



**STATEMENT OF REASONS
WITH REGARD TO A DRAFT DIRECTION
IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 31
OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)
WESTPORT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030**

5 July 2024

As Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 ('the Act') and having carefully considered a recommendation from the Office of the Planning Regulator ('the Office') under section 31AP(1) of the Act, I advise that:

- (1) I have issued a Draft Direction on the Westport Local Area Plan 2024-2030 in respect of Recommendation 2) a) (i), Recommendation 2) a) (ii), and Recommendation 2) a) (iv) of the Office, received on 21st June 2024.
- (2) I have decided not to issue a Draft Direction in relation to Recommendation 2) a) (iii) and Recommendation 2) b) of the Office, which if accepted, would alter the 'Strategic Residential Reserve' zoning objective that applies to two areas of land located off the Lodge Road in the townland of Monamore, contrary to the decision of the elected members of Mayo County Council.

In accordance with section 31AP(1)(b) of the Act, my reasons for not issuing a Draft Direction in respect of the aforementioned recommendations are set out below:

1. The subject lands are contiguous to the urban environment of Westport, being located in close proximity to existing residential development and employment zoned lands, and would serve to consolidate the existing pattern of development in this area of Westport.

Accordingly, the zoning of these lands for Strategic Residential Reserve is reasonable in the circumstances.

Alan Dillon TD
Minister of State for Local Government and Planning