

2.6 Consideration of Alternatives

Consideration of the environmental effects arising two alternatives for certain Proposed Material Alteration sites were considered (see Section 4).

2.7 Integration of individual provisions into the text of the existing Development Plan

Individual mitigating provisions that have been previously integrated into the text of the existing, already in force, City Development Plan are provided on Table 2.1.

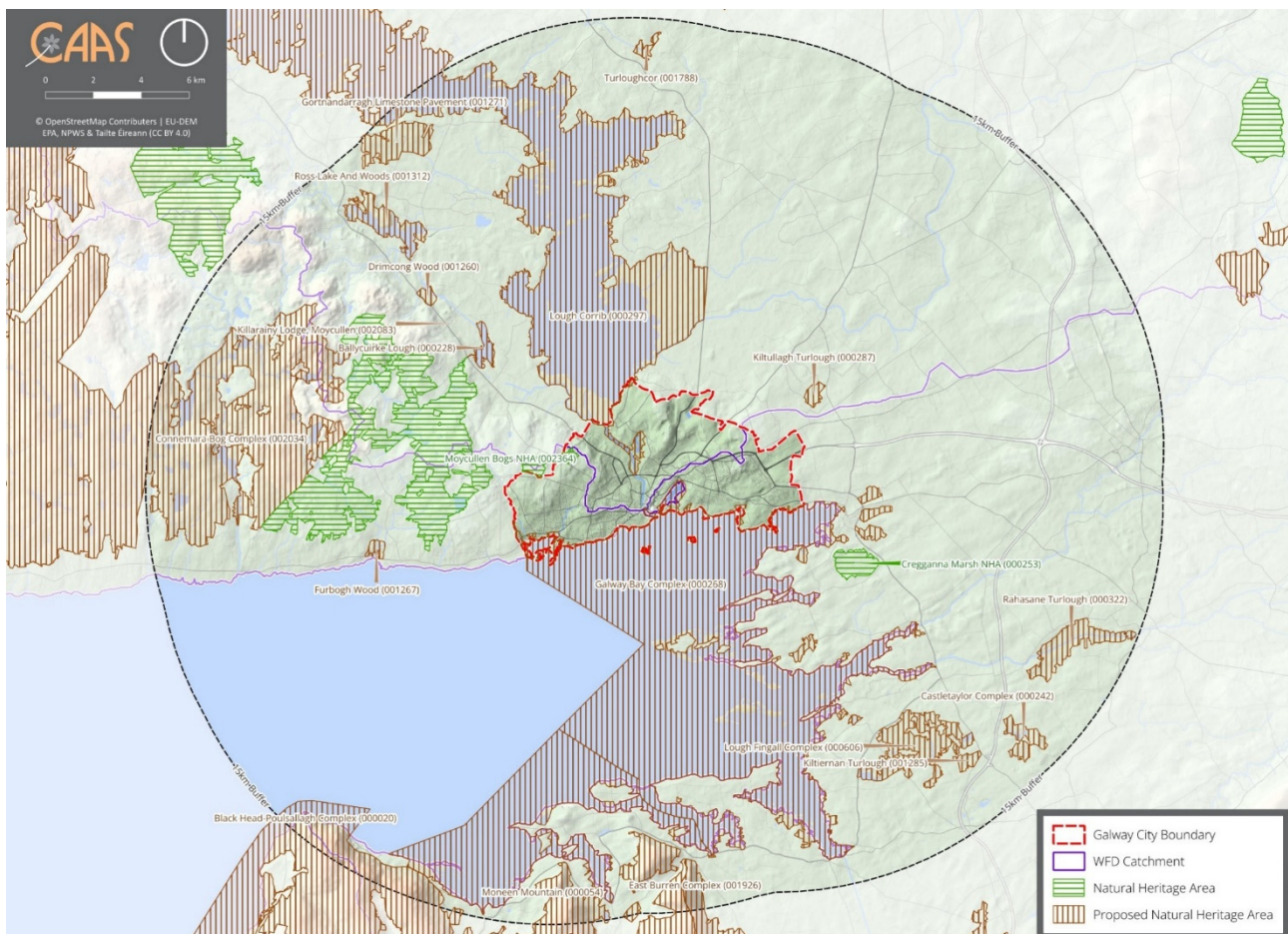
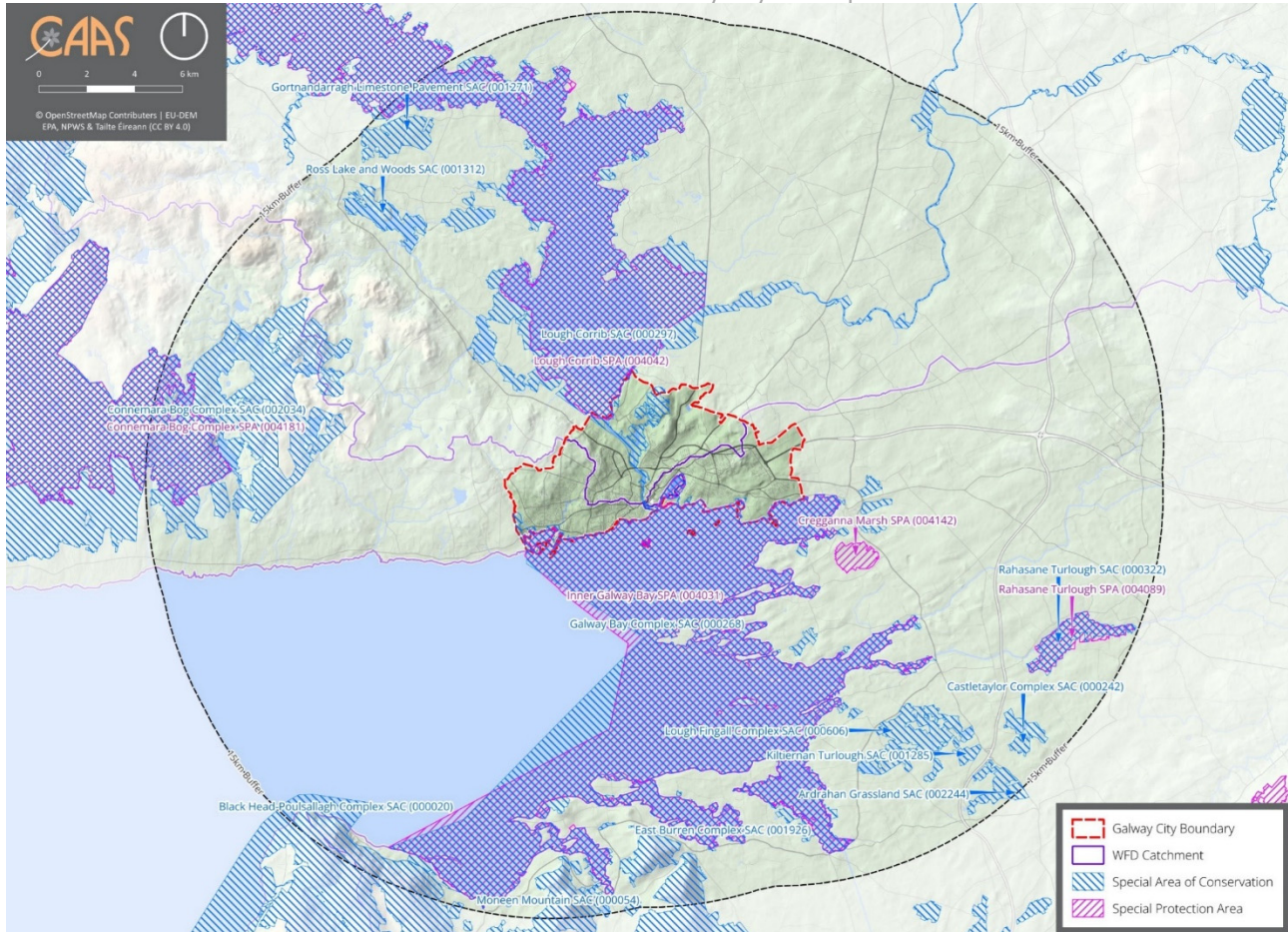


Figure 2.1 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (1 of 3)

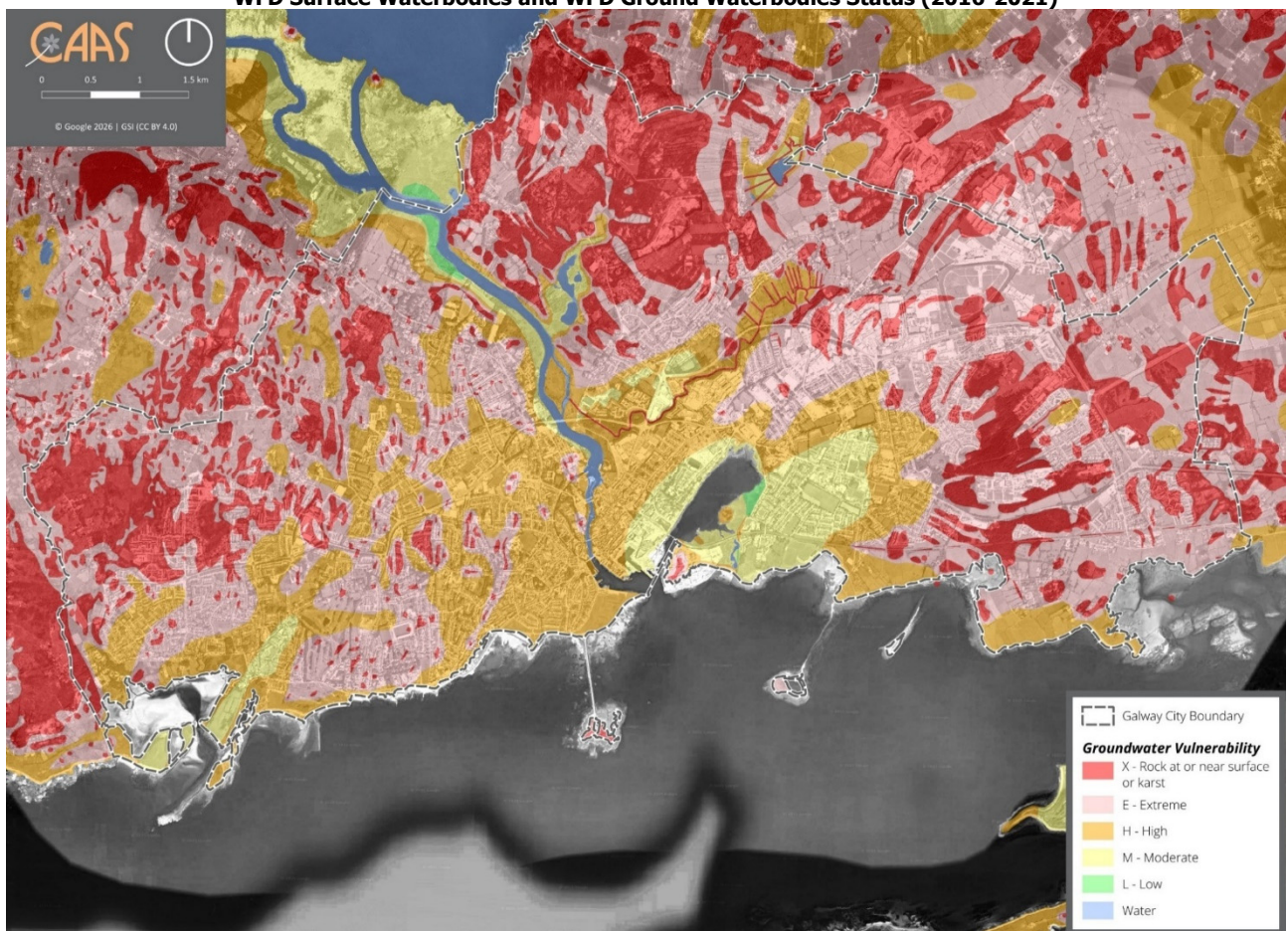
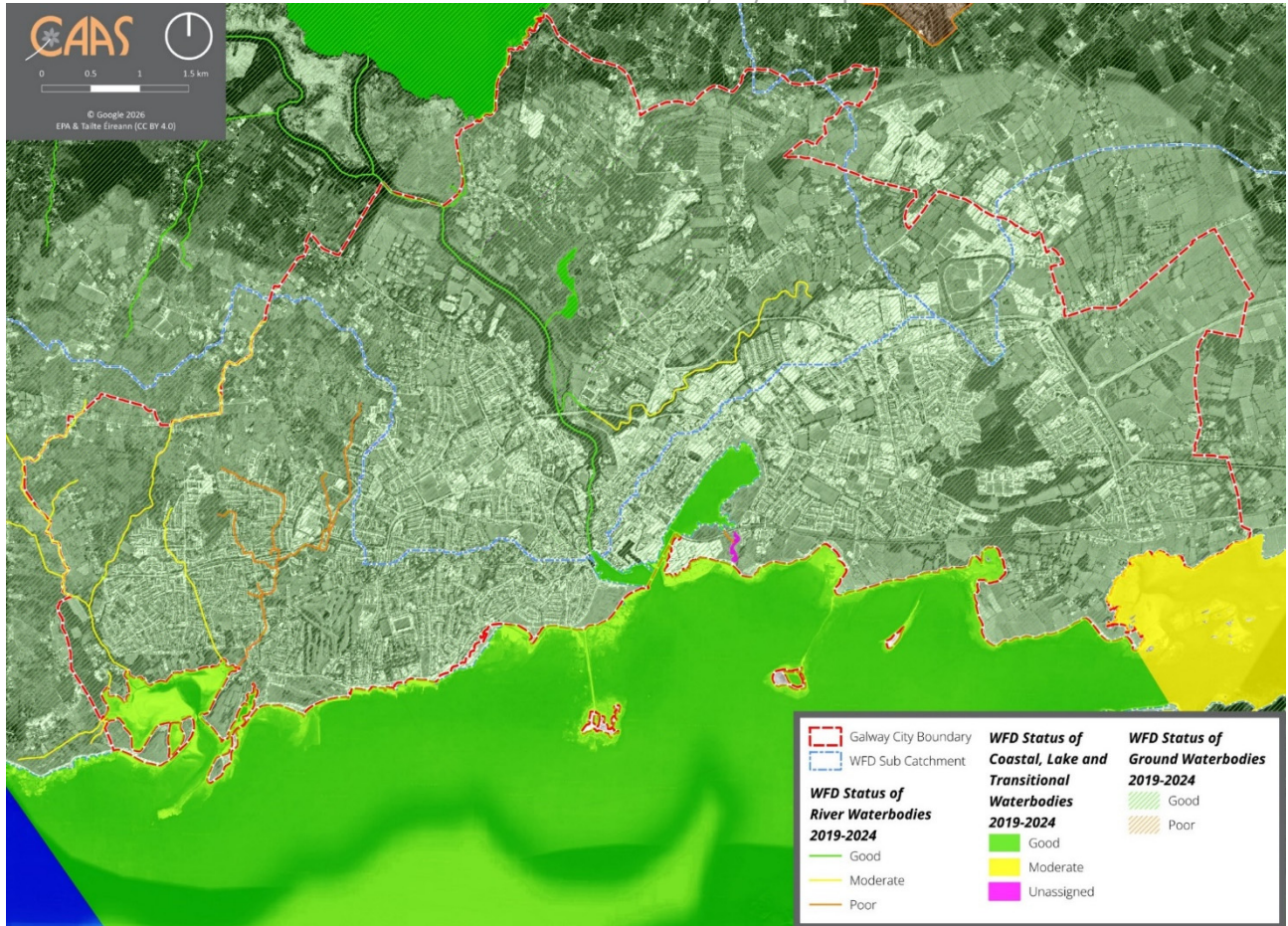


Figure 2.2 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (2 of 3)

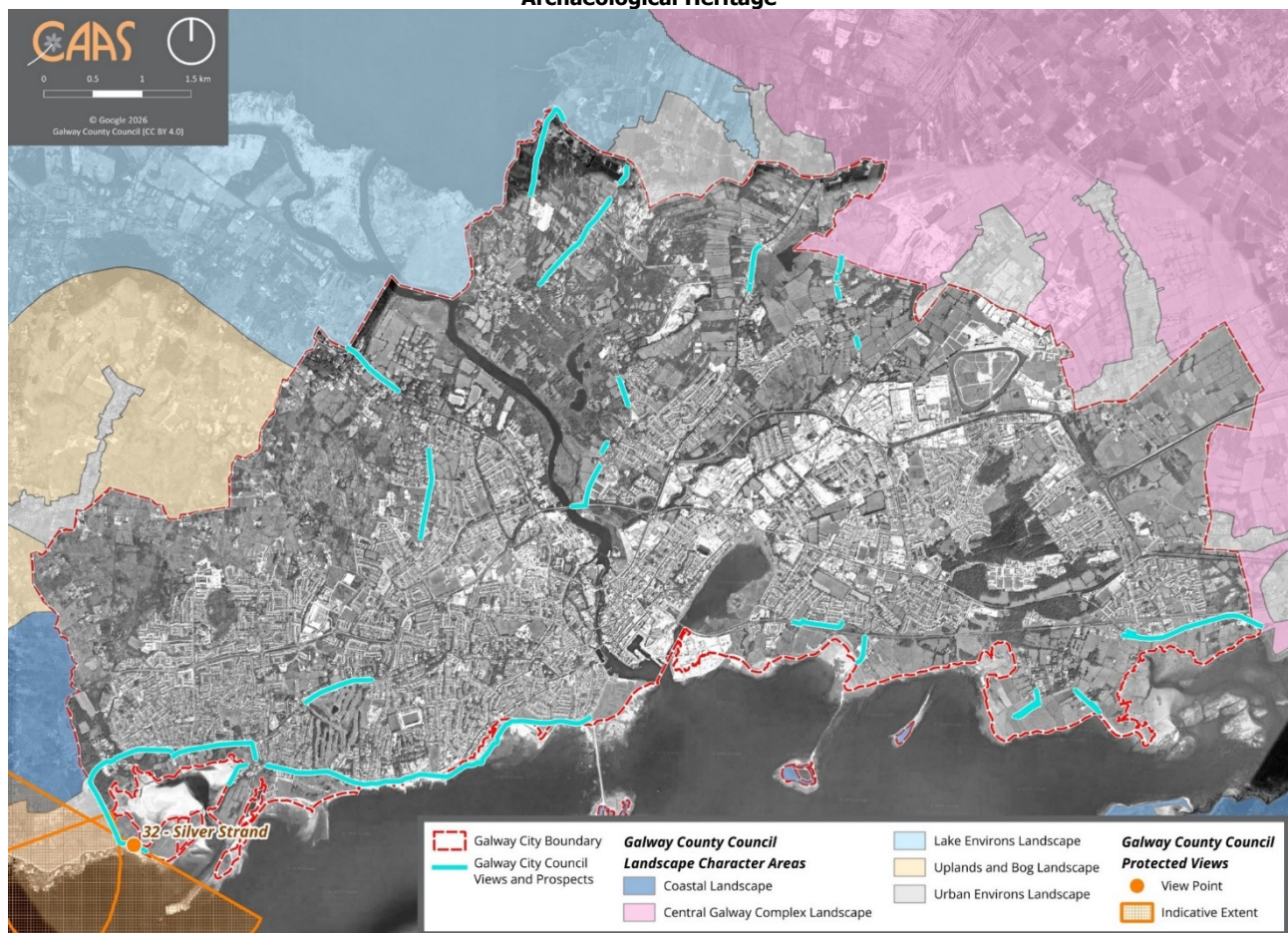
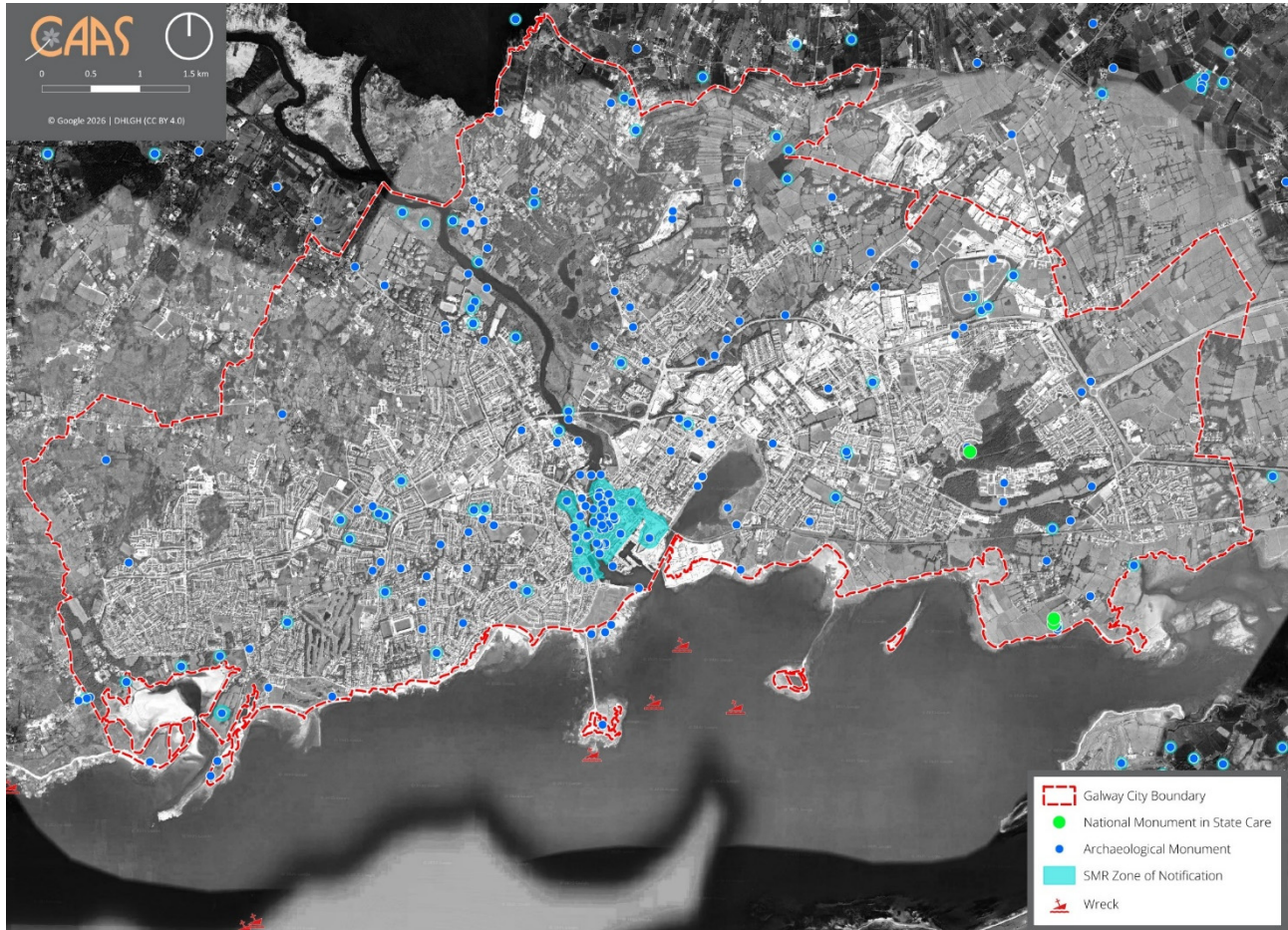


Figure 2.3 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (3 of 3)

Table 2.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Existing Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

Topic	Mitigating measures from the Existing Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029, including:
Various – see below	Policy 1.1 United Nations Sustainability Goals Policy 1.2 National and Regional framework Policy 1.3 Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) Policy 1.4 Core Strategy Policy 2.4. Sustainable Building Design and Construction Policy 3.3. Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept Policy 3.7 City Centre Residential Areas Policy 4.1. General Policy 4.2 Land Use and Transportation Policy 5.5 Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way Policy 5.10 Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands Policy 10.1 City Centre Policy 10.2 Strategic Regeneration and Opportunity Sites Policy 10.3 Salthill Policy 10.4 Westside Policy 10.5 Ardaun Policy 10.6 Murrrough
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and Landscape. Policy 5.1. Green Network and Biodiversity Policy 5.2. Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance Policy 5.3 Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways Policy 5.4 Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees Policy 9.7 Light Pollution
Population and human health	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors. Policy 9.5 Safe Environment - Control of Major Accident Hazards Directive (Seveso III Directive)
Soil	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water and Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna.
Water	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets. Policy 9.1 Flood Risk Policy 9.2 Water Quality Policy 9.4 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)
Air and Climatic Factors	Also refer to the overall approach to land use zoning and sustainable mobility provided by the Plan. Policy 2.2 Climate Action Policy 2.3 Renewable Energy Policy 4.3 Public Transport Policy 4.4 Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle Policy 4.5 Transport Demand Management Measures Policy 4.6 Road and Street Network and Accessibility Policy 4.8 Low Emission Infrastructure Policy 9.6 Air Quality and Noise
Material Assets	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and Climatic Factors and various Land Use provisions. Policy 2.1 Circular Economy Policy 9.3 Water Services Policy 9.8 Waste Management Policy 9.10 Energy and Associated Infrastructure
Cultural Heritage	Policy 8.1 Record of Protected Structures Policy 8.2 Architectural Conservation Areas Policy 8.3 Vernacular Heritage Policy 8.4 Archaeology Policy 8.5 Industrial Archaeology Policy 8.6 Galway City Walls
Landscape	Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage Policy 8.7 Urban Design and Placemaking Policy 5.7 Community Spaces: Protected Views of Special Amenity Value and Interest

2.8 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not fully integrated

Against the advice of the Executive, the Members decided to adopt certain Proposed Material Alterations as part of the Variation. Alterations that were adopted and that did not fully integrate environmental considerations into the Variation, together with the advice to Members provided in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Alterations on public display and/or relevant Chief Executive's Reports, are detailed in Table 2.2. In addition, Appendix I also provides some information on the Members' decisions relating to some alterations (including identifying which alterations were modified) and the reasons for some decisions.

Table 2.2 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not fully integrated into the Variation

Proposed Material Alteration(s) ¹ and Description of Effects	Member Decision
Site: 9b Location: Roscam Proposed Variation: Agriculture High Amenity (G) Proposed Material Alteration: Residential (R), with Specific Objective: Rezone to R for development of maximum 3 units subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development. In relation to this Proposed Material Alteration, the Chief Executive has identified that: "The required connection to water and wastewater services is noted and it is acknowledged that the extension of the network in the area would provide opportunity to connect for existing properties. However, having regard to the lack of other services including public lighting and footpaths and principles of Compact Growth outlined in NSO 1 of the NPF, it is recommended that the Variation is made without this proposed Material Alteration." Taking into account the above, including compact growth requirements, this proposal would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary significant adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including: • Efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society; • Carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; • Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and disturbance and displacement of species. • Soil hydrogeological and ecological function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces; • The economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure, including transport and water services infrastructure (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts); • The status of surface and groundwater bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value); • Human health if effects arise from environmental vectors. • Cultural heritage, including unknown archaeology; • Landscape, with associated visual impacts. There would be a relatively high level of unnecessary residual negative effects as effects would not be easily mitigated and/or avoided.	Make Variation with Proposed Material Alteration

¹ Refer to Proposed Material Alterations document for description of Proposed Material Alterations.

Proposed Material Alteration(s) ¹ and Description of Effects	Member Decision
Site: 10a Location: Roscam Proposed Variation: Agriculture (A) Proposed Material Alteration: Residential (R), with Specific Objective: Rezone to R for a maximum 3 units subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development. In relation to this Proposed Material Alteration, the Chief Executive has identified that: “The required connection to water and wastewater services is noted and it is acknowledged that the extension of the network in the area would provide opportunity to connect for existing properties. However, having regard to the lack of other services including public lighting and footpaths and principles of Compact Growth outlined in NSO 1 of the NPF, it is recommended that the Variation is made without this proposed Material Alteration.” Taking into account the above, including compact growth requirements, this proposal would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary significant adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including: • Efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society; • Carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; • Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and disturbance and displacement of species. • Soil hydrogeological and ecological function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces; • The economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure, including transport and water services infrastructure (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts); • The status of surface and groundwater bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value); • Human health if effects arise from environmental vectors. • Cultural heritage, including unknown archaeology; • Landscape, with associated visual impacts. There would be a relatively high level of unnecessary residual negative effects as effects would not be easily mitigated and/or avoided.	Make Variation with Proposed Material Alteration
Site: 10b Location: Roscam Proposed Variation: Agriculture (A). Proposed Material Alteration: Residential (R), with Specific Objective: Rezone to R for a maximum of 12 units, subject to connection to water and wastewater services and subject to proper planning and sustainable development. In relation to this Proposed Material Alteration, the Chief Executive has identified that: “The required connection to water and wastewater services is noted and it is acknowledged that the extension of the network in the area would provide opportunity to connect for existing properties. However, having regard to the principles of Compact Growth outlined in NSO 1 of the NPF, it is recommended that the Variation is made without this proposed Material Alteration.” Taking into account the above, including compact growth requirements, this proposal would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary significant adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including: • Efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society; • Carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; • Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss	Make Variation with Proposed Material Alteration

Proposed Material Alteration(s) ¹ and Description of Effects	Member Decision
of/damage to biodiversity, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and disturbance and displacement of species. • Soil hydrogeological and ecological function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces; • The economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure, including transport and water services infrastructure (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts); • The status of surface and groundwater bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value); • Human health if effects arise from environmental vectors. • Cultural heritage, including unknown archaeology; • Landscape, with associated visual impacts. There would be a relatively high level of unnecessary residual negative effects as effects would not be easily mitigated and/or avoided.	
Site: 10c Location: Roscam Proposed Variation: Agriculture (A). Proposed Material Alteration: Residential (R2) , with Specific Objective: Rezone to R2 for a maximum of one unit subject to proper planning and sustainable development. In relation to this Proposed Material Alteration, the Chief Executive has identified that: “It is noted that the proposal is to allow for one additional unit subject to site suitability assessment. Having regard to the lack of available services, including footpaths, lighting and the rural character of the area, it is recommended that the Variation is made without this proposed Material Alteration.” Taking into account the above, including compact growth requirements, this proposal would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary significant adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including: • Efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society; • Carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; • Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and disturbance and displacement of species. • Soil hydrogeological and ecological function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces; • The economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure, including transport and water services infrastructure (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts); • The status of surface and groundwater bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value); • Human health if effects arise from environmental vectors. • Cultural heritage, including unknown archaeology; • Landscape, with associated visual impacts. There would be a relatively high level of unnecessary residual negative effects as effects would not be easily mitigated and/or avoided. Furthermore, and as identified in the Chief Executive’s Report following public consultation on the Proposed Material Alterations: “A submission from the DHLGH provided information including the following with respect to Site 10c that was subject of a Material Alteration: “The Department has serious concerns that the proposal to rezone and ultimately develop these lands as R2 Residential would have a significant and unjustified negative impact on the setting and amenity of the archaeological complex that forms the National Monument.”	Make Variation with Proposed Material Alteration, subject to minor modification

Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions/ Observations

3.1 Introduction

This section details how both the Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to Galway City Council on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the Variation and the SEA.

3.2 SEA Scoping Notices and Submissions

As part of the SEA scoping process, environmental authorities² were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report could be made to the Council.

A detailed submission was received from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The issues raised in this submission and how these issues have been taken into account during preparation of the Variation and the SEA are provided on Table 3.1 below. Taking into account the submission from the Environmental Protection Agency environmental considerations were integrated into the Variation, including through the selection of Plan provisions identified on Table 2.1.

² The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment; Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and Galway County Council.

Table 3.1 Taking into account SEA Scoping Submissions

No.	Submission text	Response
1	Submission from Environmental Protection Agency	
A	We acknowledge your notice, dated 31st March 2026, in relation to the Proposed Material Alterations (the 'Alterations') to Proposed Variation No. 2 (the 'Variation') to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029. In our role as an SEA environmental authority under the SEA Regulations, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into plans and programmes ¹ and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan or programme. Our functions do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans or programmes.	Noted.
B	As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via our guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use plans. In finalising your SEA screening determination, we suggest that you take this guidance document into account and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the plan or programme.	The 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' document has been considered throughout the SEA process.
C	SEA Determination If a proposed SEA determination hasn't been made regarding the plan or programme, you should determine whether implementing the plan or programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2 (S.I. No. 456 of 2025) or Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended), as appropriate, set out the 'Criteria for determining whether a Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' to use to determine whether the plan or programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Guidance on the SEA process, including an SEA pack and checklist, is available on our website at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-resources-and-guidance/. We recommend that you take the available guidance into account in making your SEA Screening Determination and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the plan or programme. EPA SEA Screening Guidance Our Good Practice Guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening (EPA, 2021) provides specific stand-alone guidance to assist plan or programme makers and SEA practitioners. It focuses primarily on plans/programmes in the non-land use sector in Ireland and includes an elaboration of the steps needed for screening, the legislative landscape underpinning SEA screening, and step-by-step process and templates to assist in preparing the required documentation.	Screening for SEA was undertaken in advance of public consultation on the Proposed Variation No. 2. It was determined that SEA was not required. All Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 were subject to Screening for SEA and it was determined that SEA was required for Proposed Material Alterations to Sites 1, 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c. The available EPA guidance and resources was taken into account throughout the Screening for SEA processes.
D	Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Planning Authorities The Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022) provides advice on carrying out SEA in the land-use planning sector. These plans comprise regional, county and local plans, including Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, County or City Development Plans, variations of Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes for Strategic Development Zones. The Guidelines replace previous guidance for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities published in 2004. EPA SEA WebGIS Tool Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now available at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA. It allows an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area to be produced. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises. Catchments.ie Our https://www.catchments.ie/maps/ website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.	The cited guidelines/guidance and resources were taken into account throughout the SEA processes.

No.	Submission text	Response
	Available Guidance & Resources Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including: - SEA process guidance and checklists; - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA; - Topic and sector specific SEA guidance (including SEA and Integration Guidance (EPA, 2025), Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012)). You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/	
E	Environmental Monitoring You're referred to the Environmental Monitoring set out in Table 7.1 of the National Planning Framework – First Revision SEA Statement. This monitoring should be reflected, where relevant and appropriate, in the context of future, environmental monitoring and related reporting associated with the revised CDP implementation.	Noted. These the First Revision to the NPF and associated environmental assessments have been taken into account in the undertaking of the SEA and the cited effects are taken into account in these assessments as relevant and appropriate. Appropriate monitoring measures and associated information are cited in the SEA Environmental Report for the existing County Development Plan. When the County Development Plan is being reviewed, information relating to monitoring programmes will be considered and will inform the SEA and the review.
	Sustainable Development In proposing and in implementing the plan or programme, you should ensure that the plan or programme is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the plan or programme. In considering the plan or programme, you should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans. You should also ensure that the plan or programme aligns with any key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. The Plan should also align with the OPW's 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (OPW, 2009), as relevant and appropriate, in the zoning and development of lands.	These comments will be taken into account by the SEA and Variation process. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan as varied aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan as varied provides for adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.
	Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024 In 2024, the EPA published the latest iteration of our 4-yearly State of the Environment Report. This report should be considered, and relevant aspects integrated as appropriate, in implementing the Variation outputs/ recommendations. It is available at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-environment-report/.	The recommendations, key issues and challenges described within the current version of Ireland's Environment will be considered in the preparation of the Plan and SEA.
	Future amendments to the plan or programme Where changes to the plan or programme are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the plan or programme are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 2 (S.I. No. 456 of 2025) or Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended) of the SEA Regulations, as appropriate.	All amendments to the Plan were considered with respect to the cited legislative requirements.
	Appropriate Assessment You should ensure that the plan or programme complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant. Where an Appropriate Assessment is required, the key findings and recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the plan or programme. EPA AA GeoTool Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at:	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken for the original Proposed Variation No. 2 and it was determined that Stage 2 AA was not required. The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA) derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or

No.	Submission text	Response
	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool .	programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European Site in view of its conservation objectives. Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation were subject to Screening for AA and it was determined that Stage 2 AA was not required.
I	Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, prior to making your SEA determination you should consult with: • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, • Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment; and, • Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine. For land use plans covered under S.I. No. 456 of 2025, you should also consult with: • any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.	Notice has been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA scoping process.
	SEA Determination As soon as practicable after making your determination as to whether SEA is required or not, you should make a copy of your decision, including, if appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection in your offices and on your website. You should also send a copy of your determination to the relevant environmental authorities consulted.	The SEA determinations and associated documentation were made available as required.
J	If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.	None.

3.3 Submissions on the Environmental Report for the Proposed Variation

Various submissions were made on the Proposed Variation, Proposed Material Alterations and/or associated environmental assessment documents, including the SEA Environmental Report and AA/SFRA documents, while these documents were on public display.

The following updates made to the SEA Environmental Report (and corresponding parts of the associated Non-Technical Summary, as relevant) were on foot of submissions:

1. To add the following text to Section 4.12 "Cultural Heritage" of the SEA Environmental Report:

"A submission from the DHLGH provided information including the following with respect to Site 10c that was subject of a Material Alteration:

These lands are contiguous to a complex of Recorded Monuments comprising the following:

GA094-072001- (Church)
GA094-072002- (Ecclesiastical enclosure)
GA094-072003- (Graveyard)
GA094-072004- (Round tower)
GA094-072005- (Graveslab)
GA094-072006- (Graveslab)
GA094-072007- (Holed stone)
GA094-072008- (Bullaun stone)
GA094-072009- (Bullaun stone)

All are subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.

Additionally, this complex of monuments is considered to be of national importance and is thus a designated National Monument in the ownership of the State (National Monument No. 46).

The southern boundary of the lands proposed for rezoning forms part of the northern enclosing element of the National Monument and is itself part of the complex and considered to be archaeologically significant."

2. To add the following text to Section 8.6 "Assessment Against SEA Framework" of the SEA Environmental Report:

"A submission from the DHLGH provided information including the following with respect to Site 10c that was subject of a Material Alteration:

"The Department has serious concerns that the proposal to rezone and ultimately develop these lands as R2 Residential would have a significant and unjustified negative impact on the setting and amenity of the archaeological complex that forms the National Monument."

Following public consultation on Proposed Material Alterations, taking into account the submissions received, The Proposed Material Alteration to Site No. 1 was not made as part of the Variation, with zoning as per the original Proposed Variation made as part of the Variation for this site. Proposed Material Alterations to Sites 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c were made as part of the Variation, with/without minor modification following public consultation on the Proposed Material Alterations.

For further information on how submissions were considered, refer to the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Proposed Variation and associated documents and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Proposed Material Alterations and associated documentation – both available at <https://consult.galwaycity.ie/>

All parts of the Variation-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

3.4 SEA documents including SEA Environmental Report

Screening for SEA was undertaken in advance of public consultation on the Proposed Variation No. 2. It was determined that SEA was not required.

All Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 were subject to Screening for SEA and it was determined that SEA was required for Proposed Material Alterations to Sites 1, 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c.

The findings of the SEA were expressed in an Environmental Report which was subject to public consultation alongside the Proposed Material Alterations.

The Proposed Material Alteration to Site No. 1 was not made as part of the Variation, with zoning as per the original Proposed Variation made as part of the Variation for this site. Proposed Material Alterations to Sites 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c were made as part of the Variation, with/without minor modification following public consultation on the Proposed Material Alterations.

Galway City Council have been provided with the findings of the SEA during their consideration of the Variation and before the Variation was made.

Section 4 Summary of Alternatives considered

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, or variation to these) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Summaries of the alternatives and their assessment are provided below.

4.2 Alternatives Description and Assessment Summary

Alternative 1 (Proposed Variation Zoning for Sites 1, 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c)

As detailed in the Screening for SEA Report prepared for Proposed Variation No. 2, the Proposed Variation has been examined, including against relevant criteria set out in the SEA Regulations, as amended.

The Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 has been subject to full SEA, which identified various environmental effects arising from implementation of the Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. Proposed Variation No. 2 would contribute towards the proper planning and sustainable development of the city and the consequential environmental effects that have been identified by the SEA for the existing Plan.

Taking into account the measures that have already been integrated into the existing Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from Proposed Variation No. 2, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Taking into account all of the above, Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

Alternative 2 (Proposed Material Alteration Zoning for Sites 1, 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c)

Alternative 2 would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary significant adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:

- Efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society;
- Carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives;
- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and disturbance and displacement of species.
- Soil hydrogeological and ecological function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces;
- The economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure, including transport and water services infrastructure (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts);
- The status of surface and groundwater bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value);
- Human health if effects arise from environmental vectors.
- Cultural heritage, including unknown archaeology;

- Landscape, with associated visual impacts.

There would be a relatively high level of unnecessary residual negative effects as effects would not be easily mitigated and/or avoided.

4.3 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

The selected alternative that emerged from the planning/SEA process for the original Proposed Variation No. 2 was Alternative 1 (Proposed Variation Zoning for Sites 1, 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c).

This alternative was placed on public display having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which were identified by the SEA and are summarised above; and
2. Planning – including social and economic – effects that also were considered.

Proposed Material Alterations were agreed subsequently and these were considered as Alternative 2 (Proposed Material Alteration zoning for Sites 1, 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c) as detailed above.

The Proposed Material Alteration to Site No. 1 was not made as part of the Variation, with zoning as per the original Proposed Variation (Alternative 1) made as part of the Variation for this site.

Proposed Material Alterations to Sites 9b, 10a, 10b and 10c (Alternative 2) were made as part of the Variation, with/without minor modification following public consultation on the Proposed Material Alterations.

Section 5 Monitoring Measures

5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, as varied.

Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan, as varied, and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

The occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects not predicted and mitigated by this assessment, which are directly attributable to the implementation of the Plan, as varied, would necessitate consideration of these effects in the context of the Plan and potential remediation action(s) and/or review of part(s) of the Plan, as varied.

5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in the SEA Environmental Report and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. The monitoring measures identified below are consistent with the measures that were identified by the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 SEA. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

Table 5.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Variation, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to

deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

5.3 Sources

The Variation will be integrated into the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework, Northern and Western RSES, and the existing Development Plan, as varied, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. Individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

In implementing the Monitoring Programme, the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring.

Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council would provide monitoring of certain indicators on a *grant of permission*³ basis. Where significant adverse effects as a result of the development to be permitted are identified, such effects could be identified, recorded and used to inform monitoring evaluation.

³ The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. Documenting any identified effects as a result of a development to be permitted can help to fulfill monitoring requirements.

5.4 Reporting

Reporting will be undertaken as part of reporting on the City Development Plan monitoring programme. A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan as varied will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Development Plan. This report will address indicators consistent with those set out on Table 5.1.

The results of monitoring will directly inform future statutory reviews and variations of the City Development Plan, ensuring an adaptive and evidence-based approach to environmental management.

The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 5.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁴
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	Condition of European sites	- Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species - Confirmation of compliance with Plan provisions relating to the protection of European Sites and sustaining resources	- DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)⁵ - DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 6 years)⁶ - Internal review of local land use plans - Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
		Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted	Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species	Internal review of local land use plans	Review internal systems
		SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.	Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.	Internal review of new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. under the City Development Plan	Review internal systems
		Status of water bodies	Included under Water below	Included under Water below	Included under Water below
		Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see City Development Plan Chapter 5 “Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity”	For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see City Development Plan Chapter 5 “Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity”	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	PHH	Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by City Development Plan Chapter 6 “Economy, Enterprise and Retail”	Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by City Development Plan Chapter 6 “Economy, Enterprise and Retail”	Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	- Review internal systems - Consultations with DCEE
		Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan	- Review of published information from the Health Service Executive and EPA - Internal consultations with the	Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA

⁴ Where remedial action is required, consultations with government agencies (e.g. DCEE, DT, EPA, HSE, NPWS, Regional Assembly, Uisce Éireann) may be undertaken in order to confirm causes of any identified changes in the environment and in order to develop appropriate responses.

⁵ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

⁶ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

SEA Statement for Variation No. 2 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁴
				Council's Environment Department	
		Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	- Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel	- CSO data - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DCEE and NTA to develop a tailored response.
		Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping	Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping	Internal review of local land use plans	Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	S	Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets)	- As per the revised NPF, to limit the rate of increase land that is sealed or artificialised per year and promote the reversal of this in suitable areas e.g., flood zones, high density areas - In compliance with the Revised NPF, deliver at 50% of all new homes that are targeted in Galway City and suburbs its existing built-up footprint and ensure compact and sequential patterns of growth - To map brownfield and infill land parcels	- EPA Geoportal - Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH - Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
		Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of	Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements	Internal review of development management / grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of	Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
		Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission	Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Review internal systems
Water	W	Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD	- Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive, not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' - Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan	EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance⁷	- Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Uisce Éireann to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. - Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
		Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas	Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk

⁷ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁴
					Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	MA	- Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated - Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	- All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan - Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive - Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure - See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
		Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	- Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel	- CSO data - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DCEE and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	A	- Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels - NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), PM₁₀ (particulate matter with diameter of 10 microns or less) and O₃ (Ozone) as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring	- Decrease in proportion of journeys made by car compared to previous levels - Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel	- CSO data - EPA Air Quality Monitoring - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DCEE and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	C	Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets	For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Review internal systems
		A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy	Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050	Confirmation of progress in implementing of Galway City Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		Share of renewable energy in transport	Contribute towards the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 sectoral target for transport (RES-T) of 14%, by 2030 (this may be increased following a provisional European agreement on 30 March 2023 for a binding overall RES target of at least	- EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions reporting - Internal review of implementation of Plan provisions	

SEA Statement for Variation No. 2 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁴
			42.5% by 2030)	relating to renewable energy in transport, including facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure	
		Greenhouse gas emissions	Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 51% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 (helping to set Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by 2050)		
		Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating	To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating		
		Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels	- Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the settlements using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel	- CSO data - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	- Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel	- CSO data - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DCEE and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Cultural Heritage	CH	Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where monitoring reveals visitor or development pressure is causing negative effects on designated archaeological or architectural heritage, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and the National Monuments Service and other stakeholders, as relevant, to address pressures through additional mitigation.
		Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	
Landscape	L	Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation