



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

25th October 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') made under section 31AP(4) of the Act, I advise that:

- (1) I have issued a Direction on the Westport Local Area Plan 2024-2030 in respect of Recommendations 2) a) (i) and 2) a) (ii) of the Office, received on 16th September 2024.
- (2) I have decided not to issue a Direction in relation to Recommendation 2) a) (iii) of the Office (i.e. Material Alteration MA 39), which if accepted, would alter the 'Strategic Residential Reserve' zoning objective that applies to an area of land located in the townlands of Ardmore and Carrownalurgan.

In accordance with section 31AP(4A) of the Act, my reasons for not issuing a Direction in respect of the aforementioned recommendation are set out below:

1. The subject lands benefit from access to services including water services, sewer and sustainable travel infrastructure, are located in proximity to existing facilities including educational and community facilities. It would serve to provide for residential development over the longer term, having regard to the need for sufficient strategic residential reserve opportunities in 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