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## Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

### Galway Transport Strategy

#### Appropriate Assessment Concluding Statement & Determination

In accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Section 42 (1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the Galway Transport Strategy (hereafter referred to as the GTS) was carried out by Galway City Council and Galway County Council respectively which determined that Appropriate Assessment (AA) was required.

This AA Determination has been informed by the content of the GTS documents which includes a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which was prepared for the GTS, as required under Section 42 (9) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011). The NIS is included in Appendix J of the GTS and presents an assessment of whether the GTS would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites (hereafter referred to as European Sites).

The examination, analysis and evaluation of the GTS's strategic objectives and aims, and the various proposed project elements underpinning them, is set out in Section 3 of the NIS and summarised in Chapter 9 of the GTS main report. The main body of the NIS presents a summary of the outcome of each stage of the assessment with the detailed assessments and supporting information presented in the Appendices to the NIS.

The GTS was subject to public consultation and submissions were received from members of the public and a number of Government departments and national bodies, including the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG)/Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRG). Two submissions were made: one by the DAHG on the 26th May 2016 (Galway Transport Strategy SEA); and, a second by the DAHRRG on the 26th July 2016 (FP2016/034).

Galway County Council examined, analysed and evaluated the appropriate assessment carried out by Galway City Council in relation to GTS (a copy of the concluding statement and determination of Galway City Council is attached). Galway County Council determines that the appropriate assessment carried out by Galway City Council adequately identifies all of the issues in light of the available information in relation to the GTS. Galway County Council are satisfied that it has all of the available information to carry out an appropriate assessment of the GTS.

Galway County Council have examined, analysed and evaluated the content of the GTS, including the data presented in the NIS, all relevant information, and the relevant third party submissions received relative to the GTS. Galway County Council are in agreement with the findings and conclusion in the NIS and the appropriate assessment concluding

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## Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

statement and reasons of Galway City Council that the GTS either alone or in combination with other plans or projects will not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site for the following reasons:-

- any plan or proposed project will have to adhere to the overarching policies and objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the Galway City Draft Development Plan 2017-2023, as dependent on the location of the specific plan or proposed project;
- national, regional or local plans contain specific policies, objectives, development standards and/or guidelines that will ensure the protection of European sites from adverse effects that could arise via any of the potential impact pathways;
- no adverse effects on European site integrity will arise from the specified proposed projects identified as part of the in-combination assessment, due to project-specific mitigation measures outlined in their respective EIS/NIS, where available; and
- no adverse effects on European site integrity will arise from the implementation of the GTS alone. This is due to the requirement of any project arising from the GTS to adhere to the mitigation measures for each of its potential impact pathways outlined in Section 3.2 of the NIS;
- Any public authority pursuant to Article 27(2) of 2011 Habitats Regulations is obliged to exercise its functions in compliance with the requirement of the Habitats Directive/Bird Directive and the 2011 Habitats Regulations.

Galway County Council have determined that, in light of best scientific knowledge, including in particular the nature of the predicted impacts that may arise from the GTS and with the implementation of the mitigation measures proposed therein, that the GTS does not pose a risk of adversely affecting the integrity of any European Sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

A/Director of Services,  
Planning, Community, Enterprise and Economic Development.

A/Director of Services,  
Roads, Transportation, Marine & General Services.

19<sup>th</sup> December 2016

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