

**DRAFT DIRECTION IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 31
OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended)
Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030**

“Local Area Plan” means the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

“Planning Authority” means Galway County Council.

“County Development Plan” means Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

“RSES” means the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (No.30 of 2000) (“the Act”), and consequent to a recommendation made to him by the Office of the Planning Regulator, hereby directs as follows:

- (1) This Direction may be cited as the Planning and Development (Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030) Direction 2024.
- (2) The Planning Authority is hereby directed to take the following step with regard to the Local Area Plan:
 - (a) Delete Material Alteration MA35 from the adopted Local Area Plan - i.e. the subject lands revert to unzoned from Community Facilities.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

- I. The Local Area Plan includes a material alteration to the draft Local Area Plan to zone land as Community Facilities located on the far side of the N65 national road with no existing or planned access by walking, cycling or public transport from Loughrea, inconsistent with the objectives of the RSES and County Development Plan for sustainable growth which prioritises connectivity by way of safe, secure walking and cycling routes and public transport (RPO 6.30 of the RSES and County Development Plan Policy Objectives PM 4 and PM 6), and supports the provision of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure for shorter local journeys (County Development Plan Policy Objectives GCTPS 4 and WC 4).

- II. The Local Area Plan includes a material alteration to zone land as Community Facilities adjoining the N65 national road which is inconsistent with RPO 6.5 of the RSES and Policy Objective NR 1 of the County Development Plan to protect the strategic capacity and safety of the national roads network and associated national road junctions, and fails to have regard to sections 2.4 and 2.7 of the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)
- III. The Local Area Plan has not been made in a manner consistent with, and has failed to implement, the recommendations of the Office of the Planning Regulator under section 31AO of the Act.
- IV. The Minister is of the opinion that the Local Area Plan as made is inconsistent with the objectives of the Development Plan of the area, which is a requirement of section 19(2) of the Act.
- V. The Minister is of the opinion that the Local Area Plan as made is not consistent with the objectives of the RSES, contrary to section 19(2) and section 27(1) of the Act.
- VI. The Minister is of the opinion that the Local Area Plan as made is not consistent with National Policy Objective 27 of the National Planning Framework.
- VII. The Minister is of the opinion that the Local Area Plan as made fails to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- VIII. The Local Area Plan is not in compliance with the requirements of the Act.

GIVEN under my Official Seal

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

[Day] of [Month], [Year]