

18th December 2024

Senior Planner,
Galway County Council,
Prospect Hill,
Galway,
H91 H6KX.

Re: Adopted Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030

A chara,

The Office of the Planning Regulator (the Office) acknowledges the adoption of the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030 (the Local Area Plan) by the members of Galway County Council on 15th July 2024.

The Office also acknowledges receipt of your notice letter dated 22nd July 2024, further to section 31AO(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act).

The Office has reviewed the adopted Local Area Plan, and notes the decision of Galway County Council (Planning Authority) not to comply, in whole or in part, with one or more of the recommendations included in its submission at material alterations stage.

Where the recommendations of the Office were not complied with, the Office gave careful consideration to the reasons of elected members and, with the exception of certain specific matters which are the subject of the recent recommendation to the Minister in respect to the proposed draft Direction, accepted that these reasons addressed the matters raised by the Office.

As you will be aware, the matter is now to be determined by the Minister under section 31 of the Act.

With the exception of the specific matters raised in the 31AO(7) notice, the Office is generally satisfied with the manner in which its recommendations and observations have been addressed during the plan preparation process.

In conclusion, the Office generally welcomes the adoption of the Local Area Plan and looks forward to continued positive engagement with the Planning Authority into the future.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AM O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a diagonal slash at the end.

Anne Marie O'Connor

Deputy Regulator and Director of Plans Evaluations
