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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Appropriate Assessment Determination under: the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

for:

Variation No. 2 (a) to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination has been made by Galway County Council regarding Variation No. 2 (a) to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.

The Planning and Development Act 2000, requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Variation No. 2 (a) to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 warrants the undertaking of AA. An AA determination [pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)] is being made by Galway County Council.

In carrying out this AA, the Council is taking into account the relevant matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including:

- The existing Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 (and associated NIR and SEA reports);
- Written submissions made on the Variation and associated documents while they were placed on public display;
- The SEA Statement and Determination; and
- The Natura Impact Report (which considers other plans and projects and has taken into account changes arising from submissions and observations received during public display).

It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of all European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures within Variation No. 2 (a) and those in the existing CDP. These prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and will reliably mitigate these effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Variation will themselves be subject to relevant stages of AA when further details of design and location are known.

Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is considered that Variation No. 2(a) to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 will not result in effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site¹.

Signed:

Valene Longmae-Jane
2.08.18

Signatory

Approved Officer

Barbara Dunne
2.8.2018

¹ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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