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**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

EXR\24902132.2

16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**To: Whom It May Concern.**

**Re: Galway Transport Strategy**

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**A Chara,**

An Appropriate Assessment Screening decision regarding the above referenced Galway Transport Strategy has been made by Galway County Council under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended); and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) ("Habitats Regulations"). This decision has been informed by a Provision of Information for Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (dated - 7th April, 2016) prepared by RPS Group Ltd.

This screening report has examined the likely significant effects of the Galway Transport Strategy on European Sites, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of European Sites. The report sets out the nature of the Galway Transport Strategy and assesses any potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts of the Galway Transport Strategy on European Sites.

Having reviewed and considered this screening report and the screening for Appropriate Assessment of Galway City Council in accordance with Article 42(21) of the Habitats Regulations, Galway County Council has been able to conclude and make this determination for the following reasons:-

- i. Galway City Council carried out a screening for Appropriate Assessment which adequately identified all of the relevant issues for consideration;
- ii. Galway County Council has all relevant information for the purpose of this determination on the Galway Transport Strategy;
- iii. it is possible to rule out the likelihood of significant effects to a number of European sites arising from the Galway Transport Strategy individually or in combination with other plans or projects in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the sites, and there is no doubt in that conclusion, however;
- iv. it is not possible to rule out the likelihood of significant effects to all of the relevant European sites and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC is required.

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## Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Therefore it is the view Galway County Council, in relying on (i) the Provision of Information for Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared by RPS and (ii) the decision of Galway City Council dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 (namely that an Appropriate Assessment should be carried out), for the reason that it is not possible to rule out likely significant effects arising from the GTS on European Sites, and that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the Galway Transport Strategy.

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Mise, le meas,

  
A/Director of Services,

Planning, Community, Enterprise and Economic Development



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Roads, Transportation, Marine & General Services