



Galway County Development Plan Review

Chief Executive's Report

on Pre-Draft Public Consultation Stage

October 2020

**Submitted to Elected Members in accordance with Section 11 (4)
of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council**



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1. Introduction and Overview of Pre-Draft Consultation Report

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this Chief Executive's Report is to provide a description of the Pre-Draft public consultation undertaken for the review of the Galway County Development Plan and preparation of a new County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Chief Executive's Report consists of four sections as follows:

Section 1: Provides an introduction and overview of the report and details the legislative background and requirements for same.

Section 2: Outlines the consultation that was undertaken during the Pre-Draft consultation phase of the review.

Section 3:

- Outlines the issues raised within the written submissions received during the Pre-Draft consultation phase and the Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations on them:
 - The Office of Planning Regulator and Northern Western Regional Assembly followed by;
 - All other valid submissions received

This report forms part of the statutory procedure for the preparation of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and is being submitted to the Elected Members of Galway County Council for their consideration.

1.2 Legislative Requirements for the Development Plan

The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements of National and European legislation relevant for planning and development, including the following:

- Section 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended);
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (as amended), Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC, the Environmental Liability Directive, Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC, Directive on Bathing Water 2006/7/EC, EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive 2008/50/EC, the EU Flood Directive 2007/60/EC, EU Aarhus Convention and associated national legislation;
- Requirements under the SEA Directive and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004-2011 in relation to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) including Article 8 (Decision Making) of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as amended;
- Requirements under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive, the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 in relation to Appropriate Assessment (AA).



In accordance with Section 9(6) and Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a Development Plan shall be consistent with such national plans, policies or strategies, namely the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

Under Section 10(1A) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), requires a Core Strategy which shows that the development objectives in the Development Plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives as set out in the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (as per Act).

The Galway County Development Plan must also have regard to Ministerial Guidelines under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009, the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009 and the Retail Planning Guidelines 2012.

In accordance with Section 11(4) (f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), states that the Elected Members when performing their functions shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In compliance with the *Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)* and in accordance with Article 7(13B) of the *Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004)* (as amended), the Planning Authority proposes to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as part of the review of the existing Development Plan and preparation of a new Development Plan. The provisions of Article 7 (13C to 13J) of *Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004)* (as amended) shall also apply. Pursuant to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), an Appropriate Assessment shall be carried out as part of the County Development Plan making process.

A Housing Strategy and a Housing Need Demand Assessment are also being prepared as part of the County Development Plan process which must be consistent with the population targets in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region and as set out in the Core Strategy of the new County Development Plan S. 10 (2A) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

1.3 Statutory Contents of the Chief Executive's Report

The legislative requirements of the Chief Executive's Report are set out in Section 11(4) (b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended), and are as follows:

- (a) List the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations as well as any persons or bodies consulted by the authority.
- (b) Summarise the issues raised in the submissions and during the consultations, where appropriate, but the report shall not refer to a submission relating to a request or proposal for zoning of particular land for any purpose.
- (c) Give the opinion of the Chief Executive to the issues raised, taking account of:
 - the proper planning and sustainable development of the area,
 - the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area, and

Section 11(4) Chief Executive's Report



- any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government and
- (d) State the Chief Executive's recommendation on the policies to be included in the draft development plan.
- (e) Summarise the issues raised and the recommendations made by the Regional Assembly for the Northern and Western Region in a report prepared in accordance with Section 27A (as per Act) and outline the recommendations of the Chief Executive in relation to the manner in which those issues and recommendations should be addressed in the Draft Development Plan.



2. Pre-Draft Public Consultation Process

2.1 Pre-Draft Public Consultation

The Pre-Draft Public Consultation Stage for the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 took place from the 18th June 2020 to the 10th September 2020. This period of public consultation included the additional four-week period that the Local Authority considered was warranted considering COVID19 restrictions.

Formal notice of the commencement of the review of the existing Plan and the preparation of a new Galway County Development Plan was advertised in the Connacht Tribune on 18th June 2020 and on Galway Bay FM. The Planning Authority also issued notifications via Galway County Council's twitter and Facebook accounts. A specific webpage documenting the process of the preparation of the new Plan was also launched on Galway County Council's website www.galway.ie/cdpreview. This webpage provided the public notification including the legislative context for preparing the Development Plan, the facility to make submissions on the Plan by email or online and the stages involved are updated as appropriate on the webpage.

Notification was also issued to the Statutory/Prescribed Bodies, a list of which is contained in Appendix 1. In addition, a public notice was issued to Environmental Authorities, organisations and service providers prescribed under Section 11(3) (c) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended), and also to local organisations of which it was deemed relevant to consult as indicated in Appendix 2. A list of valid submissions is provided in Appendix 3 of this Report.

As part of the Pre-Draft Consultation Stage, the Council published an Issues Paper and a series of video clips to encourage public participation in the preparation of the new Galway County Development Plan.

The video clips were available to view on Galway County Council's website and also on social media platforms. These video clips covered the following topics:

- Jobs and Infrastructure;
- Agriculture and Renewable Energy;
- An Gaeltacht; and
- Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.

The Issues Paper was intended to prompt discussion in order to hear the views of the local community on what they perceived to be the vision for County Galway and what are the strategic issues facing the County. The main themes were:

- Core Strategy and Housing
- Urban Living and Placemaking
- Rural Place Making and the Countryside
- Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development
- Infrastructure and Transport
- Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications
- Architectural and Archaeological Heritage
- Social, Community and Cultural Development
- The Galway Gaeltacht
- Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure
- Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry



Copies of the Issues Paper including explanatory information regarding the Development Plan process and information regarding the making of submissions was placed on public display in Áras an Chontae, in the Local Authority's Area Offices, and in the County Library Network. The preparation of the Issues Paper was notified by public advertisements and was also made available to download from www.galway.ie/cdpreview

2.2 Public Information Events and Meetings

Given the Covid 19 restrictions, it has not been possible to schedule public consultation events during the Pre-Draft Public Consultation Stage. The Forward Planning Policy Unit had been available to take calls and reply to emails throughout this period to assist with any queries on the process and on the making of a submission. In addition, planning staff had been available to meet on Wednesday afternoons by appointment only for pre-arranged meetings in County Hall. These meetings were scheduled for 15 minute periods in duration to ensure compliance with Covid 19 guidance.

During this period the Planning Authority utilised social media platforms by providing a series of updates including video clips of the strategic issues facing the county to ensure the public were both kept informed and encouraged to engage in the process. These social media posts reached a total of 36,009 people.

2.3 Other Relevant Meetings Regarding the Development Plan Process

A meeting was also held with representatives of the Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee on the 17th July 2020 in order to engage and discuss the development plan making process and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

Several meetings took place with relevant departments of the Local Authority to discuss their respective priorities for the forthcoming County Development Plan.

A consultation also took place with the Office of the Planning Regulator on the 30th June 2020 to discuss strategic and legislative issues.

2.4 Chief Executive's Report Including Procedure Following the Preparation of the Chief Executive's Report

This Chief Executive's Report has been prepared on the submissions received during the Pre-draft public display period from 18th June 2020 to 10th September 2020 in accordance with S.11(2) and S.11(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Report is submitted to the Elected Members of this Authority for their consideration, in accordance with Section 11(4)(c) (as per Act).

Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report, the Elected Members of the Planning Authority may issue directions to the Chief Executive regarding the preparation of the Draft Galway County Development Plan. Any such directions must be strategic in nature, consistent with the Core Strategy and shall take account of the statutory obligations of any Local Authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government. The Chief Executive shall comply with any such directions. In issuing directions, Section 11(4)(f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), states that the Elected Members



when performing their functions shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the Development Plan relates. Directions must be issued not later than 10 weeks after the submission of the Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive shall not later than 12 weeks following the receipt of any directions under subsection 4(d) prepare a Draft Development Plan and submit it to the Members for their consideration. It shall be deemed to be the Draft Development Plan, unless within 8 weeks of the submission of the Draft, the Planning Authority, by resolution amends the Draft Plan.

2.5 Structure and Content of the Chief Executive's Report

2.5.1 Issues, Opinion and Recommendation

The full contents of each written submission was noted and considered in the preparation of this Chief Executive's Report. The Chief Executive's Report lists the persons that made submissions or observations during the public consultation period, summarises the issues raised in the submissions or observations, contains the opinion of the Chief Executive in relation to the issues raised and the Chief Executive's recommendation in relation to the proposed Development Plan, taking account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any Local Authority in the area and the relevant policies or objectives of the Government or any Minister of the Government.

A total of **148 valid submissions** were received within the statutory timeframe. There were **8 late** submissions received.

Of the valid submissions

- **14** submissions were received from statutory bodies.
- **134** submissions were received from the general public or other persons/bodies.

The issues raised by the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, have been dealt with first within section 3 of this Report. Due to the high level of issues and topics raised it was considered prudent to carry out a high-level summary of the remaining submissions. A summary of the issues raised in each of the remaining valid submissions is then provided, followed by the Opinion and Recommendations of the Chief Executive which are contained within section 3 of this Report.

2.5.2 Appendices

This includes a list of all submissions received within the Pre-Draft Stage of the Development Plan making process and including a list of late submissions.

Appendix 1

List of Statutory/Prescribed Bodies and Local Authorities who were informed of the Review of the Galway County Development Plan under the statutory process.

Appendix 2

Provides a list of the Environmental Authorities and other Authorities who were informed of the Review of the Galway County Development Plan under S.I. No 201/2011 Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

Appendix 3

Valid written submissions by reference number and name of persons/bodies.



Appendix 4

List of late submissions by reference number and name of persons/bodies, which were received after the closing deadline.

Appendix 5

Provides a summary of all valid submissions (148) received.



3. Overview of Submissions Received

3.1 Introduction

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), there are a number of Prescribed Authorities that must be notified regarding the making of a Development Plan. These include the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, An Bord Pleanála, Irish Water, the Transport Infrastructure Ireland, any relevant regional assembly and any adjoining planning authorities.

Under the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004-2011, the relevant Environmental Authorities must also be consulted in relation to the Draft Development Plan and SEA. This includes the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, the EPA, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and any Planning Authority whose area is contiguous to the area to which the proposed plan relates.

The following section deals **first** with the issues raised in the submissions received from the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly. The **second part** of this section deals with all the valid submissions received and the various topics that were included in each submission. These topics have been primarily grouped under the topics that were identified in the Issues Paper.

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), these are dealt with by summarising the issues raised followed by the Opinion and Recommendation of the Chief Executive.

Section 3.2 Provides the Chief Executive's Summary, Opinion and Recommendations to Submissions received from the Office of Planning Regulator and the Northern Western Regional Assembly.

Section 3.3 Provides the Chief Executive's Summary, Opinion and Recommendation to all valid submissions.



3.2 The Chief Executive's Summary, Opinion and Recommendations to Submissions Received from the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

Submission No. 1: The Office of Planning Regulator

Overview and Role of Planning Regulator

A detailed submission was received from the Office of the Planning Regulator. The statutory obligations of the OPR were outlined and its role in commenting on Development Plans.

Matters generally to be contained in a development plan (Section 10) and, in particular, Section 10(2)(n) in relation to climate change;

- Consistency with the *National Planning Framework* (NPF) and the *Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy* (RSES);
- Ministerial guidelines under Section 28;
- Ministerial policy directives issued under Section 29, and,
- Such other legislative and policy matters as the Minister may communicate to the Office in writing.

Consultation Strategies

The OPR commends the Local Authority for the innovative methods in public consultation of the Pre Draft Issues Paper and the use of social media and short videos in both English and Gaeilge.

Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy

It is stated that the preparation of the Core Strategy in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is the most significant element in the preparation of the Draft Development Plan. Reference is made to the NPF and the RSES and the associated Ministerial guidelines under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in the preparation of the Core Strategy.

It is advised that the upcoming Development Plan should be consistent with the forthcoming updates on the Development Plan Guidelines and the Housing Need Demand Assessment has been referenced to ensure consistency with the associated guidelines.

Compact Growth has been cited and identified as one of the key National Strategic Outcomes from the NPF. Reference is made to the delivery of residential development in the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) area and the population allocation for both the city and county.

It is advised that a significant proportion of the county's future population growth will need to be allocated to the Key Towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) area. In addition to the MASP and the Key Towns it is stated that these areas are targeted for significant population increase and as a result the Draft County Development Plan and Local Area Plans will need to prioritise the development of opportunity sites close to town centres.

The OPR has referenced the settlements of Baile Chláir, Bearna and Oranmore, but also the large rural hinterland within the MASP area. In this regard attention is directed at RPO 3.6.14 from the RSES and the concept of new residential, industrial or commercial uses on serviced greenfield sites. In this context the OPR has requested an integrated and co-ordinated planning policy framework for the rural hinterland.



Urban Regeneration

It is recognised that the rejuvenation of cities, towns and villages of all types and scale can play a role in making stronger urban places and contributing to compact growth especially the Key Towns and the MASP area. It is stated that the Development Plan and LAPs will need to prioritise the development of opportunity sites close to town centres.

Key Towns

With the designation of Ballinasloe and Tuam as Key Towns it is recommended that the policies in the forthcoming Local Area Plans would capitalise on the towns strategic locations and strengths. Reference is made to the jobs ratio of 1.381 and 1.131 respectively. The RPO 6.27 from the RSES is cited which supports the collaborative preparation of Local Transport Plans (LTP) for both Ballinasloe and Tuam which is required to be prepared by the Planning Authority in conjunction with National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Roscommon County Council (in respect of Ballinasloe).

Local Area Plans

It is stated that several Local Area Plans will have expired or be close to expiring by the time the new County Development Plan is adopted and effective e.g. Oranmore Local Area Plan and Loughrea Local Area Plan respectively. In view of this it is suggested that the Planning Authority would prioritise the preparation of LAPs for the Key Town of Ballinasloe and Oranmore which is in the MASP area.

The OPR advises the Planning Authority to limit the number of development plan objectives requiring the preparation of a LAP especially for the smaller settlements and where growth is limited. The OPR welcomes the reference that the Local Authority is proposing to include smaller settlement plans in the new County Development Plan.

Economic Development and Employment

The diverse nature of the county's economic base and the importance of the medical devices, ICT, agri-food and tourism in supporting the economic development is referenced.

The Planning Authority is reminded of the requirement under Section 3.5 of the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) to prepare a joint retail strategy with Galway City Council.

The jobs ratio for Ballinasloe and Tuam are noted and both towns are in a strong position to support sustainable growth. However, it is noted that Maigh Cuillinn, Oranmore and Bearna have a jobs ratio of 0.53, 0.438 and 0.452 respectively which would indicate high levels of outbound commuting from these settlements.

Athenry is cited as a location with strategic development potential of a regional scale, however it has a low jobs ratio of 0.767. It is stated that the town can grow its employment base as part of the Oranmore-Athenry Strategic Economic Corridor. It is suggested that the plan should be proactive in identifying sites or opportunities to support economic development and employment consistent with national, regional and local policies and the principles in the Section 28 Guidelines on retail planning and national roads.

Transport and Infrastructure

The Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) has been referenced and how it will form a key part of the Galway MASP. It is stated that the GTS supports reduced congestion and car dependency through increased



capacity of reliable and sustainable public transport and the promotion and facilitation of cycling and walking, which in turn promotes the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

It is suggested that the measures necessary to implement the Avoid-Shift-Improve approach to achieving sustainable transport is an important step to engendering change, a clear strategy for the implementation of these measures through carefully considered objectives through the development plan will be essential.

In order to meet the requirements under Section 10(2)(n) of the Act, it is suggested that the plan includes modal shift targets to be achieved over the plan period and align to relevant implementation measures, in order to achieve meaningful improvements in GHG emissions and energy use.

It is stated that a key issue in the next development plan is to ensure that policies protect the strategic function of national roads and maximise the benefits of existing and planned public transport investment.

It is requested that the plan should ensure that the route corridor planning and options for the N6 Galway City Ring Road, N59 Moycullen bypass and N59 Oughterard-Maam Cross-Clifden are protected and that local policies and development management standards regarding access to national roads including exceptional circumstances are consistent with the Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines (2012).

An outline of the two-tier approach to land zoning referred to in the NPF as the tiered approach to land zoning is cited. The requirements of NPO 72 a is outlined:

“Planning Authorities will be required to apply a standardised, tiered approach to differentiate between (i) zoned land that is serviced and (ii) zoned land that is serviceable within the life of the plan”.

The provision of wastewater and water infrastructure is referenced. It is suggested a proactive approach with Irish Water should occur to progress projects that deliver infrastructure for the county's settlements and support development in strategic development areas consistent with the NPF and RSES. The East Galway Main Drainage Scheme is listed as one of several key projects.

Rural Development

It is noted that from CSO data between 2011 and 2016 that 76.3% of the houses constructed in County Galway were one off rural houses and that the county has the highest percentage of households living in this type of housing.

The RSES is cited where the challenges and priority action for planning authorities is in respect of the regeneration and revitalisation of the region's smaller towns, villages and rural areas.

It is suggested that the forthcoming plan provides the appropriate balance between policies supporting rural housing in appropriate locations and those that proactively address town/village decline and compact growth. In this regard it is requested that the Development Plan policies will need to demonstrate consistency with NPO18(a) and NPO 18(b) of the National Planning Framework.

It is stated that such initiatives will have the potential to alleviate pressure on the open countryside through provision of a desirable alternative to one-off housing for families who would like to reside close to facilities.



Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Reference is made to the requirement of strategic flood risk assessments and for these guidelines to be in accordance with Section 28 Guidelines on Flood Risk Management.

Climate Action and Energy

Reference is made to the OPR's requirement under Section 31AM(2)(a) of the Act concerning climate action and energy to address the legislative and policy matters within the scope of Section 10(2)(n) in its evaluation and assessment of the development plan.

It is noted that the existing Wind Energy Strategy for County Galway will be replaced by a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy and that it is proposed to replicate the Galway Wind Park in other parts of the county. It is requested that the promotion of renewable energy sources within the county is in accordance with the Section 28 guidelines and any subsequent guidelines issued by the Minister.

It is requested that the Planning Authority would refer to Specific Planning Policy Requirements (SPPR) under the Interim Guidelines, which require that the Planning Authority indicate how the implementation of the development plan over this effective period will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation and in particular wind energy production and the potential wind energy resource.



Chief Executive Opinion

The role and function of the Office of the Planning Regulator are noted. In relation to the level of public consultation the Local Authority considered the number of submissions received (148) and the level of engagement that the members of the public had with the staff from the planning office during the public consultation as a measure of the public participation/engagement in Stage 1 of the Development Plan process.

The Draft County Development Plan will be in accordance with the provisions set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in the NPF and the RSES and Ministerial and Policy Guidelines i.e. Housing Need Demand Assessment. The preparation of the Core Strategy is a mandatory legislative requirement and will be a fundamental part of the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. The Core Strategy, including population targets, will be prepared in line with the NPF and RSES. Compact Growth is one of the ten National Strategic Outcomes of the National Planning Framework and will form a key part in the preparation of the Development Plan.

In specific reference to the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy, the RSES has designated the towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam as Key Towns and consequently a 30% population growth will be assigned to these towns.

The settlement hierarchy for the county will take account of the targets as well as the requirement for strengthening and consolidating the rural areas of the county. In relation to the terminology of the existing settlements in the current County Development Plan all terminology in relation to the identification of the settlements in the Draft County Development Plan will be updated to reflect the RSES and the NPF.

Urban regeneration will form a key part in the preparation of the Development Plan. As part of the review of the existing County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the preparation of the new County Development Plan 2022-2028, all of the existing chapters will be reviewed and updated in accordance with policies and objectives of the NPF and the RSES. In light of the importance of urban regeneration for the settlements in the county the Draft County Development Plan will contain a specific Chapter *Urban Placemaking, Regeneration and Urban Housing*.

The Key Towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam play a key role in the settlement and economic function of the county. It is envisaged that the review of the Ballinasloe LAP will commence in Quarter 2/3 of 2021 and a Local Transport Plan will form part of this LAP. Work is underway currently in relation to scoping the content of the Local Transport Plans for the two Key Towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam. It is expected that the review of the Tuam Local Area Plan and associated Local Transport Plan will commence in Quarter 4 of 2021. Both Local Area Plans will be in accordance with the Core Strategy of the new County Development Plan. In relation to the preparation of the Local Transport Plans full consultation with the relevant agencies and adjoining Local Authorities will take place.

The Draft County Development Plan will consist of a volume containing the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan, Growth Towns and Growth Villages. As the Planning Authority is at an early stage of the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan the towns and villages to be contained in the Growth Town category and Growth Village category have not been finalised. It is expected that once the Housing Need Demand Assessment is prepared this will contribute to the identification of the relevant settlements in each category of the growth town and growth villages.



The economic growth of the county is a central goal of Galway County Council. The role of the Key Towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam and all towns and villages are noted in terms of their economic function. It is considered that the Strategic Economic Corridor will be strengthened with policies and objectives in the Draft County Development Plan. The MASP and the *Economic, Enterprise and Retail Chapter* will contain key policies and objectives in accordance with the RSES and NPF. The jobs ratio for Ballinasloe and Tuam are noted and as part of the review of the respective Local Area Plans. It is envisaged that policies and objectives and land use zonings will be identified to copper fasten their economic position in the county. Bearna, Maigh Cuillin and Oranmore are commuter towns with large cohorts of people working in Galway city, however there will be policies and objectives in their individual plans, with lands zoned for employment use which will provide an opportunity for increased employment-based industry in the respective settlements. All policies and objectives and subsequent zonings will be in accordance with Section 28 Guidelines.

The Galway Transport Strategy has been endorsed by both Galway County and City Councils. The settlements within the MASP will accord with the principles of the GTS. Galway County Council recognises its obligation to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the Draft County Development Plan will contain policies and objectives To encourage greater utilisation of sustainable modes of travel such as public transport, walking and cycling.

In relation to the modal shift and target the car and bicycle parking standards will be reviewed as part of the Draft County Development Plan and best practice guidance will be examined. The protection of the national road network and the route corridor planning and options for the N6 Galway City Ring Road, N59 Moycullen bypass and N59 (Oughterard-Maam Cross-Clifden) will be referenced and associated policies and objectives in the Chapter *Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility* of the Draft County Development Plan.

The identification of lands zoned for residential development will be in accordance with the Core Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment and lands will be identified for development based on availability of public infrastructure. Galway County Council have engaged previously with Irish Water and will continue to do so as part of the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. The identification and progression of the East Galway Main Drainage Scheme is critical to the development of the area east of Galway City.

Galway County Council acknowledges the challenges facing the smaller towns, villages and rural areas. There will be a dedicated chapter in the Draft County Development Plan titled *Rural Placemaking and Rural Housing in the Countryside* along with an *Economic, Enterprise and Retail Chapter* that will contain policies and objectives to encourage sustainable and appropriate development in the rural area. The villages that will be listed in the "Growth Village" category will contain policies, objectives and land use zoning in accordance with NPO 18(a) and 18(b) of the NPF.

The transition to a low carbon economy and the overall reduction in carbon emissions is recognised as a central parameter in planning policy and accordingly there will be policy objectives included in Draft County Development Plan. The Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) will be prepared as part of the Draft County Development Plan process.



Chief Executive Recommendation

The Planning Authority shall ensure that the County Development Plan is consistent with the NPF and RSES for the Northern Western Regional Assembly; Ministerial guidelines under Section 28; Ministerial policy directives issued under Section 29 and such other legislative and policy matters as the Minister may specify.

The Planning Authority will continue to engage with social media/media clips and the preparation of E-Books during the different stages of the plan making process to ensure that the public consultation process will reach a wider audience.

The Draft County Development Plan will support compact growth, population allocation to the various settlements in line of their position in the settlement hierarchy and policies relating to the rural hinterland will be in accordance with Government Policy, the National Planning Framework and relevant Guidelines.

The policy objectives in the Draft County Development Plan will contain reference to “opportunity sites” that will be identified in a number of the towns and villages in the county. These policy objectives will be identified in the various towns and villages and in the Chapter *Urban Placemaking, Regeneration and Urban Housing*.

The preparation of the Local Area Plans of the Key Towns and associated Local Transport Plans will be carried out in accordance with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan and associated guidelines.

The preparation of the remaining Local Area Plans will be carried out in accordance with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan and the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The reduction in stand alone Local Area Plans and their inclusion in the Draft County Development Plan will be in accordance with the Core Strategy and the findings of the Housing Need Demand Assessment.

All policies and objectives in relation to transportation and infrastructure will be in accordance with Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines. The protection of the national road network is a key priority for Galway County Council. The zoning of lands in the Draft County Development Plan and associated Local Area Plans within the county will be in accordance with the Core Strategy of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).



Submission No. 2: Northern and Western Regional Assembly

Overview

The Regional Assembly has commended Galway County Council on the publication and format of the Issues Paper.

The role of the NWRA has been outlined and their submission is made in accordance with Section 27 A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It is a requirement that the preparation of the Development Plan is in compliance with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the area, thus enabling full alignment between local, regional and national policy.

The submission sets out the principles of the RSES and is drafted on the principle that it requires the Planning Authority to work collaboratively to deliver effective regional development.

An outline of the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) is provided and its potential function within Galway City, suburbs and within the county settlements of Baile Chláir, Bearna and Oranmore. It is stated that the incorporation of the MASP into the Draft County Development Plan will be a challenge but also presents a significant opportunity.

Growth Framework

The RSES has introduced the concept of a Growth Framework that incorporates “Five Growth Ambitions” with a focus on People and Places. The following is a summary of the growth framework and the five ambitions:

People and Places

The settlement strategy is focussed on a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway and Tailored Regional Growth Centre Strategic Plans for Sligo, Athlone and Letterkenny.

In addition to the MASP, Ballinasloe and Tuam are designated Key Towns in the RSES. In the preparation of these Local Area Plans, it is requested that collaboration would occur in the case of Ballinasloe and Roscommon.

The submission refers to the inclusion of growth parameters for Ballinasloe and Tuam, with a planned 30% growth on the 2016 census. In addition to the MASP and Key Towns within the county there is reference to Athenry under section 3.9 of the RSES. Athenry is referenced as a place of Strategic Potential and this should be further examined along with the Oranmore-Athenry Strategic Economic Corridor.

In relation to rural development, the NWRA advises that the Draft County Development Plan should have clear and concise policies and objectives in relation to the rural potential of the county. The role of the smaller towns should be supported in the form of regeneration of serviced sites within these settlements.

- Growth Ambition 1-Vibrant Region

It is stated that a strong economic growth, which creates permanent sustainable jobs is achieved by building a competitive and productive economy. Under this growth ambition the RSES has highlighted the importance of the thriving sectors in the region and this should be reflected in the Draft County Development Plan. The RSES reinforces the provision of a sustainable framework for tourism development.



It is requested that the Draft County Development Plan would take due cognisance of the relevant Regional Development Objectives in the preparation of strategies such as the Landscape Strategy. In addition, the RSES encourages policies that support the development of local entrepreneurial ecosystems through local clustering and smart specialisations.

The importance of the agri-sector is referenced, and the stimulation of the gastronomy and the bio economy should be encouraged in the Draft County Development Plan. Reference to regional development objectives RPOs 4.23-4.26 are made.

- Growth Ambition 2-Natural Region

It is stated that more strategic actions are required which should be cognisant of natural resources, landscape and heritage (natural, social and cultural) and this ambition allows the necessary framework for the NWRA to be realised.

In relation to greenways across the region, it is stated that they will facilitate the expansion of appropriate development of local businesses and start-ups in the locality.

- Growth Ambition 3-Connected Region

An outline of the integration of land use and transport planning in relation to this growth ambition has been provided. It is recommended that the Draft County Development Plan reflects the critical strategic national road and rail links traversing the county. It is considered that the Core Strategy would benefit from being articulated as part of the transportation objectives. The RSES identifies, the need for enhancement of the N67 which links the Regional centre of Sligo to Galway through Tuam and this should be referenced in the Draft County Development Plan.

Reference to digital networks and enabling new technologies has been referenced and RPOs 6.36 -6.60 are identified that are tailored to promote smart places.

- Growth Ambition 4-Quality of Life-Inclusive Region

It is stated that the NWRA region aspires to be one of the most liveable places in Europe with a commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth. The coordination and delivery of infrastructure, housing and employment land at the correct location is key to achieving this growth ambition.

The achievement of a connected region and the provision of serviced sites in small towns and villages will be key in achieving balanced and integrated development.

- Growth Ambition 5-Enabling our Region

It is stated that the provision and maintenance of economic infrastructure, such as energy, water and wastewater are key to delivering compact growth and a connected vibrant inclusive and smart region. The RSES identifies specific strategic infrastructure that is required to enable this vision.

Chief Executives Opinion:

The role and function of the NWRA is noted. The inclusion of the MASP in the Draft County Development Plan is a unique opportunity for the county to identify the potential of the settlements to develop in a cohesive and sustainable manner.

The focus on the Growth Ambitions and the importance of these are noted. The Draft County Development Plan will be prepared in accordance with the provisions set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and will be in compliance with the objectives and recommendations set out in the NPF, RSES, and the Housing Need Demand Assessment

Section 11(4) Chief Executive's Report



The chapters of the Draft County Development Plan will reflect the five growth ambitions outlined above with clear policy objectives to address rural housing, rural placemaking, rural development, urban place making, regeneration, economic enterprises, green infrastructure and tourism developments.

Chief Executive Recommendation

The Draft County Development Plan will be prepared in accordance with the provisions set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and with the objectives and recommendations set out in the NPF and the RSES.



3.3 The Chief Executive's Summary, Opinion and Recommendation to All Valid Submissions

3.3.1 Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy

Relevant Submissions: 11,13,33,34,54,55,56,62,79,80,81,82,83,85,86,87,90,91, 97, 98, 100,101, 102,104,106,114,115,116,119,122,124,126,127,128,129,131,136,138,141,146 and 147.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

The Core Strategy of the Draft County Development Plan is a key requirement for the county to be planned in a co-ordinated manner. It is suggested in a number of submissions that the Core Strategy (settlement hierarchy) of the County Development Plan would be prepared where settlements have water and wastewater capacity and that population growth should be directed towards existing towns and villages. The National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) have been referenced in multiple submissions. Compact Growth and the ten National Strategic Outcomes (NSO's) of the NPF are considered key elements for the preparation of Core Strategy.

It is considered that the County Development Plan should be guided by and include land use policies and objectives which support the consolidation of urban generated development within existing urban areas, in conjunction with the integration of transport planning. Residential development should be carried out in a sequential manner, which would be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. In areas where there are high density developments taking place, there should be an approach applied that limits car parking on an area wide basis.

It is requested that the implications of land use policies on the strategic road network would be considered in determining future land use zoning strategy and the preparation of the core strategy.

It is requested that proposals for zoning adjacent or close to existing or planned national road/motorways and junctions should give special attention to the preferences expressed in the Retail Planning Guidelines for locating developments that attract many trips within established towns and district centres.

A number of submissions made specific references to the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) and that the settlements within the MASP (Bearna, Baile Chláir and Oranmore) would have the appropriate population increases to reflect their position within the settlement hierarchy. In addition, it is requested that there would be flexibility applied in relation to the population allocation between these settlements. There is reference to the settlements in the MASP area as being ideal for growth in particular Briarhill and Garraun and that these areas should be developed with sufficient population allocation.

The importance of the Key Towns (Ballinasloe & Tuam) has been referenced in a number of submissions and the Draft County Development Plan should support the delivery of key infrastructure as outlined in RPO 8.1 of the RSES, which is as follows *"The Assembly support the development of a safe, secure and reliable electricity network and the transition towards a low carbon economy centred on energy efficiency and the growth projects outlined and described in this strategy"*.

Several submissions raised the various demographics within the county and that the Draft County Development Plan should accommodate housing for the elderly (granny flats) and for the disabled



community. Independent living was also raised and is an important contributing factor to improve people's independence as they grow old. A number of settlements have been identified.

Particular settlements namely west of Galway City were identified (Cill Chiaráin, Ros an Mhíl, South Conamara) to specifically have provision of social housing and housing for particular groups i.e. Irish Teachers. In addition, it is requested that there would be particular land use zonings for areas such as Cois Fharrage to accommodate the local population.

Chief Executive Opinion

The preparation of a Core Strategy is a mandatory legislative requirement and will be central to the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. The new Core Strategy will be drafted to comply with statutory provisions, Government guidance and higher order strategies / policies such as the NPF and RSES. This will entail an approach that encourages development in established urban areas and designated development centres framed within a coherent integrated land use and transportation strategy.

The Core Strategy will be developed in an evidence-based manner and will form the basis of policies and objectives in the Plan, including population targets, settlement strategy, density considerations, the amount of zoned land requirements and the approach to economic development.

The core strategy including the population targets, will be prepared in line with the Implementation Roadmap for the *National Planning Framework* and the *Regional Spatial Economic Strategy*. Ballinasloe and Tuam will be recognised as Key Towns and the population distribution for these towns will reflect their position in the settlement hierarchy. The core strategy in the County Development Plan will recognise the population projections for the settlements within the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP), Key Towns and the towns and villages within the county.

The settlement hierarchy for the county will take account of the targets and the transitional road map as well as the requirement for strengthening and consolidating the rural areas of the county. As an overall theme, the Draft County Development Plan will ensure that compact growth is a central part of the County Development Plan.

It is the intention that the provisions of the Draft County Development Plan will ensure that the carrying capacity, operational efficiency, safety and investment made in national roads in Galway continue to be safeguarded and that the relevant policies/objectives included in the County Development Plan will reflect this; this includes provisions relating to developments on or near national road junctions. In addition, it is intended that policies and objectives for urban growth areas will be crafted to avoid undermining the strategic transport function of national roads

A number of submissions raised matters pertaining to the affordability of houses, access to housing for particular needs including the elderly and people with disabilities and localised demand for particular types of housing. In response, it is noted that, as per the requirements of Section 94 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the development plan shall include a Housing Strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that provision is made for the housing needs of the existing and future population of the plan area.

The Act stipulates that the housing strategy shall take into account:

- a. 'the existing need and likely future need for housing to which subsection (4)(a)2 applies,
- b. the need to ensure that housing is available for persons who have different levels of income,



- c. the need to ensure that a mixture of house types and sizes is developed to reasonably match the requirements, of the different categories of households as may be determined by the planning authority, including the special requirements of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, and
- d. the need to counteract undue segregation in housing between persons of different social backgrounds’.

The Strategy shall include an estimate of the amount of social and affordable housing required during the plan period and shall provide that as a general policy a specified percentage (not exceeding 10%) of the land zoned in the development plan for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, shall be reserved for those in need of social housing in the area.

While the County Development Plan is not directly responsible for the delivery of affordable homes there are a number of things it can do to create the right environment for the delivery of affordable homes, removing development bottlenecks and enabling a continuous supply of housing. These include:

- Providing a robust development framework and core strategy;
- Zoning land for development that is serviced and in appropriate locations which gives a greater degree of certainty to developers and infrastructure providers;
- Providing a clear and articulate longer term development strategy that facilitates the coordinated and efficient provision of enabling infrastructure;
- Including policy to support active land management;
- Providing for higher densities that ensures more efficient use of land and enabling more units coming to the market;
- Providing flexibility in terms of design particularly in urban cores to enable more cost-efficient construction and variety of homes;
- Including policy which encourages infill development and the densification of existing built up areas.

The delivery of sustainable communities will be a core aim of the new County Development Plan. In order to enable the development of sustainable communities, it is considered that the Draft County Development Plan should include a policy to encourage a wide variety of housing types, sizes and tenure that reflect the County's household composition. As part of the Housing Strategy, an analysis of existing demographics will be undertaken to inform future housing mix requirements and policy. In accordance with the National Planning Framework the Council is required to carry out a comprehensive Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) that will support the preparation of the housing strategy and all related housing outputs. NPO 37 of the NPF states 'A Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) is to be undertaken for each Local Authority Area in order to correlate and accurately align future housing requirements. The HNDA is:

- to be undertaken by Local Authorities with coordination assistance to be provided by the Regional Assemblies, and also at a Metropolitan scale, particularly where inter-county and inter-regional settlement interactions are to be planned for and managed;
- to primarily inform housing policies, housing strategies and associated land use zoning policies as well as assisting in determining where new policy areas or investment programmes are to be developed; and
- to be supported, through the establishment of a coordination and monitoring unit to assist Local Authorities and Regional Assemblies in the development of the HNDA (DHPLG, Regional Assemblies and the Local Authorities). This will involve developing and coordinating a centralised spatial database for Local Authority Housing data that supports the HNDA being undertaken by Local Authorities’.



Chief Executive Recommendation

The Planning Authority shall ensure that the County Development Plan is consistent with the NPF and RSES for the Northern Western Regional Assembly; Ministerial guidelines under Section 28; Ministerial policy directives issued under Section 29 and such other legislative and policy matters as the Minister may specify.

The Draft County Development Plan will incorporate an evidence-based core strategy that will accord with the provisions set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the NPF, RSES and development is supported and integrated with a range of facilities in a sustainable manner.

The Draft County Development Plan will include land use policies and objectives which support the consolidation of balanced development in the urban and rural settings.



3.3.2 Urban Living and Placemaking

Relevant Submissions: 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 33, 34, 38, 53, 56, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 76, 79, 80, 81, 84, 85, 86, 91, 92, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 107, 114, 115, 117, 119, 126, 127, 128, 131, 132, 133, 135, 137, 142, 143, 146, and 147.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

The urban living concept and placemaking has been identified as an important component in several submissions received. In order to enhance the urban living experience reference is made to areas close to Galway City, which are now included in the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP). Close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders has been identified as key to the success of the existing and potential new urban areas within the county.

The settlements located within the MASP have been referenced and that due to their location and available infrastructure capacity, these areas are primed for expansive urban development. Reference to the potential of Garraun and Briarhill and how these areas can enhance the urban experience based on proximity to public transport corridors. It has also been stated that higher density levels of residential development should be achieved in close proximity to public transport infrastructure. Furthermore, a number of submissions suggest that higher levels of density can be achieved in close proximity to public transport where 'own door' living can also be achieved. It is specifically requested that these areas would have a higher population allocation in the Core Strategy allocation.

A number of submissions have identified towns and villages in the county that have the capacity to grow further. Ballinasloe as a *Key Town* has been suggested to develop with unlimited growth to realise its full potential. Athenry has also been identified as a centre that can develop a strong urban fabric over the next number of years. Limitations to the progression of urban areas has also been referenced and Craughwell is cited as a village that has been prohibited in relation to its potential. The delivery of the East Galway Main Drainage as a key piece of critical infrastructure which would assist in that regard for development in Craughwell and other locations in east County Galway. A number of submissions clearly indicate a preference for improved infrastructure and services in towns and villages ahead of housing delivery. A sequential approach to development of other towns and villages should be applied.

It is stated in a number of submissions that in order to enhance the urban experience of towns and villages, that a wide variety of house types and sizes should be provided as a viable alternative to a more rural location. This includes housing for older persons, who in certain instances want to downsize and be within walking distance from local facilities and other social activities. This means that our housing and urban towns and villages must cater for all including older persons and persons with impaired mobility. Development, it is stated should take place within the envelope of existing towns and villages in walking distance of work, school and all facilities thus promoting compact living as set out in the NPF. Therefore, these urban areas need to be equipped with an adequate network of footpaths and cycle ways that safely connect the residential areas to the commercial, employment and community facilities within the settlement. Furthermore, urban areas, it has been stated should include a variety of community uses including educational facilities such as schools correlating with guidelines.

A number of submissions highlight the blight of vacant commercial buildings in the towns and villages across the County and the need to revitalise these villages and towns with services and hubs to make



them somewhat attractive places to live, work and visit while considering the impact of homeworking may have on these settings. It is considered that it is key that these buildings are brought into reuse, while others draw attention to the NPF requirement for the development of brownfield sites. The subject of regeneration and town centre health checks is also discussed in the submissions and the provision of funding for areas in need of uplift and regeneration. This, it is stated could also be achieved through improved enhanced community gain. Regeneration as stated in the submissions should include revitalisation of historic town centres, good urban design and improvements to streetscapes to give a general attractiveness and improved public realm. Loss of residential amenity through noise and disturbance should be avoided.

Chief Executive Opinion

The Urban Living and Placemaking will form a key part of the Draft County Development Plan and will support the viability and vitality of the towns and villages in the county.

The Council supports the NPF objective for compact growth and effective density in towns and villages; and the RSES objective to deliver increased residential densities. It is expected this will be achieved through the identification of infill sites and reduction in vacancy and re use of underutilised lands and vacant buildings within urban areas. Policy in the Draft County Development Plan will also make reference to the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and the accompanying Urban Design Manual (2009), Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments 2018 and the Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines 2018, and future revisions thereto, which prescribe a range of residential densities dependent on location, context, scale and availability of public transport.

In addition, policies in the Draft County Development Plan will seek to support NPF National Policy Objective 35 which states; 'increase residential density in settlements, through a range of measures including reductions in vacancy, re-use of existing buildings, infill development schemes, areas and site-based regeneration and increased building heights'.

A particular focus will be placed on the regeneration and revitalisation of the County's towns and villages. A number of Opportunity sites and Vacant sites will be identified based on their location and highlighted as suitable for development in urban areas.

Chief Executive Recommendation

Strengthen the core of settlements and encourage the compact growth of settlements by way of the development of infill sites, brownfield lands, under-utilised land/buildings including vacant, derelict and under-occupied land/buildings, within the existing built-up footprint of the settlements, and develop outwards from the centre in a sequential manner.

Promote the regeneration and revitalisation of towns and villages and support local enterprise and employment opportunities ensuring their viability as service centres for the surrounding rural areas.

Ensure that the provision of high-quality housing and well-designed developments are important in order to make places more attractive and so contribute to healthy place-making and quality of life, which in turn enhances the public realm. Attractive places attract more inward investment, skills and talent, and increase the liveability factor of a place.



3.3.3 Rural Placemaking and Rural Housing

Relevant Submissions: 16,17,18,19,22,24,31,39,40,41,45,48,49,50,52,54,61,62,63,71,75,76,80,82,85,86,87,107,114,131,141 and 144

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

The provision of housing in the rural areas is a recurring theme in several submissions received. There has been a distinction between the sustainability and development of rural villages and the bona fide necessity of people to build a family home in the rural countryside. It has been requested that there would be an appropriate balance between the policies and objectives supporting rural housing and at the same time address the decline of towns and villages. It has been suggested that the over-reliance on rural housing is at the expense of urban and rural settlements and there should be desirable alternatives to one-off housing for families who wish to be close to facilities, services and amenities. As an alternative there is reference to cluster type of developments in the rural villages as an alternative to the single rural house. It is suggested that a primary aim of the Draft County Development Plan would be to ensure that communities in towns and villages are socially integrated.

A number of submissions explicitly reference and quote the existing Rural Housing Objectives in *Chapter 3 Urban and Rural Housing* of the County Development Plan. It is requested that the definition of housing need, rural links and urban fringe would be further defined, and clarity has been sought into several the different criteria that are currently used to assess rural housing applications. The Enurement Clause which is attached to planning permissions for rural housing in certain areas of the county, it is specifically requested that the duration of this clause would be reduced from the 7 years and in some instances, it has been requested that this Enurement Clause should be removed fully.

While some submissions requested an amendment to existing Rural Housing objectives, several submissions requested that there would not be a Housing Need requirement and that rural housing should be permitted subject to site assessment and context. A reduction in site sizes is also requested and that residential developments would be permitted in principle on roads that are not taken in charge. In addition, a number of submissions request that backland development should be permitted under a number of different conditions for family members to the rear of their individual family home.

There is reference to ribbon development and the fact that this objective was included in the last Draft County Development Plan that was on display in 2014 and was subsequently omitted from the final plan that was adopted in January 2015.

The provision of rural housing in the Gaeltacht area and the Islands is referenced in several submissions and the fact that these areas need to be revitalised and that the Irish language will be promoted if housing is permitted for local people or people fluent in Irish. The rural areas where there is a population decline should be examined and in light of Covid-19 people should be given a choice as to where they wish to live rather than been directed into towns and villages.

The rural economy and rural diversification should be supported in the upcoming County Development Plan. Specific reference is made to the reuse of vernacular houses and farm buildings for farm diversification.

Several submissions have referenced the requirement to update the Rural Design Guidelines and the Landscape Guidelines and the importance that these guidelines play in the rural countryside.



Chief Executives Opinion

Rural development and placemaking are central to the future of County Galway. “Strengthening Rural Economic and Communities” is one of the ten national strategic outcomes identified in the NPF and in the RSES under the Growth Ambitions.

The County Development Plan will provide a tailored response to the development of rural settlements reflecting their capacity to absorb growth in a sustainable manner.

It is intended that the Draft County Development Plan will review the overall policies and objectives for Rural villages to accord with the provisions of the NPF and RSES and Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines (2005). Clustering of houses within these villages will be examined and appropriate policies and objectives will be developed.

The NPF and RSES seek to renew and develop existing settlements that have a certain level of services and the development of which can promote sustainable living patterns, such as the ability to walk to school or avail of public transport services.

It is considered that there is a continued need for rural housing in the countryside to accommodate those people with intrinsic links to the rural community. As part of the Settlement Strategy for the Draft County Development Plan, rural housing policy will reflect NPF and RSES requirements to ensure the proper planning and sustainable development of the County take place. Objectives in relation to ribbon and backland development will be examined in order to sustain the viability and vibrancy of the rural countryside and the rural village.

Chief Executive Recommendation

The Planning Authority shall ensure that the County Development Plan is consistent with the NPF and RSES for the Northern Western Regional Assembly; Ministerial guidelines under Section 28; Ministerial policy directives issued under Section 29 and such other legislative and policy matters as the Minister may specify.

The Planning Authority shall ensure that the Draft County Development Plan encourages growth and prevents decline in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline and by managing the growth of areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid overdevelopment, while sustaining vibrant rural communities.



3.3.4 Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development

Economic Enterprise Relevant Submissions: 3, 9, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 32, 37, 38, 45, 46, 47, 56, 60, 62, 79, 80, 81, 84, 85, 87, 94, 98, 99, 100, 101, 104, 105, 110, 113, 114, 115, 116, 119, 122, 125, 127, 129, 133, 138, 141, 144, 145, 146 and 147.

Tourism Relevant Submissions: 4, 6, 9, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 33, 38, 45, 56, 60, 62, 70, 72, 73, 79, 81, 85, 89, 94, 111, 115, 116, 120, 122, 123, 146 and 147.

Retail Relevant Submissions: 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 38, 45, 46, 56, 60, 62, 79, 81, 85, 100, 107, 116, 122, 146 and 147.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

Several submissions refer to the MASP area of County Galway and the settlements therein (Oranmore, Bearna and Baile Chláir). It is considered that these areas including the existing Parkmore Industrial Estate and Briarhill should grow and provide much needed employment in the county administrative area.

It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan should set out clearly a framework for the development of the former Galway Airport site as a strategic employment site and it is suggested that this would be carried out in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

It is requested that the Draft County Development Plan place a greater emphasis on the Strategic Economic Corridor and the Atlantic Economic Corridor which are strategic locations within County Galway. It is further considered that a concerted effort should be made to engage with key stakeholders such as the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to fully embrace the employment and economic benefit of each area and a full audit of the AEC should be carried out to identify places with local enterprise potential.

It is requested that the town of Oughterard be designated as a Technological Incubation Development Hub and that the Draft County Development Plan encourage further employment development in other towns and villages across the County in close collaboration with the IDA. Ballinasloe is cited as a town that has particular strategic locational advantages from an economic development perspective. It is considered in several submissions that a greater level of resources should be allocated to the Key Town of Ballinasloe to realise its full potential.

It is requested that a 6% service employment target for persons with disability be reached in County Galway and awareness should be raised with employers in that regard.

It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan should take cognisance of the key role that the aggregates industry has to play in ensuring the continued economic prosperity of County Galway.

A number of submissions call for a focus on employment development in rural County Galway in areas such as rural development, farm diversification, making use of existing farm buildings and promoting for example the sale of local foods at markets. It is requested that local enterprise development should encourage local employment and enterprises into towns and villages.



As employment practices has changed it is requested that a network of remote working hubs and multi-functional office spaces be provided in the towns and villages in the County. Several submissions call for the development of marine based employment in locations such as Cill Chiarán and Ros an Mhíl as a deep-water quay.

A specific submission requests the appointment of a Local Development Officer, investment in community enterprise centres and support for community led co-operatives.

A number of submissions make reference to employment locations in the County and the need for the Draft County Development Plan to address all areas of the county. The economic potential of the Bord na Móna landholding has also been cited.

A number of submissions request more resources to promote tourism agritourism, the development of sustainable tourism attractions in new unexplored locations and for the Draft County Development Plan to contain a robust tourism chapter to allow an extensive and wide-ranging approach to be taken to the multi-faceted and distinct tourism products offered in County Galway. The submissions also state that the Tourism chapter of the Draft County Development Plan should support tourism product development through the planning process and place Galway in a strong position for both URDF and RRDF, this it is considered would be achieved by including a range of robust objectives which include for example reference to the Visitor Experience Development Plans along with tourism stakeholders, and through collaboration with Fáilte Ireland.

Several submissions suggest that objectives pertaining to Shannon Masterplan, Beara Breifne Way, Destination Towns Funding, Platforms for Growth Investment Programme should be included in the Draft County Development Plan.

It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan should contain an objective to deliver a county wide Tourism Strategy – Galway to 2025 and the benefits of tourism to the local economy are highlighted in a number of submissions also that this strategy could be delivered by liaising with key stakeholders in Galway involved in the tourism industry.

Several submissions highlight the importance of providing a wide range of tourism facilities such as accommodation, parking, foot/cycle paths in the towns and villages as well as adequate tourism facilities at beaches along with greater tourism resources.

It is considered that emphasis should be placed on sustainable tourism to protect habitats and species of the County which could include it is considered eco-tourism and low impact camping in specific areas. Also, a number of submissions call for a strong heritage policy with tourism to develop both areas in the County.

It is considered that the tourism potential of Ballinasloe should be developed in line with the Hidden Heartlands programme and this it is considered should be integrated into the Draft County Development Plan. The town should benefit from the addition of a genealogical centre. Several submissions highlight the potential of the River Suck as a tourism resource. Several other towns and villages in the County are referenced as being suitable for being developed as tourist destinations.

A number of submissions make reference to the potential Geopark (Joyce County and Western Lakes Aspiring Geopark) and the potential for development of overnight tourism (dark sky) on the islands

Several submissions highlight the benefits of the Wild Atlantic Way, its impact on the network of habitats and species and it is considered that spurs off the Wild Atlantic Way should be utilised to



showcase the nearby villages and towns. The submissions also state that walking routes along the Wild Atlantic Way that incorporates the Galway Gaeltacht should also be explored. It has also been requested in a number of submissions that the development of a coastal walkway for amenity and tourism along with outdoor, activity/water based tourism in Conamara and an outdoor water centre of excellence. Other areas for consideration that have been raised in submissions include the provision of an information trail in Rosmuc, a city greenway to Maigh Cuillinn, development of a greenway at Iorras Aithneach, Conamara Cycling Tour, Camino Conamara, Quiet Man Greenway develop heritage piers as amenity /tourism features , the development of thematic tourism in Coillte lands and the suggestion of the inclusion of Loughrea on the Wild Atlantic Way.

The submissions call for a greater level of tourism engagement and resource for north-east County Galway along with a greater emphasis of advertising sites of interest.

A number of submissions received recognise the importance of the contribution of the retail sector in County Galway to the vitality and viability of towns and villages and how this sector acts as an economic anchor, creating employment and indirect economic and social activity in settlements.

It has been stated that additional retail convenience centres are needed throughout the county and it has been requested that appropriate provision be made for this in the Draft County Development Plan. It has been further stated that edge of centre sites are needed and may have to be considered as town centre sites are not always viable.

The submissions suggest that the preparation of retail survey and retail strategy would be welcomed and beneficial to County Galway. Such an approach, it is considered, could explore ways to enhance the retail environment in a sustainable manner and include new flexible policy objectives which make provision for alternative retail uses that would spur growth in the sector whilst protecting the viability of existing centres and preventing decline.

The submissions call for the avoidance of retail leakage by improving the range of retail and services offered in towns and villages. This it is considered could only be achieved by delivering high quality of public realm, adequate retail layout, traffic management/movement strategy, servicing/deliveries, mix of uses and car parking along with a robust suite of policy objectives. The submissions also state that the Draft County Development Plan should encourage new businesses along trail/walking routes such as coffee shops.

Submissions also call for the Draft County Development Plan to attract retail and commercial development to smaller towns and villages to combat the issue of vacancy. Also, on the subject of vacancy, a number of submissions make reference to the need for hubs in towns and villages to accommodate remote working.

It is suggested in a number of submissions that a greater emphasis should be placed on food production, which, it is considered could be achieved with the development of a 'food trail, whereby agricultural food production, tourism and retail are linked as part of a 'food trail' product.

Chief Executive Opinion

The Draft County Development Plan is being prepared at a time of great economic uncertainty, whilst the plan is an overall document for the proper planning and development of the county, it is not an economic plan. It is essential that the Draft County Development Plan sets out a framework which will allow the county to create a sustainable resilient economy.



A key strategic goal of the Draft County Development Plan is to maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of the county and will include the supporting strategies to achieve this goal which is to promote economic activity.

The Draft County Development Plan will acknowledge the importance of a resilient local economy both in the short and long term within the county, that is diverse and well positioned to compete with other areas. The Local Authority will continue to work with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta and other agencies and the business community to ensure that all areas of job creation in the county are explored.

The location of employment land will be determined in line with the Settlement Strategy for the County, taking into account proximity to residential development and transport networks. It is envisaged that the employment lands within the new developed MASP area will have robust policies and objectives and will build on the existing employment lands at Parkmore.

The Key towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam will also have policies and objectives that will facilitate employment uses within the settlements and as part of the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan other towns and villages will be examined to identify their economic potential.

The current Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 supports the role of rural areas and the countryside in sustaining the rural economy and its role as a key resource for agri-food and emerging rural based enterprises and this will continue in the Draft County Development Plan.

The Strategic Economic Corridor will also be referenced in the Draft County Development Plan with possibly a greater emphasis on its potential especially when it considered in the context of the MASP and the adjoining settlement of Athenry.

The importance of the extractive industry and its role in the economic growth of the county is noted, it is expected that the Draft County Development Plan will seek to support such developments in appropriate locations subject to environmental and other relevant factors.

The social, community and economic benefits from improving tourism opportunities within the County are recognised and acknowledged and it is considered that the Tourism element in the forthcoming Draft County Development Plan will form a key part of a chapter. The tourism policies and objectives will be prepared to take account of the geographical spread of Galway with reference to several tourism initiatives and branding currently been promoted by Fáilte Ireland and relevant agencies.

The Draft County Development Plan will identify “Opportunity Sites” in each centre for regeneration purposes. Such opportunity sites will be considered suitable for the redevelopment for a range of different reasons but in the main are considered suitable to contribute to the enhancement of the vitality and vibrancy of particular town or village centres and may provide for future retailing commercial or residential development. The Draft County Development Plan will seek to implement the retail hierarchy, seeking to locate retail development in the designated settlement where the retail and size of the retail development proposed matches the size and defined function of the settlement as outlined in the Core Strategy.

Chief Executive Recommendation

The Draft County Development Plan will seek to maximise the strength and position of the county within the Western region and provide for new and existing enterprise clusters in the county and enhancement of linkages between enterprise hubs and national enterprise development agencies such as Enterprise Ireland and the IDA.

Section 11(4) Chief Executive's Report



Facilitate the development of the rural economy through supporting a sustainable and economically efficient agricultural and food sector together with sustainable rural tourism in a manner that protects the natural landscape and built heritage.

Support the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres and facilitate a competitive and healthy environment for the retailing sector into the future by ensuring that future growth in retail floor space responds to the identified retail hierarchy, the sequential approach and the needs of projected population of the settlement areas.

Support and facilitate the development of tourism in the county and ensure the objectives and policies support the protection of the natural environment of the County and the need to promote economic opportunities within the town, villages and rural areas.



3.3.5 Infrastructure and Transport

Relevant Submissions: 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 30, 33, 38, 42, 45, 46, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62, 69, 70, 73, 75, 76, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 87, 91, 92, 93, 95, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 119, 122, 123, 125, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 134, 135, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145 and 147.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

The submissions pertaining to infrastructure and transport cover several issues that affect all parts of County Galway. There is reference to various infrastructure and transport (existing, proposed & required) throughout the county including roads, public transport, pedestrian connectivity, piers/quays, airstrips, wastewater and water infrastructure. It is stated that there is a clear requirement for close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

A number of submissions have requested the integration of both land use and transport planning to support the consolidation of urban generated development within existing urban areas. This will result in reduced frequency and distance of trips, shifting towards more environmentally friendly modes of transport and the promotion of efficient fuel and vehicle technologies. It is requested that the Galway Transportation Planning Study (GTPS) is reviewed as part of the review of the County Development Plan process. Several submissions makes reference to the Local Transport Plans for Ballinasloe and Tuam which are identified as key towns in the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES).

There is general support for important projects such as implementation of the Galway Transport Strategy, delivery of the N6 GCRR and the East Main Drainage Wastewater Treatment Plant. These infrastructural projects have been identified as key enablers for the progression of the county.

With respect to National Roads several submissions have recommended that the review of the existing County Development Plan would ensure the protection of the safety, carrying capacity and efficiency of the existing and future national roads. It is a key requirement that the network is maintained with future National Road Schemes provided for and schemes safeguarded. With respect to National routes is has also been suggested that an integrated approach to land use and transportation solutions throughout the County should be undertaken such that local traffic generated by developments is catered for primarily within the framework of the local (i.e. non-national) road network. A number of submissions have raised concerns with respect to the condition of the National Primary Road (N59) and it is deemed vital for this road to be upgraded from Galway to Clifden.

There have been numerous requests for either the upgrade or replacement of several Regional Roads in the County (i.e. R336, R340, R366, R374 and R377). Several submissions have highlighted the need for a larger budget to be provided for maintenance and upgrade of roads. There have also been suggestions for ring roads/inner relief roads to be provided around some settlements in the county and for some roads within renewable energy developments to be connected to the existing road network. There has been requests for signage on public roads to be either solely in Irish or both Irish and English. There have also been requests for roads which were improved under the Department of the Gaeltacht Road Scheme and the Local Improvement Scheme to be taken in charge.

A number of suggestions have been made with respect to Development Management Standards pertaining to access and signage onto National, Restricted Regional and Local Roads.



Numerous submissions have requested enhanced bus service provision in both urban and rural areas including upgraded bus stops with shelters. It is suggested that Smarter Travel be incorporated as a concept in the County Development Plan. There have also been requests for reduced parking standards in urban areas for various types of developments including residential and schools where public transport is available and that developments should be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport with large scale trip intensive developments located in central locations in urban areas. It has also been suggested that cycle parking infrastructure should be designed within public realm origin and destination points. Several locations in the county have also been identified which require public footpaths (new and upgraded), school crossings, maintenance of bridges, public car parks, cycle routes/greenways, bus lanes and traffic calming measures. Concerns have also been raised regarding illegal parking and the need for reduced speed limits. Several submissions have also requested wheelchair accessible transport availability across all transport services. Submissions have also requested that parking be provided for emergency vehicles near beaches.

A number of the submissions highlight the need for enhanced public transport provision throughout the county including both bus and rail (including light rail) provision. It is also suggested that the Draft County Development Plan should identify suitable park and ride areas, bus corridors and cycle lanes. It has also been requested that remote working, carpooling, park and ride and cycle lanes should be encouraged to reduce traffic volumes. With respect to rail there has been strong demand for enhanced rail services with a dual track desired between Galway and Athlone and the reopening of the Athenry to Tuam, Claremorris line to the north-west region. There have also been suggestions that sections of existing disused railway lines should be considered for use as cycleways.

With respect to piers, quays and slipways there have been numerous submissions which have requested the repair and enhancement of these pieces of infrastructure across the county. A new harbour has been requested in Inis Oirr with the completion of the Inis Meain harbour requested as well as the installation of pontoons for small boats at Inishmore. A number of suggestions have been made with respect to Ros an Mhíl Harbour including its development as a deep-water port and as a centre of excellence for the servicing and development of marine based renewables

It has also been suggested that the airstrip at the Former Galway Airport should be retained and the lands should be able to provide facilities for the rescue services both on land and sea and commercial units. The expansion of Conamara airport has also been suggested. It has also been suggested that the airstrips on the islands be protected.

Several submissions highlight the need for wastewater infrastructure to be provided. It has been suggested that there are limited options within settlements due to lack of wastewater infrastructure. The provision of new wastewater treatment plants under the control of Irish Water have been suggested where possible. In instances where Irish Water infrastructure is not available or is unlikely to be provided there have been numerous requests to facilitate private shared wastewater treatment plants for residential development in settlements. It has also been requested that the plan should protect existing Irish Water infrastructure and ensure appropriate consultation with Irish Water to ensure appropriate water and wastewater provision is available for developments. It has been suggested that prospective developments should not be permitted until Irish Water have upgraded Treatment Plants. A suggestion has also been made that a number of wastewater treatment plants be transferred from Údarás na Gaeltachta to Irish Water.

It has been requested that both wastewater and water services in various locations in the county are upgraded (i.e. Athenry, Ballinasloe, Cill Ronain, Craughwell, Bearna to Carna and Cill Chiaráin). Submissions have also requested the potential for pressure sewage system (Bearna to Carna) and integrated constructed wetlands across the county. It is requested that a minimum setback of 100m



between new wastewater treatment plants and sensitive receptors should be required across the county (i.e. schools, businesses, residential development). It is suggested that wastewater treatment plants should not be located on scenic sites adjacent to the foreshore, or close to public piers and amenities.

Chief Executive Opinion

As outlined in the (NPF) and the (RSES) there are two towns in the county identified as Key Towns. A requirement for these towns as outlined in national and regional policy documents is the preparation of a Local Transport Plan (LTP). It is considered that these local transport plans will be prepared as part of the Local Area Plan reviews for both Ballinasloe (which is expected to commence in Q1 of 2021) and Tuam (which is expected to commence in the Q4 of 2021). It is considered appropriate to review the existing Galway Transportation and Planning Study (GTPS) as part of the Draft County Development Plan.

It is the intention that the provisions of the Draft County Development Plan will ensure that the carrying capacity, operational efficiency, safety and investment made in national roads in Galway continue to be safeguarded and that the relevant policies/objectives included in the County Development Plan will reflect this; this includes provisions relating to developments on or near national road junctions. In addition, it is intended that policies and objectives will be crafted to avoid undermining the strategic transport function of national roads. The provisions of the development plan will be in accordance with the Section 28 Guidelines and will be supportive of both the maintenance, upgrade and new infrastructure which may come forward.

A number of submissions raised matters pertaining to the existing regional road network, the need for a larger budget to be provided for maintenance and upgrade of roads, the need for inner relief roads to be provided around some settlements in the county, taking in charge of private roads, the County Development Plan will be supportive of upgraded infrastructure however issues with respect to budgets for road maintenance and taking in charge of roads would not fall within the remit of the County Development Plan.

The County Development Plan will include provisions with respect to car parking standards and will be guided by Section 28 Guidelines in this respect. It is envisaged particularly within urban settings with good public transport links available that reduced parking standards would apply. The delivery of sustainable communities will be a core aim of the new County Development Plan and it is envisaged that provisions will be included to ensure new developments would be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. It is also envisaged that policies and objectives will relate to Mobility Plans, Traffic Management Plans, Traffic and Transport Assessments and Road Safety Audits as appropriate. As noted above with regard to roads infrastructure the County Development Plan will ensure appropriate provisions are included to support critical infrastructure such as public footpaths, school crossings, maintenance of bridges, public car parks, cycle routes/greenways, bus lanes, traffic calming measures and accessible infrastructure. The Development Management Standards will be examined as part of the Draft County Development Plan. While the comments with respect to illegal parking and reduced speed limits are noted these would not fall within the remit of the County Development Plan.

The support and delivery of public transport provision including both bus and rail, park and ride areas, bus corridors and cycle lanes will all be considered as part of the Galway Transport Strategy as referenced above. The Draft County Development Plan will also include provisions which will support the GTS which will address the matters outlined in submissions. The Draft County Development Plan will also include policies and objectives with regard to enhancing existing and proposed railway infrastructure.



It is considered that the County Development Plan will continue to support the strategic importance of Ros an Mhíl Harbour and its development as a deep water port. The delivery of repair and enhancement works to existing piers, quays and slipways across the county will be supported as resources permit. The development of Ros an Mhíl Harbour as a centre of excellence for the servicing and development of marine based renewables is noted and it is considered that such a development should be supported in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area.

As outlined in the RSES there is policy objective in relation to the Former Galway Airport site and the Draft County Development Plan will address the future development of these lands.

It is the intention that the provisions of the Draft County Development Plan will ensure that existing Irish Water infrastructure will be protected. It is also envisaged that the Draft County Development Plan will support the upgrade and development of water and wastewater infrastructure on a county wide basis. The transfer of wastewater treatment plants from Údarás na Gaeltachta to Irish Water would not fall within the remit of the County Development Plan and as such it is not considered that this would form part of the plan.

The Council are acutely aware of the infrastructure deficits with regard to both water and wastewater infrastructure within numerous settlements throughout the county. The Council will continue to liaise with Irish Water to ensure that additional infrastructure improvements are included within their future projects to assist in the future development of many of the county's settlements. In the interim period it is noted that there have been several submissions which request that private shared wastewater treatment plants for residential development be facilitated. Having regard to the problematic nature of many of these existing systems in the County, this approach requires further examination. As an alternative it is considered that cluster type developments will be examined with individual wastewater treatments systems serving each residential unit. In instances such as this smaller site size then would be required for one off rural dwelling and would be considered subject to compliance with the Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e < 10).

Several submissions have requested a 100m. minimum setback of new wastewater treatment plants from sensitive receptors and this will receive further consideration having regard to the individual circumstances and existing provisions including those of local area plans and a considered approach will be proposed in the Draft County Development Plan.

Chief Executive Recommendation

The Planning Authority shall ensure that the County Development Plan is consistent with the NPF and RSES for the Northern Western Regional Assembly; Ministerial guidelines under Section 28; Ministerial policy directives issued under Section 29 and such other legislative and policy matters as the Minister may specify.

Support the enhanced regional accessibility and connectivity within County Galway in accordance with the National Policy Outcomes of the NPF.

Support the integration of land use and transport planning to ensure a sustainable, safe, coherent, efficient and effective approach to transport provision within the county.

Maintain and protect the safety, strategic function and efficiency of national roads and associated junctions. It is a strategic aim of the Local Authority to strive to facilitate the development of the national primary and secondary road network in Galway through the continued construction, upgrading and improvement of the national secondary roads and regional roads in the county.



Facilitate the review of the existing Galway Transportation Planning Study (GTPS) and support the preparation of the Local Transport Plans for the key towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam.

Promote compact development that will reduce overall demand for transport and transport infrastructure and support measures that result in modal shift and a move away from the private car.

Support and facilitate the operation of existing public transport services in the county and to facilitate the provisions of improved facilities for public transport users in the county.

Work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water supply and wastewater infrastructure to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the delivery of new water supply and wastewater infrastructure to facilitate future growth in accordance with the Core Strategy.

Liaise and co-operate with Irish Water in the implementation and delivery of the Water Services Strategic Plan (2015), the Irish Water Business Plan 2015-2021 and the Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-2024 and other relevant investment works programmes of Irish Water in the delivery of infrastructure within the county.

Support the delivery of the East Galway Main Drainage Scheme as identified in RSES as an essential infrastructure requirement.

Examine Cluster Policy for un-serviced settlements and ensure that proposed wastewater treatment systems are in accordance with the relevant EPA codes of Practice.

Promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation in existing and new development within the County and encourage demand measures among all water users.



3.3.6 Environment, Climate Action, Environment, Renewable Energies and Communication

Relevant Submissions: 3,4,7,8,12,14,15,17,20,23,29,44,54,55,60,62,73,76,77,78,79,81,82,85,112,114, 116,123,129,131,133,138,140,141,144, 145 and 148.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

Climate Action and Climate change has been referenced in a number of submissions. It is requested that the Climate Change Mitigation Policy that was adopted by Galway County Council should act as a template for the adaptation to climate change in the Draft County Development Plan. It is also requested that the Draft County Development Plan would set out clearly how the county is going to tackle climate change in terms of proposing policies and objectives. One specific submission requested that the existing policies and objectives in the current Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021, relating to Climate Change, energy and environment would be amended. In relation to energy efficiency of buildings owned by the local authority and for new developments it is requested that there would be specific reference to this area in the Draft County Development Plan.

It is also been suggested that renewable energy technologies should be requested to be included in all new builds both residential and commercial and that a retrofitting fund would be put in place. The relationship of climate change and flooding has also been raised and the need to clearly consider climate change in the preparation of flood risk mapping. It has also been requested to examine all flood mapping prepared in the last number of years and to ensure that the flood mapping is robust and that the sequential approach to flood mapping would occur. Bearna and the existing flood mapping has been identified and there is a specific request that the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 would be complied with in this instance Chapter 3 of the Flood Risk Guidelines have been referenced and that attention should be made to this in the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan and subsequent zonings.

In addition, it has been requested that there would be close collaboration with the OPW in the delivery of flood relief schemes. Clifden has been cited in relation to this and the recent flooding in August 2020 has been referenced. There was also reference to Ballinasloe and it is requested that a time frame to implement the €8.9 million flood relief scheme would be fast tracked. The provision of SuDS has been supported in a number of submissions.

Renewable Energy has been raised in a number of submissions. Wind Energy has been the most frequently discussed element of renewable energy. The review of the existing Wind Energy Strategy and the preparation of a new Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) has been welcomed.

A number of detailed submissions were received from agencies and companies involved in renewable energy. A range of suggestions has been put forward in regard to the preparation of the LARES document as part of the Draft County Development Plan, including the following:

- A regional approach to spatial planning for wind farm developments and close collaboration with adjoining local authorities.
- Areas of the county that were previously not considered favourable for wind energy development should be reconsidered in light of advancement in technologies i.e. lower wind speeds and increased heights in turbines.
- Reference should be made to the Draft Wind Energy Guidelines and cognisance should be taken of the adopted guidelines. Another submission specifically requested that these



Guidelines would not result in a change to the mapping or objectives of the final LARES document.

- Sufficient quantity of lands should be identified for wind farms/solar farms.
- The lifetime of the wind farm applications should not be restricted by a condition of planning permissions.
- With the advancement of technology, the Local Authority should indicate in the LARES document the actual installed capacities of wind energy i.e. how many MW or GW of wind energy should be provided in the specific areas of lands that are deemed acceptable in principle
- The existing Landscape Character Assessment should be reviewed to identify specific sensitivities that are in conflict with renewable energy developments.
- With the advancement in technologies it is suggested that existing wind energy turbines could be added to existing wind farm developments.
- The encouragement of wind turbines offshore and identify sites for Bio-Energy plants.
- Geothermal suitability maps should be utilised as part of the mapping requirements.
- The co-location of wind turbines and tourism assets should be examined and encouraged.
- Gaeltacht communities should be resourced to develop their own renewable energy catchments.
- The local communities benefit funds should be developed to ensure the local community benefits from a renewable energy development in their area.

A detailed submission was submitted in relation to the existing peatlands and cut away bogs and the potential of these for renewable energy developments such as wind farms and solar farms and other large-scale energy dependent industrial development. It is requested that the potential of these areas would be included in the plan.

In a specific submission received in relation to Ceantar na nOileán and renewable technology projects, it is requested that due to the special beauty of the area, renewable proposals (through the RESS Scheme/Community Schemes) should be considered on an individual basis in certain areas, such as onshore and offshore wave technologies, underwater marine turbines and solar PV projects.

In relation to electricity provision within the county, it has been requested that the Draft County Development Plan should recognise the importance of EirGrid's Grid Development Strategy as an economic investment in the county. In addition, it is requested that the Draft County Development Plan would include clear policies and objectives that would ensure that there would be a delivery and continuation of a secure and resilient supply of energy that optimises the use of renewable energy resources. In addition, a number of submissions specifically requested that power lines would be placed underground. There is reference to several electricity transmission documents (Government Policy Documents) that need to be considered as part of the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. The potential and growth of Electrical Vehicles and Electric Charging points has also been raised and support mechanisms that should be included in the plan.

In relation to the broadband infrastructure it is requested that the Draft County Development Plan would include policies and objectives that would facilitate high speed broadband which is needed to reflect the change in work practices, people from working from home and reduce car dependency and commuting. The Gréasán Digiteaci na Gaeltachta (GTEIC) network, has been referenced in a detailed submission. The GTEIC Network is made up of 30 innovation & digital hubs which is being developed in the Conamara Gaeltacht. It is requested that a unified approach would be created between the Local Authority and Údaras na Gaeltachta in developing this network, specifically in relation to broadband connection and services and other telecommunications services. In a related submission the area of



Digital hubs should be identified in the Draft County Development Plan. The viability of Data Centres has also been questioned and that they are not as viable as is initially considered.

A number of submissions have raised environmental noise issues and the and the importance of this being considered as part of the Draft County Development Plan.

Chief Executive Opinion

It is clear that Climate Change mitigation and adaptation is a key pillar of Government policy at present along with national guidance on climate action, this will form a central part of the Draft County Development Plan. The Draft County Development Plan will include policies and objectives to promote and support the “transition to low carbon & climate -resilient society” which is a National Policy Outcome of the National Planning Framework. In addition, the Draft County Development Plan will provide policies and objectives to promote and support “Compact Growth” which is a National Policy Objective of the NPF. The RSES’s Growth Ambition for a Natural Region which stipulates “emphasises the need for co-ordination, new thinking, investment and skills to implement change” will also form a central part in the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan.

The Draft County Development Plan will be informed by and comply with national, EU and International guidance including environmental directives, and consideration of flood risk and flood risk management plans, climate change mitigation and adaption. All of the existing settlement plans that will be included in the Draft County Development Plan will have their Stage 2 Flood Risk Assessments reviewed and new plans prepared in full adherence to the national guidance documents and circulars. The implementation and progression of Flood Relief schemes will be considered favourably in the Draft County Development Plan.

The Local Authority recognises the need for cost effective and reliable sources of power that are capable of supporting the future growth and development of the county. As evidenced by the number of submissions, energy and renewable energy is an important consideration in the Draft County Development Plan. Key objectives within the NPF are to facilitate the transition to low carbon energy future, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector, which will result in a shift from fossil fuels to predominantly renewable energy sources. Consistent with NPO 55 of the NPF, the Draft County Development Plan will promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations in the county.

The Draft County Development Plan will include a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) which will include a review of the existing Wind Energy Strategy and the preparation of a new strategy for wind energy, solar energy infrastructure in the county, including Solar PV, solar thermal and seasonal storage technologies. Particular locations and areas suitable for wind energy and solar energy will be expressed in the LARES and in the Draft County Development Plan with appropriate policies and objectives which will be in accordance with government guidance and environment considerations. Other renewable energy resources will be examined in the LARES and policies and objectives will be included. The Draft County Development Plan will promote PV Solar on rooftops of domestic dwellings, industrial, agricultural and public buildings. The potential of the cut away bogs in the county will be recognised in the Draft County Development Plan and supported with appropriate policies and objectives.

The Draft County Development Plan will promote renewable energy sources, and will be an enabler for the renewable energy resource of the county to be harnessed in a manner that is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development, and with regard to the current Government Guidelines to achieve a consensus approach by all stakeholders to the transition to a low carbon economy.



The Local Authority acknowledges contribution of community benefit schemes in strengthening local communities and seeks to ensure that whenever possible community benefits are derived from all renewable energy developments in the county. However, application of schemes such as Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) are outside the scope of the County Development Plan as they do not have a spatial or land use planning dimension.

The Draft County Development Plan will contain specific policies and objectives that will support a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity throughout the county, subject to normal planning and environmental considerations and the development of grid reinforcements including grid connections will also be addressed in the plan.

The Draft County Development Plan will support the growth in the use of Electric Vehicles, prioritising parking for electric vehicles in central locations in settlements and in new developments in accordance with relevant car parking standards which will be contained in the Development Management section of the Plan. It is acknowledged that the provision of a high-quality broadband is essential for the economic success of the county.

The Draft County Development Plan will support minimisation and control of noise pollution.

Chief Executive Recommendation

Climate Action will continue to be driven by the need to limit global temperatures, improve energy efficiency, increase energy consumption from renewable sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The impacts of climate change can be reduced and managed through mitigation and adaptation actions. In this regard policies and objectives will be included to achieve the following:

Support the transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate -resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by way of reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency.

Support and liaise with statutory and other energy providers in relation to power generation in order to ensure adequate power capacity for the existing and future needs of the county.

Review of the existing Wind Energy Strategy and the preparation of a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy. This LARES will encourage the production of energy from renewable sources, such as wind energy, solar energy, solar, hydro, geothermal and bio energy subject to normal proper planning considerations, including in particular, the potential impact on areas of environmental or landscape sensitivity and Natura 2000 sites.

Support the growth of Electric Vehicles and prioritising car parking for electric vehicles and associated charging points.

Support the development of a high capacity Information Communications Technology Infrastructure, broadband connectivity and digital broadcasting in the interests of economic progression and the proper planning and development of the area

Have regard to the “Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities” (2009) through the use of sequential approach and application of the Justification Tests for Development Management and Development Plans in the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan.

Section 11(4) Chief Executive's Report



Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all new developments.



3.3.7 Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

Relevant Submissions: 1, 2, 4, 9, 23, 27, 44, 79, 81, 85, 114, 122, 127, 132, 146 and 147.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

There were a number of submissions received pertaining to both Architectural and Archaeological Heritage. A detailed submission received suggests that the built heritage should be considered as an integral part of the wider built environment and dealt with in a holistic manner throughout the development plan. It recommends the inclusion of a number of policy documents pertaining to architectural heritage and archaeology be included in the Draft County Development Plan as follows: Heritage Ireland 2030, the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for the Built and Archaeological Heritage and the National Policy on Architecture.

The area of climate change and how it relates to archaeological heritage was also raised. As part of the National Adaptation Framework, DCHG has published a 'Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for the Built and Archaeological Heritage' (2018) and advises acknowledgement in the Draft County Development Plan in conjunction with the Local Authority Climate Change Strategy. The Department is also engaged with the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) to ensure a consistent approach to protection and adaptation of heritage across the country and a policy is required in the Draft County Development Plan to address climate change issues relating to archaeological heritage.

Several submissions make specific reference to the revitalisation of Historic Town Centres Villages. Several policies, funding proposals and programmes have been proposed to aid this revitalisation including the development of a National Policy on Architecture (NPA), Collaborative Town Health Check Programme (CTHCP), Town Centre First Approach and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

It is stated in several submissions that there is a clear relationship between the themes of heritage/regeneration and town centre uses. It is requested that a greater degree of policy co-ordination is required as these are all mutually supportive and an integral part of Placemaking in County Galway.

A number of submissions call for promotion of upper floor uses of buildings in our towns and the creation of more attractive town centres through maintenance and protection of architectural heritage and enhanced public realm. Encourages the sustainable reuse of the existing building stock, whether or not such buildings have protected status, and this is particularly pertinent to vernacular architecture.

Several submissions indicate that incentives are required to activate town centre regeneration and avoid dereliction within historic town cores. In addition, it considered that in relation to vernacular buildings that where feasible that best conservation practices are required in terms of building methods and materials.

The importance of the historic built and natural environment to placemaking and attracting tourism to our towns, villages and rural areas is highlighted in several submissions. It is suggested that the protection of vernacular settlements could be achieved by means of Architectural Conservation Area designation in the Draft County Development Plan. The importance of further guidance, the rehabilitation of buildings, signage and street furniture in Architectural Conservation Areas is advocated. Several submissions request the addition of buildings/ structures to the RPS as part of the Plan Review process. In addition, it is suggested to review the existing structures identified by the NIAH



and recommended by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and propose said structures to be included on the RPS.

A submission proposes that a Village Design Guide for the County would help protect and ensure new development contributes to attractive settlements, particularly the smaller, lower tier settlements. This submission also requests Public Realm plans for some of the towns and villages, with integrated mobility plans that could be delivered by multi-disciplinary teams.

Chief Executive Opinion

As part of the Draft County Development Plan, there will be a review of the existing policies and objectives pertaining to Architectural and Archaeological heritage and an update of these as per recommendations submitted where it is considered appropriate.

Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) comprise a place, an area, or group of structures or part of a townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures and which is listed in the County Development Plan. As part of the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan, there will be an investigation to the need for designation of further ACAs at appropriate locations throughout the county.

The Local Authority proposes to continue to ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of the built heritage of County Galway and this will be reinforced in the Draft County Development Plan through policies and objectives and development management standards. These policies and objectives will be informed by legislative requirements including consideration of national and regional guidance such as the NPF, RSES and relevant Section 28 Guidelines, including "Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2011". The Council recognises the importance of encouraging high quality and well-designed development to support and promote healthy placemaking and preservation of built heritage.

Chief Executive Recommendation

The Draft County Development Plan will protect, conserve and enhance buildings, areas, structures, sites and features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The Local Authority will aim to strike a reasonable balance between conservation and objectives in the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.

The Draft County Development Plan will continue to protect, conserve and manage the County's architectural and archaeological heritage.

Encourage the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the built vernacular heritage of the county.

Galway County Council undertakes annual reviews of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) under the provisions of Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Minister's recommendations from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) were proposed for inclusion in the RPS in previous development plan processes. It is intended to carry out further reviews of the Record of Protected Structures on an ongoing basis.

Ensure the protection, sympathetic enhancement and sensitive reuse of protected structures or parts of protected structures, and the immediate surrounds included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structure that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

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Support and promote conservation and appropriate management and enhancement of the County's archaeological heritage within the plan area.



3.3.8 Social, Community and Cultural Development

Relevant Submissions: 4, 5, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 33, 38, 43, 46, 51, 54, 56, 58, 61, 62, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 87, 104, 105, 109, 111, 114, 115, 117, 118, 121, 123, 127, 129, 131, 135, 144, 145, 146 and 147.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

The submissions pertaining to social, community and cultural development cover several issues that affect all parts of County Galway. There is reference to various social, community and cultural development topics such as education, health, community facilities, cultural activities and the arts and social inclusion.

A number of submissions have made reference to education in particular with respect to existing and potential school facilities. It has been requested that the Draft County Development Plan would provide policies and objectives to support the provision of school accommodation, including the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones. It has been requested that there would be flexibility with regard to land use zoning with regard to the provision of educational facilities. A land use zoning objective for 'Community and Infrastructure' should be included in the Draft County Development Plan that would indicate that schools would be permitted in principle. It is also suggested that the Council consider potential synergies with adjacent public (and commercial) facilities in the proposed siting of schools or vice versa, particularly opportunities to locate schools adjacent to open space or recreation amenities, childcare provision and/or other community facilities. It has also been suggested that the co-location of schools should be considered. Concerns have also been raised in certain areas due to the lack of progress with respect to educational facilities. A submission has stated that the proportion of teachers should be increased, reimbursement of island allowance for teachers on offshore islands, extend the number of Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht scholarships from 30 to 60 and provide a larger budget for island schools. A submission has also requested the Council collaborate with GRET B to provide further education opportunities.

Several submissions have made suggestions with respect to Healthcare. It has been highlighted that there is a lack of hospital provision/healthcare facilities in the existing County Development Plan and that the Draft County Development Plan needs to address the location of healthcare facilities in towns and villages. With respect to mental health a submission has stated that the St Brigid's facility in Ballinasloe could become a support centre for the existing hospital.

There have been a number of requests across the county for policies and objectives to be included for the upgrade and extension of existing graveyards, community centres, public lands to be made available for sporting facilities and public open spaces (i.e. public parks, playgrounds, community gyms, greenways, athletics tracks, community gardens etc.) as well as more indoor facilities. It is also noted that a number of submissions have raised concern with regard to the provision of facilities for minority sports (i.e. hockey, tennis, handball). A review of AstroTurf pitches in the county is requested and that 50% of AstroTurf pitches should service the community and be large enough for a hockey pitch. A number of submissions have made reference to Men's/Women's shed and states that these should be supported and encouraged. A submission has called for the restoration of civil defence premises across the county which are needed to provide for general rescue and emergency operations. It has been highlighted that additional funding should be provided for community development in each Municipal District with development officers assigned to assist groups to make grant applications and to encourage community building. Concerns have also been raised in certain areas due to the lack of



community facilities and sporting facilities (i.e. indoor multi use facility in Ballinasloe, hockey pitch in Kinvara). There is general support for community funds to be set up for renewable energy developments.

A number of submissions have been made with respect to accessibility particularly with regard to an aging population and people with disabilities. These submissions have raised a number of points including public open space, public buildings, housing, transport, social inclusion, employment opportunities and accessible playgrounds. It has also been requested that the plan support the development of accessible multi use community facilities and support disability-specific clubs to ensure they can continue to provide these opportunities.

Several submissions have been submitted which relate to cultural development and the Arts. A submission which focused on Ballinasloe has requested that the Council work with GRETB to provide education with respect to music. Submissions have requested additional facilities for both cultural and arts sector which would include affordable workspaces for artists. There have also been requests for initiatives to support the Arts in smaller towns and on the Islands. Provision of cultural community hubs have been suggested. It has been suggested that the mapping of each settlement should be carried out to detail community services and locations for cultural facilities.

With respect to the Gaeltacht it has been requested that traditions, culture and heritage would be supported (i.e. sean-nós singing, sean nós dancing, boat building, language protection etc.)

There have also been a number of submissions which have made reference to social inclusion. An example of such a submission requests the Draft County Development Plan would support and encourage the integrations of other nationalities and cultures into communities.

Chief Executive Opinion

It is the intention that the provisions of the Draft County Development Plan will develop policies to support the provision of social and community infrastructure to enforce the established and encouraged community resilience needed in settlements throughout the county. It is also intended that robust policies to further promote cultural development and the Arts.

It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan will continue to support the educational needs of the county particularly regarding the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones. The issue of land use zoning for specific settlements would be considered within each of the Settlement Plans/Local Area Plans as appropriate taking cognisance of the local context from a school's perspective and from consultation with the Department of Education and Skills. A number of submissions raised matters and proposals pertaining to the co-location of schools and the potential synergies with adjacent public (and commercial) facilities particularly opportunities to locate schools adjacent to open space or recreation amenities, childcare provision and/or other community facilities, the County Development Plan will be supportive of such proposals. The concerns raised with respect to the proportion of teachers, allowances for teachers on islands, scholarships and budgets for island schools would not fall within the remit of the County Development Plan.

The Draft County Development Plan will include provisions with respect to health services and mental health services that will be supportive of the continued improvement and expansion of health and medical care facilities within the County in a planned and co-ordinated way.

The support and delivery of the suite of community facilities as required in the submissions received will be considered and addressed as part of the Draft County Development Plan. It is the intention that the provisions of the Draft County Development Plan will support community facilities such as



cemeteries, community centres, sporting facilities, public opens spaces and indoor community facilities. It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan will be supportive of sporting facilities for all sports including minority sports. The issues with respect to a countywide review of AstroTurf pitches and funding for sporting facilities in Municipal Districts would not fall within the remit of the County Development Plan.

It is the intention that the provisions of the Draft County Development Plan will develop policies to support both the aging population and people with disabilities.

It is envisaged that the cultural heritage and the arts of the county will be developed upon in the Draft County Development Plan.

With respect to the issues raised in relation to the Galway Gaeltacht it is considered that the Draft County Development Plan will address the traditions, culture and heritage of this area.

A number of submissions raised matters pertaining to social inclusion. It is envisaged that the Draft County Development Plan will include policies to promote social inclusion and facilitate the integration of minority groups including other nationalities and cultures.

Chief Executive Recommendation

Support the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones.

Work in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills to ensure the educational needs of the County are delivered.

Facilitate land use zoning for education purposes on a case by case basis within each Settlement Plans/Local Area Plans as appropriate taking cognisance of the local context.

Support the continued improvement and expansion of health and medical care facilities within the County in a planned and co-ordinated way.

Liaise and co-operate with the Department of Health to ensure the Draft County Development Plan will be supportive of the continued improvement and expansion of health and medical care facilities within the County in a planned and co-ordinated way.

Support the provision for the extension of existing burial grounds as appropriate.

Support the provision of community, sporting facilities and cultural infrastructure as appropriate.

Support the aging population, people with disabilities and social inclusion.



3.3.9 The Galway Gaeltacht and Islands

Relevant Submissions: 9, 14, 24, 34, 36, 45, 52, 59, 62, 70, 76, 81, 82, 85, 86, 87, 88, 114, 136, 138, 141 and 145.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submission has been summarised.

The number of submissions received on this particular theme reflects the important role that the Galway Gaeltacht and the Islands play in terms of the economic and social fabric of the county.

In a detailed submission, it is requested that there would be a Local Development Plan for the Gaeltacht area and that this would be prepared alongside the Draft County Development Plan. It is suggested that this plan would give special recognition of the recommendations for the Language Planning Process and that these recommendations would be included in the Gaeltacht Plan. A comprehensive list of objectives has been included in the submission which relate to the viability of the Gaeltacht and the Islands.

A number of submissions have specifically requested that there would be special recognition to the status given to Irish language in the Draft County Development Plan. It has been stated that the Gaeltacht communities cannot survive without Irish Speakers, and that the Draft County Development Plan should support and facilitate Irish speaker in both rural and urban areas in order to prevent population decline. The Polasaí na Gaeltachta was also referenced and it has stated that there should be an independent assessment of who qualifies under these criteria.

The statutory role of the Local Authority has been identified in relation to the Irish language as per Section 28 Guidelines, and the provisions of the Gaeltacht Act 2012 has been referenced. An Cheathrú Rua has been requested to be identified as a service town in the South Conamara Gaeltacht and for this to be reflected in the Draft County Development Plan.

A submission was received which specifically requested that the percentage currently identified (20%) for all new housing developments (greater than two residential units) to be occupied by Irish speakers should be increased to 35%. In a related submission it is requested that this requirement for percentage of Irish speakers should not only be applied to multiple units but also single residential units. The Language Enurement Clauses relating to these developments, it is requested in a number of submissions that the 15 year limit should apply whereas in a number of other submissions it is requested that this would be reduced to 7 years. In relation to the Language Impact Statements regarding developments for multiple residential units, it is requested that these would be carried out by specialists in sociolinguistics and that the statement should clearly indicate that the development will be beneficial to the Irish language. Specific reference to a level of competency has been indicated (B2) in Irish or higher.

It is specifically requested that the policy "Strengthening the Gaeltacht" which it is stated was previously part of the Local Gaeltacht Plan 2010-2018, should be included in the Draft County Development Plan. It is also requested that the unique settlement pattern of the Gaeltacht should be reflected in the Draft County Development Plan i.e. Baile Fearann and townlands.

Advertising signage in relation to retail and commercial units in the Gaeltacht was also referenced in a number of submissions, requesting that signage should be as Gaeilge only. Signage along national routes for Gaeltacht areas should also be as Gaeilge however Baile Chláir is cited in a submission that



the signage should be bilingual. It has also been requested that it should be a policy of the Local Authority to use place names as Gaeilge.

In a detailed submission there is reference to the South West Conamara area and the requirement for this area to be addressed in the forthcoming Draft County Development Plan. It is specifically requested that the five-year development plan for Carna/Cill Chiaráin should be supported along with the development of the Páirc na Mara site. An Spidéal is also referenced in a number of submissions and that special recognitions should be given to this settlement. An Spidéal has also been referenced in a submission, in relation to the poor planning of the village and the impact on the Irish language.

There was a number of submissions relating specifically to the Islands and the concern in relation to the infrastructure deficit that is present on Oileáin Árann. It is also queried as to the impact on the islands of renewable energy in the form of additional wind turbines.

A submission specifically requested that the plan should support and encourage the protection and promotions of traditions unique to the Gaeltacht. In a number of submissions, it is also requested that there should be a specific Local Area Plan for the Islands and special concessions for people wishing to build on the islands and grant aid for individuals operating creches.

Chief Executive Opinion

The Galway Gaeltacht and associated Islands play a fundamental part in the socio-economic and cultural profile of the county. This has been reflected in the number of submissions relating to the protection of the Irish language, protection of the Gaeltacht communities and support requirements for these communities.

The Draft County Development Plan will be prepared in accordance with adherence to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Ministerial Guidelines under Section 28. As outlined in previous sections namely the *Core Strategy and Settlement* there will be a review of the existing settlements in the county as part of the Housing Need Demand Assessment and Core Strategy. The positioning of settlements within the Core Strategy will be evidence based.

In addition, the Rural Housing objectives and subsequent housing objectives relating to the Gaeltacht will be prepared with the obligations outlined above in terms of the statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority.

It is envisaged that there will be a *Galway Gaeltacht and Islands* chapter in the Draft County Development Plan which indicates the strong recognition that the Local Authority places on the Gaeltacht and therefore will form a central part of the forthcoming Draft County Development Plan.

Chief Executive Recommendation

The Planning Authority acknowledges the importance of the Galway Gaeltacht and Islands and this will be reflected as follows:

The Draft County Development Plan will be in accordance with Article 10 of the Planning and Development Act (2000).

The Protection of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht will be a central part in the Draft County Development Plan.

Policies and Objectives in the new *Galway Gaeltacht and Islands* chapter will support the indigenous traditions and socio-economic potential of the Gaeltacht community.



3.3.10 Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure

Relevant Submissions: 4, 9, 19, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 38, 44, 59, 60, 62, 64, 70, 73, 74, 75, 79, 81, 85, 90, 102, 108, 111, 112, 114, 115, 116, 125, 127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135, 139, 141, 142, 143, 146, 147 and 148.

The following is a summary of the main issues in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submissions have been summarised.

Natural Heritage

It is stated that the Draft County Development Plan should strengthen the focus and protection on biodiversity, promote awareness and provide access to natural heritage. Also, new development should include appropriate designs that focus on biodiversity enhancement.

The submissions call for strong clear biodiversity objectives and a requirement for an Ecological Impact Assessment (EiA) if an EIAR/NIS is not required. It is stated that the Draft County Development Plan should also include an objective regarding survey data to be submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre to strengthen the County's knowledge base on biodiversity. The submissions highlight the threat of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) to biodiversity in Ireland and it is suggested that containment and control of IAS be included in the Draft County Development Plan. It is further suggested that IAS mapping should be made available to the public.

The submissions state that the Draft County Development Plan should include an objective to strengthen the availability of ecological expertise across the Council to ensure that threats and pressures to biodiversity are addressed and managed effectively.

The submissions highlight the importance of the precautionary principle being employed to ensure no further deterioration of habitats and species within and outside designated sites and zone of influence occurs. It is further stated that ongoing monitoring during plan implementation will allow for corrective action and provide a learning opportunity for practitioners and decision makers for future land use plans. Requests for a monitoring plan within the Strategic Environmental Report are made in some submissions.

It is suggested in the submissions that the Draft County Development Plan set out a framework for the restoration of peatlands as habitats. Other biodiversity improvements suggested in the submissions are: limit hedge trimming; reinstate hedgerows; and create an ecological corridor along with the creation of living roofs and walls. While a number of submissions place emphasis on the protection of trees and seek additional tree cover in community and public spaces in an effort to implement the Pollinator/Biodiversity Plan. The submissions call for at least 20% of the green space on housing estates to be designated as pollinator zones (PZ). The submission states that these PZ's should be planted with pollinator friendly specific planting.

The submissions state that the Draft County Development Plan should recognise the role of sustainable tourism in protecting natural heritage.

Landscape

It is stated in the submissions received that a review of the Landscape Character Assessment for County Galway would be welcomed. It is suggested in some submissions to position development close to existing development to protect the landscape beauty which will also benefit tourism.



The submissions call for reference to be made to the National Landscape strategy 2015 – 2025 in the Draft County Development Plan and for the inclusion of a Landscape Character Assessment for the County.

It is stated that the landscape sensitivity rating should be reviewed to facilitate people building houses in landscape sensitivity ratings 3-5.

It is requested that the extent of limestone Pavement in County Galway be mapped and made available for members of the public.

The management of wetlands is suggested in a number of submissions with the purpose of providing access for recreation and amenity use.

Green Infrastructure

The submissions call for the roll out of a Green Infrastructure Strategy in the Draft County Development Plan. It is suggested in a number of submissions that a network of greenways, blueways, coastal walkways and peatways should be rolled out across County Galway and into the wider region to the benefit of the public. It is suggested that these could also include Public Rights of Way and the development of green and blue infrastructure could promote tourism, the environment and well-being. Within green corridors, it is suggested that these corridors be reserved and protected. In some instances, it is suggested that cycle routes and walking trails could provide access to historic sites of interest.

A number of submissions call for a clear distinction between green infrastructure and greenways, blueways and peatways within the Draft County Development Plan.

The advantages of greenways are highlighted in the submissions which include hedgerow restoration and potential for collaborative projects with adjoining local authorities and other state landowners.

It is stated that walking and cycling trails should avoid the sensitivities of natural heritage and a route selection process should apply to minimise adverse impacts.

Chief Executive Opinion

As part of the Draft County Development Plan there will be a review of the existing policies and objectives pertaining to Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure and each area will be updated as per recommendations submitted and where it is considered appropriate.

In relation to biodiversity further investigation into the requests to require the completion of Ecological Impact Assessment Reports will be carried out.

The Local Authority proposes to review the existing Landscape Character Assessment for County Galway and update, as necessary. The Council recognises the unique landscape in County Galway and that this uniqueness merits protection along with review and monitoring on a continuing basis. Such a review will consider the content of the National Landscape strategy 2015 – 2025.

It is clear from the submissions received that there is a need for the delivery of a Green Infrastructure network across County Galway and eventually linking to the wider region. The Local Authority recognises the benefits of a Green Infrastructure for both persons living in County Galway and also visitors to the County. The Local Authority proposes to incorporate a Green Infrastructure element into the Draft County Development Plan. It is recognised that a suite of robust policies and objectives will



be needed to deliver on aspirations for a network of Green Infrastructure across the County and wider region.

Chief Executive Recommendation

The Draft County Development Plan will continue to protect and enhance the natural heritage and biodiversity of County Galway.

The Draft County Development Plan will continue to protect the landscape in County Galway while recognising that it is a living and working landscape. Therefore, careful consideration will be given to appropriate development and design in the Draft County Development Plan.

The Draft County Development Plan will include provision for Green Infrastructure along with blueways, greenways and peatways. This will ultimately culminate in the delivery of a Green Infrastructure Strategy which will grow and develop over time.



3.3.11 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Marine

Relevant Submissions: 3, 4, 14, 24, 44, 45, 64, 79, 81, 85, 114, 115, 122, 123, 131, 145 and 146

The following is a summary of the main issues in the submissions received. All submissions listed above can be found in Appendix 5 of this document where the individual submissions have been summarised.

A number of submissions was received in relation to the rural economy and the increased importance of agricultural diversification. It is requested that there would be policies and objectives that would support farm diversification. It has been stated the Galway is uniquely positioned to exploit the rural economy and to encourage the reuse of brownfield sites and buildings that are not currently in use.

The importance of forestry has been raised in several submissions and it has been indicated that forestry provides an alternative to traditional farm practices. It has also been suggested that forestry could be utilised for recreational purposes, but that this should occur in a controlled manner. It has been requested that there should be a limit of additional coniferous forests above 250 metres. Areas within the county should also be identified for the planting of native trees.

The management of woodlands has also been raised and a submission from an individual group wishing to take over the management of the woodlands in the Abhiann Dá Loilíoch Valley was submitted. It is suggested that this woodland area could be utilised for recreational use with suggested plans for signposted loop walks/hikes. It has also been suggested that the Draft County Development Plan would support the use of sustainable timber products.

A number of submissions raised the pollution levels generated by agriculture activity and has requested that the Draft County Development Plan would contain appropriate policies and objectives. In relation to the marine industry it has been requested that there would be special recognition of the fishing ports within the county i.e. Cill Chiaráin and Ros an Mhíl and it is considered that the marine potential in the county should be exploited and a section included in the Draft County Development Plan relating to marine industry and the maritime culture of the county. It is stated that the importance of the lakes in the county, particularly Lough Corrib and their preservation and development should be high level objectives in the Draft County Development Plan. In framing a Marine section in the Draft County Development Plan, it is requested that the Draft County Development Plan would align with the proposed Marine Spatial Planning Policy and National Marine Planning Framework. It is requested that the Draft County Development Plan would include proposals for a Marine Park. There is reference to Páirc Na Mara site in Cill Chiaráin which it is envisaged in a number of submissions will be developed as a marine innovation park.

Chief Executive Opinion

Agriculture makes an important contribution to the County's rural economy. It is considered appropriate to support rural diversification where possible and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The continued development of the agri-food sector will be supported in the Draft County Development Plan. Combined the development of agriculture, fishing and forestry industries will not only sustain rural employment but also contribute to driving the national economy, a sentiment that it is expressed in the NPF. NPO 39 of the NPF seeks to *Support the sustainable growth and development of the maritime economy and continue to invest in the seafood sector and our Fishery Harbour Centres, particularly in remote rural coastal communities and islands.* This is of relevance to County Galway given our extensive coastline. This is a great asset to the rural economy which provides communities across the county the opportunity to become involved in maritime related industries. It is envisaged that there will be a designated section in the Draft County Development plan relating specifically to the Marine Industry and this section will support the



enhancement of the fishing ports and marine related activities in the county subject to the normal planning and sustainable development of the area.

Chief Executive Recommendation

Support Agricultural practices and diversification initiatives subject to the proper planning and development and environmental considerations of the area.

Support the maritime economy and include specific reference to the maritime industry in the Draft County Development Plan.



4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix 1 - List of the Statutory/Prescribed Bodies and Local Authorities

List of the Statutory/Prescribed Bodies and Local Authorities who were notified of the commencement of the Galway County Development Plan Review

- Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government
- An Bord Pleanála
- The Office of the Planning Regulator
- Minister for Agriculture, Food & Marine
- Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht
- Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment
- Taoiseach, Department of the Taoiseach
- Minister for Defence
- Minister for Education and Skills
- Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport
- Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation
- Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government
- The Arts Council
- The Commissioners, The Office of the Information Commissioner
- Dublin Airport Authority
- Eirgrid
- Environmental Protection Agency
- ESB Electric Ireland
- Failte Ireland
- The Health Service Executive
- The Heritage Council
- The Health and Safety Authority
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- National Transport Authority
- An Taisce
- Galway City Council
- Mayo County Council
- Roscommon County Council
- Tipperary County Council
- Clare County Council
- Offaly County Council
- The Northern and Western Regional Assembly
- Irish Water
- Local Enterprise Office, Galway County Council
- Community, Enterprise and Economic Development Department, Galway County Council
- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Galway County Council
- PPN Public Participation Network, Galway County Council
- Galway Rural Development Company



4.2 Appendix 2 - List of the Environmental Authorities and other Authorities

List of the Environmental Authorities and other Authorities, notified under S.I. No 201/2011 Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

	Environmental Authorities S.I. No. 201/2011 — Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011
1.	Environmental Protection Agency
2.	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
3.	Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
4.	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
5.	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
6.	Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Galway City Council
7.	Chief Executive Mayo County Council
8.	Chief Executive Roscommon County Council
9.	Chief Executive Offaly County Council
10.	Chief Executive Tipperary County Council
11.	Chief Executive Clare County Council



4.3 Appendix 3 - List of Valid Submissions

List of valid submissions by number, name of persons/bodies and date received as per statutory requirement under Section 11 (2) (1) of the P&D Act 2000 (as amended) – Thursday 18th June 2020 - until 4pm Thursday 10th September 2020 (inclusive).

		Date Received
1	Office of the Planning Regulator	10/09/2020
2	Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment	06/07/2020
3	Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	10/09/2020
4	Department of Education	10/09/2020
5	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	16/07/2020
6	Disability Federation of Ireland	10/09/2020
7	EirGrid	10/09/2020
8	Electricity Supply Board	10/09/2020
9	Fáilte Ireland	10/09/2020
10	Irish Water	10/09/2020
11	Irish Wind Energy Association	10/09/2020
12	National Transport Authority	10/09/2020
13	Northern & Western Regional Assembly	08/09/2020
14	OPW	17/08/2020
15	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	04/09/2020
16	Údarás na Gaeltachta	10/09/2020
17	Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	10/09/2020
18	Cllr. David Collins	07/09/2020
19	Cllr. Eileen Mannion	10/09/2020
20	Cllr. Jim Cuddy	04/09/2020
21	Cllr. Joe Byrne	08/09/2020
22	Cllr. Michael Connolly (1)	27/08/2020
23	Cllr. Michael Connolly (2)	27/08/2020
24	Cllr. Noel Thomas	10/09/2020
25	Senator Aisling Dolan	10/09/2020
26	Eamon Ó Cuiv TD	10/09/2020
27	Padraig Fahey (1)	05/07/2020
28	Padraig Fahey (2)	05/07/2020
29	Dr. Stack	07/07/2020
30	David Holland	15/07/2020
31	Association of Acoustic Consultant of Ireland	15/07/2020
32	Conor Tierney	15/07/2020
33	Iggy Sullivan	16/07/2020
34	Irish Concrete Federation	17/07/2020
35	Maureen O'Hara	29/07/2020
36	Ándrea Tighe	11/08/2020
37	Marian Hardiman	25/08/2020
38	Emma De Paor	01/09/2020

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39	Timbletron	01/09/2020
40	Forbairt Pobail Maigh Cuilinn	02/09/2020
41	Criona Healy-Erkona	02/09/2020
42	Edvins Erkens	03/09/2020
43	Gormancad Ltd (1)	04/09/2020
44	Gormancad Ltd (2)	04/09/2020
45	Gormancad Ltd (3)	06/09/2020
46	Keep Ireland Open	04/09/2020
47	An Coiste Comhairleach Plean 5 Bhliana Iorras Aithneach	07/09/2020
48	Matt Loughnane	07/09/2020
49	O'Donnells Meat Market	07/09/2020
50	Criona Maria Healy	07/09/2020
51	Elaine Byrnes	08/09/2020
52	Elaine Byrnes	08/09/2020
53	Oranmore Community Development Association CLG	08/09/2020
54	Sinéad Ní Fhlatharta	08/09/2020
55	Iarla Molloy	08/09/2020
56	Caoimhín Ó Ceallaigh	09/09/2020
57	Manus O Conaire	09/09/2020
58	Glenveagh Properties PLC	09/09/2020
59	Western Inter-County Railway Committee	09/09/2020
60	Micheál Kelly	09/09/2020
61	Majella Ní Chríocháin	09/09/2020
62	Sean Osborne	09/09/2020
63	Coláiste Chamuis	09/09/2020
64	Cumann Forbartha Chois Fharráige	09/09/2020
65	PROFE Engineering and Planning	09/09/2020
66	The Abhainn Dú Loilíoch Woodland Group	09/09/2020
67	Connacht Hockey	09/09/2020
68	Construction Industry Federation	09/09/2020
69	Kinvara Hockey	09/09/2020
70	Inishbofin Community Post-Primary Steering Group	09/09/2020
71	Claregalway Tidy Towns	09/09/2020
72	Éanna Byrne	09/09/2020
73	Paddy Medley	09/09/2020
74	St. Fursa's Historical Society	09/09/2020
75	Headford District Association	09/09/2020
76	Sharon Tannian	10/09/2020
77	Sauti Youth	10/09/2020
78	Donncha Ó hÉallaithe	10/09/2020
79	MKO	10/09/2020
80	SSE	10/09/2020
81	Mark Green	10/09/2020
82	Colm Ó Neasa	10/09/2020
83	Kevin O Hara	10/09/2020

Section 11(4) Chief Executive's Report



84	Stiofán Ó Briain	10/09/2020
85	Thomas Lally	10/09/2020
86	Irish Wheelchair Association	10/09/2020
87	Galway County Public Participation Network	10/09/2020
88	Fóram Chois Fharráige um Pleanáil Teanga	10/09/2020
89	Chumann Forbartha Chois Fharráige	10/09/2020
90	Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga	10/09/2020
91	Marty Concannon	10/09/2020
92	The Clare River Valley Blueway	10/09/2020
93	Flynn Family	10/09/2020
94	An Post	10/09/2020
95	Galway City Council	10/09/2020
96	Tesco Ireland Ltd	10/09/2020
97	Noel O'Mainin(1)	10/09/2020
98	Noel O'Mainin(2)	10/09/2020
99	William Gordon	10/09/2020
100	Oisin Kenny	10/09/2020
101	Martin Coyne	10/09/2020
102	Solus Junction ulc	10/09/2020
103	Truskey West (Property Holdings) Ltd	10/09/2020
104	Donoghue & Co	10/09/2020
105	Aodán mac Donncha	10/09/2020
106	Coiste Jobanna do Iorrais Aithneach	10/09/2020
107	Patrick Medley	10/09/2020
108	Conor Hayes Consulting Engineer(1)	10/09/2020
109	Conor Hayes Consulting Engineer(2)	10/09/2020
110	SCAN Sustainable Energy Community	10/09/2020
111	Milltown Community Council	10/09/2020
112	Castelgar Developments Ltd	10/09/2020
113	Moycullen Tidy Towns(1)	10/09/2020
114	Moycullen Tidy Towns(2)	10/09/2020
115	Kevin Monroe	10/09/2020
116	Derrick Hambleton	10/09/2020
117	Michael Dunworth	10/09/2020
118	Tony Lee	10/09/2020
119	Gabriel McGoldrick	10/09/2020
120	Headford GAA Club	10/09/2020
121	Ben Walsh	10/09/2020
122	Ballinasloe Tennis Club	10/09/2020
123	Ronan Barrett c/o Castle Star Holdings Group	10/09/2020
124	Coillte	10/09/2020
125	COPE Galway	10/09/2020
126	Roadstone Ltds	10/09/2020
127	Ben Walsh	10/09/2020
128	DMOD Ltd	10/09/2020



129	Neil Dunworth	10/09/2020
130	Burkeway Homes Ltd	10/09/2020
131	Renewable Energy Systems Ltd	10/09/2020
132	Grúpa Pobail Chéibh An tSrutháin An Cheathrú Rua	10/09/2020
133	Peigí Uí Chéidigh	10/09/2020
134	Helena McElmeel Architects	10/09/2020
135	Bord na Mona	10/09/2020
136	S.P. Ó Cuinn	10/09/2020
137	Mary McGann	10/09/2020
138	Seán F. Ó Drisceoil	10/09/2020
139	Gerry Huban	10/09/2020
140	Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán teo	10/09/2020
141	Joseph Francis Kelly	10/09/2020
142	Elgin Energy	10/09/2020
143	Ronan Mac Giollapharaic	10/09/2020
144	Clarinbridge Oyster Co-Society Ltd	10/09/2020
145	Plastic Free Kinvara	10/09/2020
146	Siobhán Ní Ghadhra	10/09/2020
147	Comharchumann Forbartha Árann	10/09/2020
148	Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre	10/09/2020

4.4 Appendix 4 - List of Late Submissions

*List of Late Submissions by Reference number, name of persons/bodies

The following submissions were received after the closing deadline of Thurs 10th September 2020 at 4pm as per the statutory advertisement

Late Submissions		
149	Eilís Ní Lochnáin	10/09/2020
150	Erin Bhreathnach	10/09/2020
151	Diarmaid O Mainin	10/09/2020
152	Chris Walsh	10/09/2020
153	Comhar Caomhán Teo	10/09/2020
154	Martin Wallace	11/09/2020
155	Catherine Murphy	11/09/2020
156	Cuan Beo	11/09/2020

* The above List of Late Submissions have been advised that their Submission was received outside of the Statutory Date and Time: Thurs 10th September 2020 at 4pm.



4.5 Appendix 5 - Summary of Submissions Received



No.	Submission Name	Summary of Issues Raised in Submissions
1.	The Office of the Planning Regulator	<p>Overview and Role of Planning Regulator: A detailed submission was received from the Office of the Planning Regulator. The statutory obligations of the OPR was outlined and its role in commenting on Development Plans. Matters generally to be contained in a development plan (section 10) and, in particular, section 10(2)(n) in relation to climate change;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency with the <i>National Planning Framework</i> (NPF) and the <i>Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy</i> (RSES); • Ministerial guidelines under section 28; • Ministerial policy directives issued under section 29, and, • Such other legislative and policy matters as the Minister may communicate to the Office in writing. <p>Consultation Strategies The OPR commends the Local Authority for the innovative methods in public consultation of the Issues Paper and the use of social media and short videos in both English and Gaelige.</p> <p>Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy It is stated that the preparation of the Core Strategy in accordance with section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is the most significant element in the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. Reference is made to the NPF and the RSES and the associated Ministerial guidelines under section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in the preparation of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>It is advised that the upcoming Development Plan should be consistent with the forthcoming updates on the Development Plan Guidelines and the Housing Need Demand Assessment has been referenced to ensure consistency with the associated guidelines.</p> <p>Compact Growth has been cited and identified as one of the key National Strategic Outcomes from the NPF. Reference is made to the delivery of residential development in the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) area and the population allocation for both the city and county.</p> <p>It is advised that a significant proportion of the county's future population growth will need to be allocated to the Key Towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam and MASP area. In addition to the MASP and the Key Towns, it is stated that these areas are targeted for significant population increase and as a result the Development Plan and Local Area Plans will need to prioritise the development of opportunity sites close to town centres.</p>



		<p>The OPR has referenced the settlements of Baile Chláir, Bearnna and Oranmore, but also the large rural hinterland within the MASP area. In this regard attention is directed at RPO 3.6.14 from the RSES and the concept of new residential, industrial or commercial uses on in serviced greenfield sites. In this context the OPR has requested an integrated and co-ordinated planning policy framework for the rural hinterland.</p> <p>The terminology in relation to the existing settlement hierarchy of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 needs to reflect the terminology in the RSES and NPF.</p> <p>Urban Regeneration It is recognised that the rejuvenation of cities, towns and villages of all types and scale can play a role in making stronger urban places and contributing to compact growth especially the Key Towns and the MASP area. It is stated that the Development Plan and LAPs will need to prioritise the development of opportunity sites close to town centres. It is suggested that Chapter 13 Development Management Standards should be reviewed.</p> <p>Key Towns: With the designation of Ballinasloe and Tuam as Key Towns it is recommended that the policies in the forthcoming plans would capitalise on the towns strategic locations and strengths. Reference is made to the job's ratio of 1.381 and 1.131 respectively. The RPO 6.27 from the RSES is cited which supports the collaborative preparation of a Local Transport Plan (LPT) for both Ballinasloe and Tuam which is required to be prepared by the Planning Authority in conjunction with NTA, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Roscommon County Council (in respect of Ballinasloe).</p> <p>Local Area Plans: It is stated that several Local Area Plans will have expired or be close to expiring by the time the new County Development Plan is adopted and effective e.g. Oranmore Local Area Plan and Portumna Local Area Plan respectively. In view of this it is suggested that the Planning Authority would prioritise the preparation of LAPs for the Key Town of Ballinasloe and Oranmore which is in the MASP area.</p> <p>The OPR advises the Planning Authority to limit the number of development plan objectives requiring the preparation of an LAP particularly for the smaller settlements where growth is limited. The OPR welcomes the reference that Local Authority is proposing to include smaller settlement plans in the new County Development Plan.</p> <p>Economic Development and Employment: The diverse nature of the county's economic base and the importance of the medical devices, ICT, agri-food and tourism in supporting the economic development is referenced.</p>
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		<p>The Planning Authority is reminded of the requirement under section 3.5 of the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) to prepare a joint retail strategy with Galway City Council.</p> <p>The jobs ratio for Ballinasloe and Tuam are noted and both towns are in a strong position to support sustainable growth. However, it is noted that Maigh Cuilin, Oranmore and Bearna have a jobs ratio of 0.53,0.438 and 0.452 respectively which would indicate high levels of outbound commuting from these settlements.</p> <p>Athenry is cited as a location with strategic development potential of a regional scale, however it has a low jobs ratio of 0.767. It is stated that the town can grow its employment base as part of the Oranmore-Athenry Strategic Economic Corridor. It is suggested that the plan should be proactive in identifying sites or opportunities to support economic development and employment consistent with national, regional and local policies and the principles in the section 28 Guidelines on retail planning and national roads.</p> <p>Transport and Infrastructure:</p> <p>The Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) has been referenced and how it will form a key part of the Galway MASP. It is stated that the GTS supports reduced congestion and car dependency through increased capacity of reliable and sustainable public transport and the promotion and facilitation of cycling and walking, which in turn promotes the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.</p> <p>It is suggested that the measures necessary to implement the Avoid-Shift-Improve approach to achieving sustainable transport is an important step to engendering change, a clear strategy for the implementation of these measures through carefully considered objectives through the development plan will be essential.</p> <p>In order to meet the requirements under section 10(2)(n) of the Act, it is suggested that the plan includes modal shift targets to be achieved over the plan period and aligned to relevant implementation measures, in order to achieve meaningful improvements in GHG emissions and energy use.</p> <p>It is stated that a key issue in the next development plan is to ensure that policies protect the strategic function of national roads and maximise the benefits of existing and planned public transport investment.</p> <p>It is requested that the plan should ensure that the route corridor planning and options for the N6 Galway City Ring Road, N59 Maigh Cuilinn bypass and N59 Oughterard-Maam Cross-Clifden are protected and that local policies and development management standards regarding access to national roads including exceptional circumstances are consistent with the Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines (2012).</p>
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	<p>An outline of the two-tier approach to land zoning referred to in the NPF as the tiered approach to land zoning is cited. The requirements of NPO 72 a is outlined:</p> <p><i>“Planning Authorities will be required to apply a standardised, tiered approach to differentiate between (i) zoned land that is serviced and (ii) zoned land that is serviceable within the life of the plan”.</i></p> <p>The provision of wastewater and water infrastructure is referenced. It is suggested a proactive approach with Irish Water should occur to progress projects that deliver infrastructure for the county’s settlements and support development in strategic development areas consistent with the NPF and RSES. The East Galway Drainage Scheme is listed as one of several key projects.</p> <p>Rural Development: It is noted that from CSO data between 2011 and 2016 that 76.3% of the houses constructed in County Galway were one off houses and that the county has the highest percentage of households living in this type of housing.</p> <p>The RSES is cited where the challenges and priority action for planning authorities in respect of the regeneration and revitalisation of the region’s smaller towns, villages and rural areas.</p> <p>It is suggested that the forthcoming plan provides the appropriate balance between policies supporting rural housing in appropriate locations and those that proactively address town/village decline and compact growth. In this regard it is requested that the plans policies will need to demonstrate consistency with NPO18(a) and NPO 18(b) of the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>It is stated that such initiatives will have the potential to alleviate pressure on the open countryside through provision of a desirable alternative to one-off housing for families who would like to reside close to facilities.</p> <p>Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: Reference is made to the requirement of strategic flood risk assessments and for these guidelines to be in accordance with the Section 28 Guidelines on Flood Risk Management.</p> <p>Climate Action and Energy: Reference is made to the OPRs requirement under section 31AM(2)(a) of the Act to address the legislative and policy matters within the scope of section 10(2)(n) in its evaluation and assessment of the development plan.</p> <p>It is noted that the existing Wind Energy Strategy will be replaced by a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy and that it is proposed to replicate the Galway Wind Park in other parts of the county. It is requested that the promotion</p>
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		<p>of renewable energy sources within the county is in accordance with the section 28 guidelines and any subsequent guidelines issued by the Minister.</p> <p>It is requested that the Planning Authority would refer to Specific Planning Policy Requirements(SPPR) under the Interim Guidelines, which require that the Planning Authority indicate how the implementation of the development plan over this effective period will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation and in particular wind energy production and the potential wind energy resource.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications;</p>
2.	Northern & Western Regional Assembly	<p>A detailed submission was received from the Northern and Western Regional Assembly. The submission is summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview <p>The Assembly has commended Galway County Council on the publication and format of the Issues Paper.</p> <p>The role of the NWRA has been outlined and their submission is made in accordance with Section 27 A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It is a requirement that the preparation of the Development Plan is in compliance with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the area, thus enabling full alignment between local, regional and national policy.</p> <p>The submission sets out the principles of the RSES and is drafted on the principle that it requires the Planning Authority to work collaboratively to deliver effective regional development.</p> <p>An outline of the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) is provided and its potential function within Galway city, suburbs and within the county settlements of Baile Chláir, Bearna and Oranmore. It is stated that the incorporation of the MASP into the Draft County Development Plan will be a challenge but presents a significant opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Framework



		<p>The RSES has introduced the concept of a Growth Framework that incorporates “Five Growth Ambitions” with a focus on People and Places. The following is a summary of the growth framework and the five ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People and Places The settlement strategy is focussed on a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway and Tailored Regional Growth Centre Strategic Plans for Sligo, Athlone and Letterkenny. <p>In addition to the MASP, Ballinasloe and Tuam are designated Key Towns in the RSES. In the preparation of these Local Area Plans, it is requested that collaboration would occur in the case of Ballinasloe and Roscommon.</p> <p>The submission refers to the inclusion of growth parameters for Ballinasloe and Tuam, with a planned 30% growth on the 2016 census. In addition to the MASP and Key Towns within the county there is reference to Athenry under section 3.9 of the RSES. Athenry is referenced as a place of Strategic Potential and this should be further examined along with the Oranmore-Athenry Strategic Economic Corridor.</p> <p>In relation to rural development, the NWRA advises that the Draft Plan should have clear and concise policies and objectives in relation to the rural potential of the county. The role of the smaller towns should be supported in the form of regeneration of serviced sites within these settlements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth Ambition 1-Vibrant Region It is stated that a strong economic growth, which creates permanent sustainable jobs is achieved by building a competitive and productive economy. Under this growth ambition the RSES has highlighted the importance of the thriving sectors in the region and this should be reflected in the Draft County Development Plan. The RSES reinforces the provision of a sustainable framework for tourism development. <p>It is requested that the Draft County Development Plan would take due cognisance of the relevant Regional Development Objectives in the preparation of strategies such as the Landscape Strategy. In addition, the RSES encourages policies that support the development of local entrepreneurial ecosystems through local clustering and smart specialisations.</p> <p>The importance of the agri-sector is referenced, and the stimulation of the gastronomy and the bio economy should be encouraged in the Draft County Development Plan. Reference to regional development objectives RPOs 4.23-4.26 are made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth Ambition 2-Natural Region It is stated that more strategic actions are required which should be cognisant of natural resources, landscape and heritage (natural, social and cultural) and this ambition allows the necessary framework for the NWRA to be realised.
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		<p>In relation to greenways across the region, it is stated that they will facilitate the expansion of appropriate development of local businesses and start-ups in the locality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Ambition 3-Connected Region An outline of the integration of land use and transport planning in relation to this growth ambition has been provided. It is recommended that the Draft County Development Plan reflects the critical strategic national road and rail links traversing the county. It is considered that the Core Strategy would benefit from being articulated as part of the transportation objectives. The RSES identifies, the need for enhancement of the N67 which links the Regional centre of Sligo to Galway through Tuam and this should be referenced in the Draft County Development Plan. Reference to digital networks and enabling new technologies has been referenced and RPOs 6.36 -6.60 are identified that are tailored to promote smart places. • Growth Ambition 4-Quality of Life-Inclusive Region It is stated that the NWRA region aspires to be one of the most liveable places in Europe with a commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth. The coordination and delivery of infrastructure, housing and employment land at the correct location is key to achieving this growth ambition. <p>The achievement of a connected region and the provision of serviced sites in small towns and villages will be key in achieving balanced and integrated development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Ambition 5-Enabling our Region It is stated that the provision and maintenance of economic infrastructure, such as energy, water and wastewater are key to delivering compact growth and a connected vibrant inclusive and smart region. The RSES identifies specific strategic infrastructure that is required to enable this vision. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
3.	<p>Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment</p>	<p>A detailed submission was received from the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI). The submission makes the following observations/ recommendations under the following themes:</p> <p>Geoheritage:</p>



		<p>A Geological heritage county audit was completed in the last year and was launched in 2020. It is requested that at a minimum GSI would request that a policy objective with wording such as: “to protect from inappropriate development that scheduled list of geological heritage sites (Appendix X). Or “to protect from inappropriate development the following list of County Geological Sites”.</p> <p>Culture and Tourism Reference has been made to several USECO Global Geoparks, with one potential Geopark, Joyce Country and Western lakes Aspiring Geopark.</p> <p>Groundwater The importance of groundwater has been referenced and the Groundwater programme that is provided by the GSI is referenced. In relation to Flood Risk Management there is a requirement to identify areas for integrated mitigation and management. It is recommended that the GSI’s GWflood tools are utilised.</p> <p>In relation to Climate Change there is a requirement to improve the monitoring capacity of groundwater levels in Ireland so that the potential impacts of climate change can be monitored and assessed.</p> <p>Geohazards It is considered that geohazards and particularly flooding should be taken into consideration especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent.</p> <p>Geothermal Energy The Geothermal Suitability maps should be considered as part of the Renewable Energy Potential for the County Development Plan.</p> <p>Marine and Coastal Unit Reference to the Coastal unit and managing coastal monitoring programme which provides data on coastal erosion and Sea level rise including the Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands and the coastal vulnerability index mapping projects.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p>
4.	Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	This submission is comprehensive and has a number of recommendations with respect to the Natural and Built heritage which it recommends should be dealt with holistically throughout the development plan as follows:



		<p>Archaeology It is suggested that the heritage section of the Draft County Development Plan should include appropriate objectives to address climate change issues relating to archaeological heritage. Reference to a recent publication is given “Built Heritage and Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan” (2019).</p> <p>Architectural Heritage It is suggested that built heritage should be considered as an integral part of the wider built environment and dealt with in a holistically manner throughout the development plan. The role of Architectural Conservation Officer (ACO) is outlined and how the rich architectural heritage of the county can be developed further.</p> <p>The Department refers to a number of policy documents pertaining to built heritage and archaeology and would welcome the inclusion of these policies and objectives being included in future development plans. The documents listed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Ireland 2030, • the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for the Built and Archaeological Heritage and the • National Policy on Architecture. <p>It is stated that there are several policy areas that the Development Plan should consider including in a greater detail: Climate Change, Town revitalisation, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Vernacular Architecture, National Policy on Architecture, Heritage Ireland 2030, Flood Relief works, Tall buildings in historic urban centres</p> <p>Local Authority Climate Change Strategy As part of the National Adaptation Framework, DCHG has published a <i>Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for the Built and Archaeological Heritage</i> (2018). It is stated that the Department is engaged with the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) through the Climate Change Advisory Group to ensure a consistent approach to protection and adaptation of heritage across the country. It is considered that the following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the architectural heritage in the local authority area that may be under threat, directly or indirectly, due to climate change. This should include, but not necessarily be restricted to, the protected structures and architectural conservation areas designated in the local authority Development Plan. • Include objectives to carry out climate change risk assessments for the historic structures and sites in the local authority’s functional area particularly those in the authority’s own remit. <p>Include objectives</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop disaster risk reduction policies addressing direct and indirect risks to the architectural heritage in its area. • to develop resilience and adaptation strategies for the architectural heritage in its area. • Develop the skills capacity within the local authority to address adaptation / mitigation / emergency management issues affecting historic structures and sites in order to avoid inadvertent loss or damage in the course of climate change adaptation or mitigation works. • The Department recommends that the architectural conservation officer and/or heritage officer should be included on the local authority's Adaptation Steering Group. <p>The revitalisation of Historic Urban Centre – cities, towns and villages</p> <p>In support of the vision of the National Development Plan, the Department is developing a National Policy on Architecture (NPA), under several themes, all of which are applicable to the future sustainable development of town centres i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research strategies required to inform planning and development, • heritage-led regeneration • climate change adaptation and • the design of high quality places for people. <p>The Department's built heritage grant schemes have been revised to tackle climate change resilience and to gather information to inform future funding strategies and practices for towns.</p> <p>Programmes such as the Collaborative Town Health Check Programme (CTHCP) health check surveys provide the imperative to the Local Authority as well as the basis to become more attentive of the well-being of towns as providing an understand of the opportunity to focus through a single lens and to ascertain the benefit of interconnecting government policies and funding to greater effect and benefit of rural society.</p> <p>Policy</p> <p>To consider concepts of historic urban landscapes as a collection of buildings at the various scales of settlement, the origins of Irish cities, towns and villages which give rise to their special characteristics. These include setting, topography and natural features. The conservation and reuse of early traditional structures, roofscapes of historic centres and the recognition of interrelationships between sites and landscape features in terms of the insertion of new buildings and managing their impact on the historic environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider a <i>Town Centre First Approach</i> which puts town centres at the heart of decision making to revitalise historic urban centres.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appoint a Local Authority multi-disciplinary team which communicates the historical and architectural context, focuses on the repair and upgrade of existing historic buildings, and guides new use adaptation with regard to architectural character and significance. • To promote the development of heritage-led regeneration, to plan for the reuse and conservation of core built heritage and archaeological sites within urban centres as an integral part of the evolution of the historic place and its significance. • To promote best conservation practice and to lead by example through the management and safe guarding of historic properties in the ownership of the Local Authority. • To support the development of sustainable infill to the town back lands that is appropriate in scale and character to that of the historic centre, that transitions and accommodates surviving structures and retains the historic streetscape form particularly within sensitive areas of built and archaeological importance. • To ensure strategic housing development supports rather than detracts from the vitality and overall character of historic town centres in terms of scale, connection and mobility strategies. • To compile core data information about the built and archaeological evolution of historic places, i.e. to monitor condition and vacancy to inform future development strategies and progress. • To coordinate significant infrastructural projects such as public realm works, flood relief works or new transport routes and alternative modes of transport to the benefit of surviving historic sites in order to improve their enjoyment, presentation and enhanced accessibility. <p>It is noted that the removal of traffic from urban centres and the resulting improvement in air quality which has been exemplified by the recent COVID-19 lockdown and the perceived enjoyment of urban living. These transitions support a return to sustainable and attractive urban living.</p> <p>The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) – Building Survey</p> <p>The submission sets out the procedure Under Section 53 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2012, for the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to make recommendations to a planning authority concerning the inclusion of particular structures in local authority Records of Protected Structures. It also sets out the role of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). It raises awareness by maintaining the buildings of Ireland website</p> <p>Policy</p> <p>To consider the inclusion of all structures identified by the NIAH and recommended by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in the Council's Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>To direct users of relevant local authority services to the information resources of the NIAH website www.buildingsofireland.ie.</p>
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		<p>NIAH – Garden Survey The NIAH has compiled a record of significant historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens throughout the country. The objective is to begin a process of understanding and appreciating the extent of this rich heritage.</p> <p>Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify significant historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens for protection under the development plan. • To designate Architectural Conservation Areas, where considered appropriate, in order to preserve the character of historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens. • To identify and protect significant views to or from such places. • To encourage the compilation of Conservation Plans for the long term conservation and management of cultural landscapes and their components in the ownership of the Local Authority/State. • To cooperate with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in assessing and celebrating historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens. • To encourage and facilitate the retention and careful maintenance of these places and the various components set out in the introduction above. • To encourage the cataloguing of flora and fauna to appropriate national standards. • To protect and promote heritage and traditional varieties of plants and trees within historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens. • To promote public awareness, enjoyment of and access to these sites and to seek the cooperation and assistance of other interested parties, including Government Departments and state agencies, in this regard. <p>Vernacular Architecture Vernacular architecture is rooted in our traditions and accumulated wisdom and encapsulates our identity. It is characteristic of local communities and environments. Vernacular settlements survive in many counties, usually as farming or fishing places of houses and yards arranged in a deceptively haphazard manner. <i>Government Policy on Architecture 2009–2015</i> encourages the sustainable reuse of the existing building stock, whether or not such buildings have protected status, and this is particularly pertinent to vernacular architecture.</p> <p>Policies and objectives in relation to Vernacular It is recommended that in the high-level introduction to the development plan that the following is included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that vernacular buildings are characteristic of our local communities and environments and contribute to their authenticity, and to their cultural, traditional, architectural, archaeological, historical and social interest and diversity.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the appropriate rehabilitation, revitalization and reuse of vernacular buildings, wherever feasible, employing best conservation practice and using traditional, especially vernacular, building methods and materials. <p>It is recommended that the following policy and objectives are included in the relevant chapters of the plan.</p> <p>Rural housing/settlement policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for sensitive rehabilitation of disused vernacular houses will not be subject to the Rural Settlement Strategy for housing in the countryside that applies to new dwellings, assuming that their vernacular character is not compromised, that their fabric is repaired using appropriate techniques and materials, and that the structure was previously a dwelling. Where a building is derelict, measures should be taken to support and protect the building from collapse prior to and during works. There will be a presumption against the demolition of vernacular buildings where restoration or adaptation is a feasible option. To consider the uniqueness of vernacular buildings and ensembles in terms of their focused and specific relationship with their immediate environment as a model and guide for the development of modern design approaches in rural and other appropriate settings <p>Climate change and sustainability/energy efficiency</p> <p>It is requested that the following would be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognise the inherent sustainability of vernacular buildings by virtue of their use of natural and renewal materials of local origin. To ensure the continued sensitive and appropriate rehabilitation and reuse of vernacular buildings in the interest of sustainability. To ensure the conservation and reuse of traditional materials in the interest of sustainability, good conservation practice and maintaining the long-term viability of such buildings and their associated features. The retention and careful rehabilitation of historic buildings in our landscapes, including vernacular houses and other structures, whether urban or rural, allows the materials and embedded energy of these structures to be harnessed for present and future generations. Removal and replacement of such buildings represents a waste of their embedded energy and such proposals should be subject to rigorous scrutiny. Where permission is sought to demolish a vernacular building on the grounds of structural defects or failure, or that it is not reasonably capable of being made structurally sound, such a contention must be convincingly demonstrated through a detailed report on the existing condition produced by a professional with appropriate conservation expertise and, preferably, an understanding of vernacular buildings. As part of such justification,
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		<p>details will be required of remedial works normally used in similar circumstances and setting out why these would not be appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a building has been destroyed by fire or accident, the Council may consider demolition to be appropriate, but a report by a professional with appropriate conservation expertise, specifying the cause and extent of damage, will be required. As a minimum, a vernacular building proposed for demolition should be fully recorded to an agreed professional standard. If a disused vernacular house is demolished or replaced with a replica, the Rural Settlement Strategy will apply. • Ensure that measures to upgrade the energy efficiency of vernacular buildings acknowledge their inherent vernacular characteristics, techniques and materials and do not have a detrimental physical or visual impact. • Promote and support appropriate and well-informed energy efficiency upgrades to vernacular buildings through the dissemination of factual and relevant information to the general public. <p>Rural development/farm diversification/tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and facilitate the sensitive reuse of vernacular houses or farm buildings for farm diversification, agritourism and rural development, including self-catering accommodation, arts or craft workshops and small-scale manufacturing. <p>Architectural conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect, maintain and enhance the established character and setting of vernacular buildings, farmyards and settlements. • Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings will be required to be accompanied by a detailed measured survey, photographic record and written report carried out by a professional with appropriate conservation expertise and, preferably, an understanding of vernacular buildings. Early consultation with the planning authority is strongly advised • Facilitate appropriate, high-quality design solutions for adaptations of vernacular buildings that carefully consider their vernacular qualities in terms of design, scale, setting and finishes. While new design can be expressed in contemporary architectural language, consideration should be given to exploring the use of appropriate vernacular features, building techniques and materials. • Where it is proposed to extend a vernacular house, the design, scale, footprint and materials should be sympathetic to the existing building and its setting. Extensions should generally be located to the rear and not obscure the form or layout of the existing building; substantial removal of walling is not generally recommended; connecting the existing building and extension should minimize the number of new openings and ideally use existing openings; sometimes, an outbuilding contiguous to a dwelling can be successfully incorporated. • Promote the protection and maintenance of the character and setting of vernacular buildings, farmyards and settlements, including historic gateways, boundaries and other features.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that developments proposed within or adjacent to vernacular settlements respect and enhance their spatial character, building forms, features, details and materials. • Promote the protection and maintenance of thatched buildings (domestic or non-domestic), particularly those with historic layers and roof structures. • To maintain an up-to-date record of thatched buildings, promote available grant schemes and facilitate engagement with owners in the maintenance of these buildings. <p>Rural settlement/architectural conservation Consider the protection of vernacular settlements by means of Architectural Conservation Area designation, promote the reuse of disused or unoccupied buildings within them, and ensure that developments proposed within or adjacent to vernacular settlements respect and enhance their spatial character, building forms, features, details and materials.</p> <p>New National Policy on Architecture The proposed new National Policy on Architecture, currently being drafted, will support high quality architecture which respects our collective cultural identity and past traditions of building settlement. The policy is an opportunity for the local authority to create the conditions for a high quality, low carbon and more resilient built environment for future generations. The policy will focus on five key themes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designing for climate resilience and sustainability; • designing quality spaces for public benefit; • respecting our past, shaping our future; • leadership; • knowledge and innovation <p>it is recommended that the five themes are included in the objectives and policies of the development plan to ensure the delivery and implementation of the policy.</p> <p>Heritage Ireland 2030 Heritage Ireland 2030 is a new National Heritage Plan which will set out key principles and policies for conserving and managing Ireland's heritage over the next decade and more. The Plan is currently being finalised with a view to publication later this year and should be embedded in the LA Development Plan.</p> <p>Heritage Ireland 2030 will embrace and support existing policies and initiatives. Heritage Ireland 2030 is formed around three themes which it is recommended should be embedded in the LA Development Plan.</p> <p>1. Communities and Heritage</p>
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		<p>2. Leadership and Heritage 3. Heritage Partnerships</p> <p>Nature Conservation Reference to the SEA Scoping document has been made.</p> <p>Government policy on nature conservation The submission highlights the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) and its objective regarding “<i>main stream biodiversity into decision making</i>”, move towards net loss of biodiversity and it requires Local Authorities to develop policies and objectives for the protection and restoration of biodiversity. The submission states that it is crucial consideration is given to coherent protection and enhancement of biodiversity at a regional as well as local level. The submission lists the national policy documents that recognise the importance of incorporating biodiversity protection and nature conservation into land use plans. These policies also emphasise the importance of taking an integrated approach to understanding the role the environment and natural landscape plays in the quality of life indices, water quality, economic prosperity etc. These plans, it is stated also recognise that our natural resources are non-renewable and that we must protect them first, then leverage them sustainably, which should be evidenced in the plan.</p> <p>The submission highlights that biodiversity in Ireland is impacted by habitat loss, changes in land use, pollution and climate change. The legacy of loss is addressed in the NBAP, through various methods. The submission also highlights the importance of biodiversity to mental health and well being. Also, it is stated that a County Development Plan with embedded biodiversity will help to building a county that is a healthy place for its people and visitors and provide fully functioning and resilient eco systems.</p> <p>Nature Conservation within the Plan The submission highlights the importance of protecting designated sites along with ensuring that Government policy on biodiversity can be delivered. In their submission the Department encourage the use of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping during the preparation of the Plan and the use of the Ecosystem Services Scoring approach to protect Natura 2000 sites and general nature conservation interests. The submission states that the plan should avoid policies and objectives that undermine or conflict with natural heritage policies and objectives and should where possible provide a net gain for biodiversity.</p> <p>The submission stats that the Draft County Development Plan policies and objectives should be strengthened and consistent with legislation and guidance relating to biodiversity.</p>
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		<p>It is recommended in the submission that there is a commitment in the Draft County Development Plan to undertake AA, EIA and ECIA as required and appropriate in relation to downstream plans and projects. The submission states that AA/EIA related objectives should be clear and concise.</p> <p>Natural Heritage The submission cites the commitment to biodiversity in the existing County Development Plan and it is hoped in the submission that the focus on biodiversity protection would be strengthened in the Draft County Development Plan. The submission praises the Council's efforts in publicising biodiversity.</p> <p>The submission states that natural heritage objectives should be clear and robust and include the requirement for an EcIA if EIAR/NIS is not required. The submission also encourages the council to include an objective requiring survey data to be submitted to the NBDC to strengthen the County's knowledge base on biodiversity.</p> <p>Threats, Pressures and Other Considerations for Nature Conservation The submission notes the Planning Authority's commitment to the protection of the designated sites across the county, but it also notes that clear and robust objectives are required in respect of species under strict protection. The submission states that an objective should be included requiring surveys for these strictly protected species that those protected under the Wildlife Acts are included in all development and maintenance proposals where there is a likelihood of these species being present and affected by the development.</p> <p>Drainage of Peatlands The submission highlights the importance of peatland habitats and the impact development can have. The submission recommends strong and clear policy objectives in the Draft County Development Plan pertaining to peat extraction and an objective to support the implementation of the National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan 2017 – 2022 and the restoration measures currently underway and proposed to protect and enhance raised bog habitats.</p> <p>Water Quality The submission highlights the impact of the intensification of farming particularly dairy and increased fertilizer application causing eutrophication of waterbodies and drainage of wetlands.</p> <p>The threat of wastewater due to deficiencies in wastewater treatment and septic tanks from one-off housing is also highlighted in the submission and examples of An Spidéal and An Cheathrú Rua for releasing raw sewage is cited. This section of the submission goes on to state that the Council must ensure that increased wastewater discharges and increased demands on water supply do not lead to further water quality deterioration with consequent impacts on biodiversity/Natura 2000 sites. The submission also states that the Draft County Development Plan should address current deficiencies in wastewater treatment systems in the County.</p>
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		<p>The submission highlights that LAWPRO has been successful in maintaining focus on Galway's water quality and prioritising areas for action to improve water quality and the County Development Plan, the submission states should support LAWPRO and works required for areas for action.</p> <p>Lighting The submission recommends inclusion of appropriate lighting objectives in the Draft County Development Plan and the EUROBATS and Dark Sky lighting recommendations is highlighted which provide further information on reducing the impact of lighting on wildlife.</p> <p>Invasive Alien Species The submission highlights the threat of IAS to biodiversity in Ireland and for example, the spread of Rhododendron ponticum on peatlands in Conamara. In their submission the Department recommends that specific objectives regarding containment and control of IAS be included in the plan which reference the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regs, 2011.</p> <p>Tourism, Recreation and Coastal Squeeze The submission describes the various pressures on coastal areas including for example the Wild Atlantic Way which has led to a number of ecological impacts and put increasing pressure on ecologically sensitive locations often within Natura 2000 and other protected sites, which together threaten to reduce the area available for coastal habitats and impair their function.</p> <p>The submission states that outdoor activity has put added pressure on habitats and species in particular birds in SPAs and the plan must recognise, it is stated, the potential for tourism and recreation related proposals to impact such sites and ensure these issues are addressed under SEA and AA.</p> <p>The submission welcomes objectives to underpinning Sustainable/Green Tourism promoting Ireland's Hidden Heartlands in areas with capacity for example at Eagle Watches, Portumna. The submission also recommends the inclusion of policy to regulate activities of power propelled vehicles that launch from Council property within designated sites. Furthermore, the submission states that the Plan should make it clear that cumulative and in combination effects need to be accounted for in the environmental and ecological assessment of plans and projects.</p> <p>Renewable Energy The submission states that the Plan should acknowledge that the citing of wind energy and other renewable developments in upland areas and renewable energy opportunities off-shore may be subject to significant environmental constraints.</p>
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		<p>Unauthorised Developments (UD) The submission states that the Plan should provide for unauthorised development to be addressed to ensure it does not impact biodiversity. Also, it is stated that the Plan should have an objective to ensure the enforcement system works effectively restoring sites are required.</p> <p>Improving and Developing Ecological Expertise The submission states that the Plan should include an objective to strengthen the availability of ecological expertise across the Council to ensure that threats and pressures to biodiversity are addressed and managed effectively.</p> <p>No net loss of biodiversity The submission highlights the importance of the precautionary principal being employed to ensure no further deterioration of habitats and species within and outside designated sites and zone of influence.</p> <p>Ecological Opportunities Green Infrastructure, Ecological Corridors and Landscape The submission welcomes the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy in tandem with the LCA review and it states that the Green Infrastructure Strategy should include provisions to encourage management of features of the landscape of major importance of wild fauna and flora and should, it is stated be viewed at a large scale.</p> <p>The submission also states that the promotion of Green Infrastructure should be integrated into developments (in urban areas) with commitment to reverse the loss of green urban ecosystems.</p> <p>The submission states that within Green Infrastructure the value of naturally occurring wetlands and their hydrological processes needs to be recognised and how they can empower a community in climate resilience, enhanced water quality and floodwater retention in the move to ‘slow the flow’.</p> <p>The submission highlights the importance of a cohesive network of protected sites via Green Infrastructure and ecological corridors to prevent fragmentation and isolation of protected sites from one-off housing. The submission states that consideration should be given to all planning decisions to Green Infrastructure and ecological corridors and how habitats such as hedgerows can be included or managed appropriately and it is stated that EclA may be appropriate in these instances.</p> <p>The submission states that the ecological importance of linear features in the landscape, such as hedgerows, need also to be recognised and embedded in Council roads maintenance programmes and the planning system which is states is imperative in maintaining ecological connectivity and our national commitment under Article 10 of the Habitats</p>
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		<p>Directive. It is recommended in the submission that an objective for roads and transportation is included that all road maintenance and development shall have environmental quality measure that includes ecological integrity and no net biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Greenways and Cycleways The submission calls for a distinction between Green Infrastructure and Greenways, Blueways and Peatways within the plan. It also states that greenways and other associated linear trails should be designed to take into account, and avoid where necessary, the sensitivities of natural heritage as they can present threats to biodiversity via removal of vegetation through various actions. The Department in their submission recommend that such proposals are subject to route site selection processes to ensure that impacts to biodiversity and nature conservation interests are avoided and the Department in their submission note the need to apply the precautionary principal when screening for AA and undertaking AA for Greenways, Blueways and Peatways.</p> <p>The submission states that the Conamara Greenway for example can potentially act as multi-functional Green Infrastructure accomplishing both ecological and recreational objectives through informed design to re-enforce their nature conservation role and recognising the integral features on a Greenway corridor. The submission highlights the potential for benefits of greenways such as hedgerow restoration and potential for collaborative projects with other state landowners with a potential for habitat creation alongside peatways.</p> <p>Development of public buildings and Council owned lands The submission states that it would welcome a policy where all public buildings incorporate positive biodiversity measures such as nesting boxes or ensuring biodiversity gain. It also states that the Council could enhance biodiversity by including policy objectives for example to map the extent of hedgerows in the county using the ecosystem scoring approach to identify gaps in these corridors and include a pollinator plan with attention to roadside verges, roundabouts and Council lands.</p> <p>Agriculture and Forestry The submission highlights the substantial areas of high nature value farmland (HNV) in Conamara and the pilot agri-environmental schemes in Galway that develop farming initiatives that support this ecological value and diversity. It also highlights benefits the Pearl Mussel Project and the Results Based Payments approach in place and it states that the Council should support these schemes. The submission also welcomes the development of native woodland schemes and states that low species diversity, poor woodland design and unsustainable management practices in forestry has resulted in negative impacts on biodiversity and nature conservation in the county. The Department in their submission recommend that the proposed LCA review includes a dedicated section on the capacity of nature conservation interests and biodiversity to absorb conifer afforestation.</p>
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		<p>Climate Change and Flood Alleviation</p> <p>The submission highlights that flood protection and alleviation works must be subject to environmental assessment and that the Plan should provide for flood protection measures to be delivered in a planned and strategic manner subject to environmental assessment and it should acknowledge that climate change mitigation and adaptation actions can conflict with nature conservation interests and due consideration to environmental constraints should be given in all such cases.</p> <p>Monitoring the impacts of the plan on biodiversity</p> <p>The submission states that ongoing monitoring during plan implementation will allow for corrective action and provide a learning opportunity for practitioners and decision makers for future land use plans. The Department in its submission would welcome a published monitoring plan within Strategic Environmental Report</p> <p>In conclusion, the submission states that the submission observations are not exhaustive and made without prejudice to any future recommendations.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Development Management Standards, Implementation and Monitoring.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Department of Education & Skills</p>	<p>The submission highlights how the population growth projected in the National Planning Framework combined with its focus on compact growth and sustainable development requires a collaborative engagement between the Department of Education and Skills and planning authorities in order to support the provision of additional and enhanced education facilities in our communities. It states in considering potential emerging and future education accommodation requirements, the Department will work with Galway County Council to identify projected population growth to a circa ten-year horizon in order to make enough provision for the planning and construction of school and other education accommodation where necessary.</p> <p>It states that in existing developed areas, in particular, the Department will seek to protect opportunities for potential longer-term requirements in order to ensure that sustainable communities can be supported with appropriate education provision throughout the lifetime of the National Planning Framework. As more specific population and housing growth figures become available, the Department will analyse these in the context of existing and planned school provision in order to identify potential additional school and other education accommodation requirements and welcomes an opportunity to engage on this matter at an early stage of the Council's process of drafting the new Plan would be welcome.</p>



		<p>The submission requests several specific observations and matters to be included in the Draft County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the provision of school accommodation, including the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones. <p>It is requested that policy objectives on both the provision of new schools and the protection of existing schools and the development of wider infrastructure and amenities objectives should be included in the Draft County Development Plan to support both categories of school serving your communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan should contain an objective that contains a community and infrastructure land use zoning objectives that would indicate that schools would be permitted in principle. • It is noted that there is a challenge in existing built up areas and the absence of specific school site provision in such locations can significantly challenge the delivery of required school places associated with intensified residential development. This is particularly relevant in the context of NPF objectives around the development of brown-field sites for housing. Given the 30% requirement for such brownfield development in the NPF, it is critical that explicit provision for school development to meet that projected population growth be made in Existing Built Up Areas. • It refers to how the inclusion of buffer zones and land use designations that support education development adjacent to existing and established schools (where required to facilitate potential future expansion) will be critical in meeting school accommodation requirements arising in Existing Built Up Areas and how in some instances, such provision may present the only viable solution for the provision of school places to meet the needs of the local community. • Support for urban-design schools, as per the DES guidelines, in established areas would be welcomed and in particular, measures to facilitate reduced requirements for onsite parking and set-down and to support access to off-site public amenities and facilities is essential to achieving the delivery of schools in the urban carbon-neutral model promoted in the NPF. • It is suggested that any school sites required to meet current needs or planned population growth, as may be identified by this Department, should be explicitly supported by means of an appropriate zoning provision and/or by a Specific Local Objective on the subject site in the Draft County Development Plan.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development of sites which have already been identified by this Department for school provision to meet immediate school place requirements should also be explicitly supported by means of an appropriate zoning and/or by a Specific Local Objective on the subject sites in the Draft County Development Plan. • The Department requests that Galway County Council would actively facilitate the principle of permitting schools, both permanent and temporary in as many zoning categories as possible. • The DES' current Technical Guidance Documents on school site identification and suitability assessment (TGD 25 and TGD 27) can be used to inform the selection of proposed school sites and that revised guidelines for schools designed for urban sites will be published by the Department in 2020 and it is requested that Galway County Council should monitor the Department's website as guidelines for school developments may be updated from time to time. • It is suggested that Galway County Council should consider potential synergies with adjacent public (and commercial) facilities in the proposed siting of schools or vice versa, particularly opportunities to locate schools adjacent to open space or recreation amenities, childcare provision and/or other community facilities. • That the capacity of existing schools and any planned schools, as published by the Department, be considered as "supporting infrastructure and facilities" and given high priority in Galway County Council's assessment of the suitability of specific lands for residential development. • Where a designated school site forms part of a wider development it is critical that the granting of permission for that wider development be contingent upon the provision of infrastructure and services to the school site as part of that development. These infrastructure and services must be specified to the standard which is required for any future school provision at that location. <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
6.	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	<p>Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</p> <p>It is stated that the Dept is carrying out an overview of its sustainable mobility policy review which it states will put in place a new policy that supports a shift from the private car to greater use of active travel and public transport; travel by greener transport; and comfortable and affordable journeys.</p>



		<p>It is outlined that new policy will deliver on the ambitions of the new Programme for Government in the area of active travel and public transport. The new sustainable mobility policy will be closely aligned with the national strategic outcomes of Project Ireland 2040 particularly in relation to compact growth, enhanced regional accessibility, strengthened rural economies and communities, sustainable mobility and transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. Project Ireland 2040 recognises that planning and transport policies are closely interlinked and in this instance the Galway Transport Strategy has been referenced.</p> <p>It states that a new sustainable mobility policy will be developed over the coming months, which will support better sustainable mobility and will also need to consider the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>The Department supports the alignment of transport and planning policies as indicated in the Issues Paper.</p> <p>Climate Change Mitigation It is stated that Departments approach to achieving a greener transport sector is aligned with the Avoid-Shift -Improve principle. Reference to the Departments discussion paper and suite of mitigation measures which are already in place and potential role of new measures to avoid, shift or improve emissions through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the frequency and distance of trips; • Shifting towards more environmentally friendly modes of transport; • Promoting efficient fuel and vehicle technologies. <p>Public Transport in rural areas and accessible public transport Reference to recent publications (<i>NTA's Local Link Rural Transport Programme Strategic Plan 2018-2022; the National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) 2017-2021; the ratification by Ireland in 2018 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)</i>), in the area of accessibility and rural transport is given and the reduction in social exclusion and integration of rural transport services with other public transport services.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications</p>
7.	EirGrid	<p>Eirgrid is responsible for the safe, secure and reliable transmission of electricity and develops, manages and operates the electricity transmission grid. The grid brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout the country. The distribution network then brings power to the homes, businesses and other users that need it.</p> <p>An outline of the Regional Context is given and the existing transmission network that is available in the county (110kv and 220 kv). It is stated that there is limited high capacity 400kv infrastructure in the southern part of the county. There is a 100kv transmission network in the area which supplies a relatively low local demand. Development of this network is mainly required to connect a high level of renewable generation.</p>



		<p>The Regional Spatial Economic Strategy is referenced and how energy is required for economic growth, and access to affordable and reliable energy as an essential objective. It is stated that the North and Western region is particularly well placed to the lead the way in an efficient use of resource and developing a low carbon economy. A number of research test facilities are currently underway in the region.</p> <p>It is stated that EirGrid has a number of proposed infrastructure upgrades in the region and the RSES for the region is fully supportive of these projects. The delivery of these projects will ensure that the population growth projections outlined in the RSES will have sufficient electricity infrastructure to service them. The improvements to the network will comprise 200km of a new transmission network and line upgrade of 700km.</p> <p>It is requested that policies and objectives in the Draft County Development Plan that support a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity is required in order for EirGrid to successfully implement its own Grid Development Strategy. In this context it is requested that the policies and objectives in the adopted RSES should be reviewed and considered as an example of robust and sustainable policies.</p> <p>The review of the existing Wind Energy Strategy and its replacement with The Local Authority Renewable Strategy is welcomed.</p> <p>In terms of electricity transmission, the submission refers to a number of important Government Policy documents namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (2012) Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure; • Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (2015) White Paper on Energy: Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030; • Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (2019) Climate Action Plan; • Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (2019) National Planning Framework; • Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (2019) Draft National Marine Planning Framework. <p>In essence, it is requested that the Draft County Development Plan reflects EirGrid's need for robust policies to develop the electricity grid in a safe and secure manner.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
8.	Electricity Supply Board	



		<p>A detailed submission from the ESB has been received which outlines an overview of the ESB strategy, the Transmission and Distribution Network, ESB Roll out of EV Infrastructure and the ESB Telecoms and Telecommunications Infrastructure.</p> <p>It is specifically requested that the Draft County Development Plan would include the clear policies outlined in relation to the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backing the delivery and continuation of a secure and resilient supply of energy that optimises the use of the renewable energy resources of the County to address climate change, support job creation and the move to a competitive low carbon Green Economy, while also protecting the environment and amenities of the county. • Safeguarding existing strategic energy corridors from encroachment by other developments that could compromise the delivery of energy networks. • Protecting the County's future capacity for the development of electricity Transmission and Distribution infrastructure. • Facilitating expansion and improvement in telecommunications infrastructure and to help position the county to attract intellectual and physical capital. • Promoting, encouraging and facilitating the use of sustainable modes and patterns of transport including electric vehicles and including Parking Standards that will set minimum levels of parking provision for EVs. <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
9.	Fáilte Ireland	<p>A comprehensive submission was received in relation to the tourism profile of the county. The submission is broken down as follows:</p> <p>The Objectives of this submission: The submission seeks to enhance the policy convergence in the new Development Plan to ensure a meaningful framework is established for the enhancement of the tourism in the county.</p> <p>It is stated that land-use plans are required to manage all land uses and economic drivers – of which tourism is but one, in a more holistic, strategic and spatial manner to maximise the efficient use of resources and the achievement of greater outcomes for society at large.</p> <p>Commentary on the Current Galway Development Plan 2015-2021 It is requested that tourism is included as part of the Strategic Aims for the county in the Draft County Development Plan to underpin its importance to the county.</p>



		<p>It is requested that there would be an objective supporting continued co-operation between Fáilte Ireland and other tourism sector stakeholders in the emerging Development Plan.</p> <p>It is considered given the importance of tourism to Galway that a dedicated chapter would allow for an extensive and wide-ranging approach to be taken to the multifaceted and distinct tourism products in Galway, which may include but is not limited to several named amenities throughout the county.</p> <p>Background Information Provided: Issues Paper The following topics raised in the issues paper are of relevance: Rural Place Making and the Countryside, Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development, The Galway Gaeltacht, Natural Heritage, and, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p> <p>It is considered that an ambitious and robust tourism chapter will both encourage and support tourism product development through the planning process but will also place Galway in a strong position for both Urban and Rural Regeneration funding (URDF and RRDF).</p> <p>Key Tourism Assets and Challenges in County Galway It is requested that the forthcoming County Development Plan includes an objective to deliver a previously commenced Tourism Strategy entitled Galway to 2025.</p> <p>Sustainable Tourism It is suggested that the approach to Tourism in the Draft County Development Plan will need to place a strong emphasis on “Sustainable Tourism”. Sustainable Tourism is defined as <i>‘tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities’</i>.”</p> <p>It is stated that Tourism development must be balanced with the protection of the natural environment. Traffic Management and safety issues must also be carefully considered. It is requested that the Council should continually monitor this in relation to car park capacity, suitability of public realm and traffic management in towns.</p> <p>Other initiatives to promote include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased public transport in the county such as the potential for electric buses serving more rural areas to allow ease of movement. Possible delivery mechanisms that could be explored would include the extension of the Rural Transport Network to include tourism objectives and key tourism sites; • Improved road quality to facilitate better access by public and private bus transport;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative approach should be used between Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Irish Rail and CIE with regard linkages regards bus, train, car parking, and greenways; • The promotion and encouragement of local link bus routes aligned to tourism locations and timing to facilitate use by tourist and locals supporting their future viability; • Encouragement of dedicated and suitable cycle infrastructure to allow for the promotion of cycling along the routes for both recreation and leisure cycling; • Charging infrastructure in parking for electric bicycles and cars; • Encourage low carbon or carbon neutral businesses. <p>Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure The lack of insufficient wastewater treatment facilities, tourism is identified as having an impact on the vitality and vibrancy of towns. It is stated that the quality of bathing waters is paramount to the tourism sector. South Conamara is referenced in relation to insufficient wastewater treatment on tourism.</p> <p>Vacancy in Towns It is stated that there is a high level of vacancy in towns such as An Spidéal and Clifden and that these buildings have been vacant for a considerable time, which results in fewer opportunities for new businesses to invest. Fáilte Ireland has published ‘Development Guidelines for Tourism Destination Towns’ which can also be used for smaller towns and villages.</p> <p>Other measures which can have a positive influence on tourism in towns includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced public realm, • improved wayfinding and signage, • the promotion of town facilities • tidy towns initiatives. <p>It can be useful to engage with towns in terms of architectural design to facilitate consistent approach to the design of signage, streetscape and colour schemes.</p> <p>Indoor Attractions It is requested that Galway County Council would encourage the provision of more indoor tourism and recreational facilities.</p> <p>Support for Festivals Due to the contribution that festivals bring to the local economy it is requested that support for festivals in the forthcoming Development Plan would be included.</p>
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		<p>Accommodation and Facilities It is stated that there is a lack of choice in accommodation in towns such as Clifden and West Galway and in the Islands. It is requested that the Development Plan would support the development of a wide range of accommodation and other local enterprises through Development Plan policies, objectives and zonings.</p> <p>Improved Access for Water Based Activities It is requested that there would be better access to Water based industries and the development of blueways. Blueways are recreational trails, based alongside lakes, canals and rivers.</p> <p>Failte Ireland Initiatives Visitor Experience Development Plans Fáilte Ireland has prepared a Visitor Experience Development Plans (VEDP) for the Conamara Coast & Aran Islands. It is requested that there would be an objective acknowledging and supporting this VEDP and others, including Destination Development Plans in the Draft County Development Plan. It is also requested that there would be an objective supporting continued collaboration with the Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of these VEDPs.</p> <p>The Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme (OP) provides for the opportunity for a series of drives off the Wild Atlantic Way. The Burren Discovery Trail, which includes parts of South Eastern Galway and Clare, is one such proposal provided for by the OP. The intention of creating such a scheme is to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage existing and future visitors to explore the Burren region inland from the Wild Atlantic Way coastal route and to do so through interpretation (common themes and storytelling) and signage; • Disperse visitors from areas of the Wild Atlantic Way that may be experiencing some congestion in peak times and to do so over an extended time frame outside of peak season; • Gain from the existing attractions and viewing points and link such areas in a cohesive manner; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present existing good quality visitor experiences located adjacent to the catchment of the Wild Atlantic Way; • Ensure the local economy benefits in the most suitable manner. <p>It is submitted that locations where Fáilte Ireland would fund the provision of new directional signage and interpretation should be identified and supported in the forthcoming Development Plan.</p> <p>Irelands Hidden Heartlands It is requested that the 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' identification and branding is fully integrated into the Development Plan and that an objective aligning with, supporting and promoting this initiative is also included.</p>
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		<p>Other Fáilte Ireland Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of an objective recognising and supporting the forthcoming Shannon Masterplan; • The inclusion of an objective relating to the Beara Breifne Way, which would relate to the provision of key facilities and services for visitors such as accommodation, signage and parking; • Destination Towns Funding. <p>Clifden has received significant funding through this scheme, this funding should be further capitalised upon to maximise the impact of this investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platforms for Growth Investment Programme <p>Major new visitor attractions of scale will be developed, and existing attractions enhanced under the programme which falls under the Government's Project Ireland 2040 strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kylemore Abbey and Walled Gardens; • Connemara National Park; • Dun Aonghasa, Inis Mor. <p>Response to Key Questions of the Issues Paper</p> <p>Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development</p> <p>It is stated that the provision of tourist facilities including accommodation and increased coverage of high quality transport infrastructure will increase access to the county including areas that are less visited. It is requested that small scale tourist businesses are supported. The protection and enhancement of the tourism resource with information should be a key aspect of the Draft County Development Plan. It is stated that the proactive measures by the Council to reduce vacancy will have a significant impact on local business and the local economy.</p> <p>Galway Gaeltacht</p> <p>It is stated that by promoting tourism in the Gaeltacht, it would provide a meaningful boost to the local economies and their communities.</p> <p>Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p> <p>It is recognised that the county has an abundance of natural assets which is reflected by a number of designated sites for nature conservation. It is stated that the Failte Ireland is supportive of policy objectives that support biodiversity, but Tourism can play an important role in a sustainable manner.</p>
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		<p>It is acknowledged that the sensitive nature and location of many of these sites with improved access must be achieved in a sustainable manner. The improvement of cycle routes and walking trails to sites, information signage and orientation in all key towns with accessible parking would facilitate access for all.</p> <p>Architectural and Archaeological Heritage It is stated that the formulation of policies which acknowledge and support the positive role that heritage plays within tourism will benefit both heritage and tourism. It is suggested that a strong heritage policy with tourism as a priority sector within it, will help to ensure that both interests are maintained.</p> <p>Future Suggestions for the Draft County Development Plan</p> <p>Tourism Amenities and Assets Maps It is suggested that there should be tourism policies and objectives that clearly sets out where possible through the inclusion of maps in the Draft County Development Plan which would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key nodes of tourism activity in the county-both existing and proposed • Existing transport links between nodes and identified routes • Strategic tourism centres • Sensitive environment • Areas of unrealised tourism potential • Branding. <p>Renewable Energy Strategy It is suggested that all County Councils prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy, and this should continue to be an objective for the County which should be progressed in the short term.</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessment It is requested that the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025 be referenced in the forthcoming Development Plan and that a specific Landscape Character Assessment for Galway be incorporated.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communication; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
10.	Irish Water	This submission from Irish Water provides an overview of its role and function which is essentially to supply water and treat/safely return waste water to the environment as such it encourages the Planning Authority to adopt a sequential approach to development in areas with existing water services infrastructure and spare capacity. It also encourages



	<p>the use of policies and objectives for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Green Infrastructure in developments new and existing which are cost effective and sustainable. The submission advises that Irish Water is preparing a strategy to respond to climate change legislative and policy frameworks. Also, Irish Water are progressing initiatives that take the circular economy model for the management of sludges which, the submission states is a significant change from the traditional linear model towards reuse and recycling.</p> <p>National Water Resources Plan Irish Water advise that they are preparing a National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) which will outline how a move towards sustainable, secure and reliable public drinking water supply will be achieved. The NWRP will outline the longer-term plan for the Galway area and is due to be published for consultation later this year.</p> <p>Drinking Water Source Protection Within Irish Water’s Drink Water Safety Plans the source component of DWSP’s is a key component for Irish Water as protecting and restoring the quality of raw water as a means to reduce cost of water treatment. As such, the submission advises that Irish Water will work with other stakeholders to protect drinking water sources. For example Irish Water works with the National Pesticides and Drinking Water Action Group to achieve this. Irish Water are also involved in pilot drinking water source protection projects, which aim to trial catchment scale interventions to reduce the risk of pollution in water supplies.</p> <p>River Basin Management Plan The submission advises that the objectives and priorities of the River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 21 have been incorporated into Irish Water investment plans and work programmes.</p> <p>Wastewater Treatment Plants The submission draws attention to the Wastewater Treatment Capacity register for Galway and states that Oranmore and Bearna are served by Mutton Island and a newly constructed WWTP serves Baile Chláir – both of which have spare capacity. The submission goes onto advise that the Greater Galway Drainage Strategy will investigate options to provide for the growth in the MASP in the medium and long-term, which, it is stated is included in the IW 2020 – 24 Investment Plan. A Feasibility Study (currently underway) will assess the future needs of the area and make recommendations on capital interventions required.</p> <p>In relation to the Key Towns (Tuam & Ballinasloe) both have capacity to accommodate growth with a project to improve plant performance almost complete at Tuam WWTP. Furthermore, the settlements of An Cheathrú Rua, An Spidéal, Ahascragh and Cloch na Rón all have Capital investment projects to provide WWTPs. Glenamaddy WWTP upgrade has recently been completed with other minor WWTP upgrades and improvements continually being carried out on a national prioritised basis.</p>
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		<p>The submission refers to Irish Water Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme which may deliver WWTP upgrades and a consultation process has begun with Local Authorities to identify and plan for appropriate projects in each area – the outcome of which will be known from Q1 2021.</p> <p>Wastewater Networks</p> <p>The submission states that a Drainage Area Plan will be completed for Galway City agglomeration, including Oranmore and Bearna which will assess the wastewater network in detail to identify issues and needs. Irish Water states in its submission that it will engage with the Council to ensure planned growth in the strategic growth areas is taken account of in this study. Irish Water advise that simultaneously a Network Development Plan is scheduled to be carried out for Galway City agglomeration in 2021 which will help inform how undeveloped zoned sites in Bearna and Oranmore could be serviced. Network Development Plans are also underway for Baile Chláir and Athenry in 2020 and for Tuam and Ballinasloe in 2021.</p> <p>The submission makes reference to other projects planned to resolve the constraints which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater storage tank at Merlin Park Pumping Station which will improve capacity constraints at Oranmore main pumping station. • A project is at detailed design stage to resolve capacity constraints in Athenry wastewater network. • Hydraulic Study 2020-2024 investment period to investigate issues with a stormwater overflow at Station Road, Loughrea. • Pumping station upgrades under consideration in Ballinasloe (Dunloe P.S.) and Portumna (Green Isle P.S.) to resolve capacity constraints. • New foul sewers to connect to existing network included with the WWTP capital investments at An Cheathrú Rua, An Spidéal, Ahascragh and Cloch na Rón. <p>Water Infrastructure</p> <p>Irish Water in its submission identify 24 of Galway's 28 Water Resource Zones (WRZ) that may require further investigative studies or interventions to facilitate significant new connections to the network. The 4 other (WRZ) of Mid Galway, Oughterard, Cleggan-Claddaghduff and Woodford PS) are unlikely to have any issue facilitating new connections. Although IW advise that further investigative studies or interventions may be required.</p> <p>The submission goes onto advise that two water treatment plants in Loughrea will be rationalised into the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme later this year. Also, that treatment plant upgrades focusing on water quality have been carried out in Gort, An Cheathrú Rua, An Spidéal and Ballinasloe with groundwater interventions at Cill Chiarán, Moylough and Dunmore Glenamaddy WRZs being investigated.</p>
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		<p>In relation to the National Water Resources Plan, Irish Water in consultation with the Council will identify the preferred interim and long term interventions required to ensure a sustainable water supply in County Galway.</p> <p>Water Networks The submission mentions that leakage reduction is progressing along with mains rehabilitation activities and capital maintenance. It is also stated by Irish Water that performance of the networks will be monitored to ensure the most urgent works are prioritised. The submission refers to mains rehabilitation works that has been carried out on distribution and trunk mains including at An Spidéal, Glenamaddy, Rosmuc, Tuam, Teeranea/Lettermore, Kinvara, Inis Mór, An Fhairche, Briarhill and An Cheathrú Rua, while additional rehabilitation works in An Spidéal and Ahascragh are to be completed by the end of 2020 and other recent network project include connection of Loughrea to Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p>The submission concludes with suggested policies/objectives which are standard to IW and relate to protecting IW assets and the environment, ensuring that plan making and development occurs in consultation with IW and that development can connect into the IW network where possible around County Galway or have suitable water supply and waste water treatment systems as appropriate.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport, Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications</p>
11.	National Transport Authority	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from the National Transport Authority (NTA). It is requested that the following topics would be considered in the drafting of the Draft County Development Plan;</p> <p>Guiding Principles It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan should be prepared with policies' and objectives that would support the consolidation of urban-generated development within existing urban areas, which complement the integration of land use and transport planning. The development of lands within existing urban areas should be prioritised over development in less accessible locations. Development should be carried out in a sequential manner which would be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, including infill and brownfield sites. It is suggested that large scale, trip intensive developments such as offices and retail should primarily be focused into central locations in urban areas.</p> <p>Town centres should be accessible, attractive, vibrant and safe as places to work, live shop and engage in community life. It is considered that planning at a local level should take place which would promote walking, cycling and public transport by maximising the number of people living within walking and cycling distances of their neighbourhood.</p>



	<p>The strategic transport function of national roads should be maintained and protected in accordance with national policy. Non-residential development proposals should be subject to maximum parking standards. In areas where the highest intensity of development occurs, an approach that limits car parking on an area wide basis should be applied, which would be of particular relevance to the larger urban areas.</p> <p>It is concluded in this section that all major employment developments and all schools, travel plans should be conditioned as part of planning permissions and carried out in accordance with existing NTA guidance.</p> <p>Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning in the Galway Metropolitan Area An outline of the population allocation is given for the MASP. It is acknowledged that with the population increase this also brings challenges for the provision of supporting infrastructure and services with the integration of land use and transport planning performing a critical role in enabling the requirements of an expanded MASP area to be in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Galway Transport Strategy It is stated that the integration of land use and transport planning and the objectives in the Galway Transport Study are included in the Draft County Development Plan and an indication as to how the Development Plan will intend to promote and provide for a reduction in car dependency should be clearly illustrated.</p> <p>Movement at Inter-Settlement Level It is considered that an assessment of inter-settlement travel patterns across the county including the MASP area to key settlements in adjoining counties and the commuting patterns to Galway city and the key towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam should be carried out.</p> <p>Local Transport Plans It is recommended that Local Transport Plans (LTPs) would be carried out for the key towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam. An outline of what should be included in the LTPs is given.</p> <p>Planning for Bus Service Provision It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan should recognise the importance of bus provision in the county and the opportunities presented by investment that is currently underway in the city and environs. This can be indicated by the appropriate consolidation of future development in areas which support the use of public transport.</p> <p>Provision of Public Transport Services in Rural Areas An outline of the role that the NTA plays in the provision of rural transport services through the <i>Local Link Rural Transport Programme</i> was provided. It is suggested that the Draft County Development Plan would acknowledge the</p>
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		<p>role rural transport services can perform in providing for social and economic connectivity between the small villages/ rural area and larger towns.</p> <p>Strategic Road Network The NPF is referenced in relation to the Strategic Road Network and how its sets out the importance of maintaining, improving and protecting the strategic function of the key transport corridors including the protection of the Ten -T core and comprehensive network. To reinforce the importance of the Strategic Road Network, NPO 74 is referenced. In order to protect these strategic road networks. It is requested that development objectives would be in accordance with the DOECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012) and that this would be referenced in the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Parking Standards In locations where the highest intensity of development occurs an approach that caps car parking on an area wide basis should be applied. In relation to cycle parking at trip origin and destination, this is a key factor in determining modal choice and should be designed into public realm and new developments to ensure that adequate facilities are provided. The <i>Standards for Cycle Parking and Associated Cycling Facilities for New Developments</i> document is referenced.</p> <p>Accessibility In terms of accessibility enabling universal access and facilitating and promoting universal design should be a key consideration in the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Guidance Documents The NTA lists a number of Guidance documents to be considered in the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Development Plan Indicators-Mode Share It is suggested that the Development Plan should include sustainable transport indicators, including modal share, for the purpose of monitoring the efficacy of policies and development objectives and a range of sustainable development indicators.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing, Infrastructure and Transport</p>
12.	OPW	<p>The submission references the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 and associated Circulars and Technical Appendices to ensure the key principles of flood risk management and sustainable planning are adopted. It states that the sequential approach should be considered at an early stage and where there is uncertainty – the precautionary approach should be taken or a furthermore detailed assessment should be carried out before decisions are made.</p>



		<p>The submission references the 3 stage FRA process for the LPA's to identify flood risk and the degree to which it is an issue and what assessment to a scale proportionate to the risk should be carried out. The submission provides an overview of the 3 stages - Stage 1 Flood risk identification; Stage 2 Initial flood risk assessment and Stage 3 Detailed flood risk assessment.</p> <p>With reference to the Draft County Development Plan the OPW recommend that attention is paid to the following sections of the Guidelines – Chapter 3 – The Planning Principles and The Sequential Approach and definitions of Appropriate Development and with Chapters 3 and 4 – the Plan Making Justification Test where it is intended to zone or otherwise designate land where there is a moderate or high probability of flooding, noting that the application of the Test should be supported by analysis to an appropriate level of detail.</p> <p>The submission also advises that the Draft County Development Plan should give a clear commitment and include strategic objectives regarding flood risk and undertake to correctly implement and abide by the 'Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>The submission outlines the areas that have been included in the CFRAM Programme which include – Ahascrach, Ballinasloe, Portumna, Athenry, Gort, Kinvara, Loughrea, Oranmore, Baile Chláir, Corofin, Oughterard, Tuam, Cloch na Rón and Clifden. As such Flood Risk Management Plans and Flood Maps have been prepared for each of these areas and it is requested that Galway County Council have regard to the proposed development of flood relief schemes in Ballinasloe, Clifden, Gort Lowlands, Portumna and the ongoing design, planning and implementation of the Clare River (Baile Chláir) and Dunkellin & Aggard Stream flood relief scheme to ensure that zoning or development does not impede this progress. These flood maps are available online.</p> <p>In the context of climate change the submission states that Planning Authorities need to consider the impacts of sea level rise, increasing fluvial floods and increased rainfall in plan making by avoiding development in areas prone to future flooding, provide space for flood defences, specifying minimum floor levels and setting specific DM objectives. The submission notes that CFRAM flood maps show two potential future scenarios with varying degrees of climate impact.</p> <p>The submission calls for Planning Authorities to have regard to areas that may be prone to the risk of coastal change or erosion including increased risk due to climate change. It is also noted in the submission that a development not prone to flooding itself can increase flooding elsewhere due to runoff, drainage, paved areas or loss of storage, as such new development must avoid this.</p> <p>Finally, the submission states that the Draft County Development Plan should utilise natural water retention to reduce runoff and provide other benefits such as to water quality, biodiversity etc which can be included in areas around existing developments and with existing and proposed developments in the form of SUDS.</p>
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		Topics Raised: Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications
13.	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). It is requested that the following topics would be considered in the drafting of the Draft County Development Plan;</p> <p>Managing Exchequer Investment and Statutory Guidance</p> <p>It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan should be prepared with policies' and objectives that would support and protect the Ten -T Network. The submission has highlighted the Ten-T routes within County Galway including the M/N6 Dublin to Galway route, the N/M17 Galway to Sligo and the N/M18 Galway to Limerick national primary routes. The submission has also identified the N59, N60, N63, N65, N67, N83 and N84, national secondary roads, which all provide important regional and inter-regional connectivity within and through Galway. The routes as identified are important strategic national roads and give access to regional and international markets. It is important that policies and objectives are drafted which allow the network of national roads to continue to play the intended strategic role in catering for inter-urban and inter-regional transport requirements. It is important that these assets are managed in accordance with national and regional policy as outlined in Smarter Travel (DTTAS, 2009), (SFILT) Investing in our Transport Future (DTTAS, 2015), the provisions of the Section 28 DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012), Project Ireland 2040 and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (NWRA RSES).</p> <p>Having regard to provision of official and regional policy TII would welcome consideration by the Council of including as a Core Strategy Objective in the Draft County Development Plan strategic objectives to reflect the foregoing policy requirements, which are summarised as;</p> <p>a) to maintain the strategic function, capacity and safety of the national roads network, including planning for future capacity enhancements, and</p> <p>b) to ensure that the existing extensive transport networks, which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, safety, accessibility and connectivity to transport users.</p> <p>Development and Core Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development at national road junctions <p>It is requested that the Council consider the implications of land use policies on the strategic national road network in determining future land use zoning strategy in the Draft County Development Plan and respective Core Strategy. Any proposals which are detrimental to the investment of national road infrastructure should not be considered. Draft County Development Plan policies should reflect and safeguard the strategic role of the national road network and associated junctions. The Planning Authority is guided towards the preferences expressed in the Retail Planning Guidelines for locating developments that attract many trips within established towns and district centres. TII have also advised that while TTA can be carried out for specific developments these are not a substitute for a prior overall</p>



		<p>transport assessment. Leaving the overall transport assessment of areas to individual applicants is considered inappropriate and can lead to piecemeal development in close proximity to the strategic national road network. It has been suggested that as part of the Draft County Development Plan that the planning authority carry out appropriate Area Based Transport Assessment and/or Strategic Transport Assessment (STA). TII have advised that they remain available to assist the Council and is available for consultation in relation to matters impacting the strategic national road network in the County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to national roads <p>It is requested that the development plan should make it clear that the policy of the planning authority will be to avoid the creation of additional access points from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses to national roads to which speed limits greater than 50kph apply as advised in Section 2.5 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional Circumstances' <p>It is requested that where the planning authority proposes a less restrictive approach to the control of development accessing national roads, that this should be plan led and done in consultation with the agreement of TII in accordance with Section 2.6 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines. TII would welcome and is available to discuss proposals in relation to Section 2.6 of the Guidelines with the Executive of Galway County Council for incorporation into the new Development Plan. It will be important that the appropriate evidence base is developed to support any proposals in this regard.</p> <p>Transport Planning and National Road Schemes</p> <p>The submission has identified the N6 Galway City Ring Road (N6GCRR) and the N59 Bypass as schemes to be delivered under the National Development Plan and the N59 Oughterard – Maam Cross – Clifden scheme which is included as a Scheme in Planning/Design/Construction in the National Development Plan. Policies and objectives contained in the Draft County Development Plan should not adversely impact upon these projects. In addition, TII has requested that the Council consult with the Councils Road Design Office or local National Road Design Office to ensure the inclusion of up to date information in the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>TII requests the inclusion of policies and objectives in the Development Plan that provide for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • objectives providing for development of relevant national road schemes, • a policy to protect national road schemes free from adverse development that may compromise the development of route options or the construction of preferred routes or add to the overall costs associated with proposed schemes. <p>Other Specific Policies and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Safety <p>The Council is requested to reference RSA and RSIA requirements in the Draft County Development Plan relating to development proposals with implications for the national road network.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) It is recommended that planning applications for significant development proposals are accompanied with TTA to be carried out by suitably competent consultants, which are assessed in association with their cumulative impact with other relevant developments on the road network. TII have advised that they have prepared the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014), which are available at www.tii.ie. It has been requested that the TII Traffic & Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) be referenced in the Draft County Development Plan relating to development proposals with implications for the national road network. • Service Areas TII have referred to Section 2.8 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines which indicates the requirement for a forward planning approach to the provision of off-line motorway service areas at national road junctions and also addresses roadside service facilities on non-motorway national roads and their junctions. TII have also referred to the TII Policy on Service Areas (August 2014). Section 1.4 of the Policy outlines the roles of the Authority and planning authorities in relation to the provision of service areas. The TII Policy on Service Areas has identified the need for an on-line service area to serve the M6/M17/M18 and identifies that TII in consultation with Galway County Council will lead its development. The Authority would welcome the provisions of the TII Service Area Policy (2014), including the identified need for on-line service provision to serve the M6/M17/M18, and the relevant provisions of the DoECLG Guidelines reflected in the Draft County Development Plan. TII have advised that Objective TI 7 (a) remains relevant and would welcome its continued inclusion in the Draft County Development Plan, 2021 – 2025. • Signage TII have referred to both Policy on the Provision of Tourist & Leisure Signage on National Roads (March 2011) and Section 3.8 of the DoECLG' s Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (control the proliferation of non road traffic signage on and adjacent to national roads). It has been requested that the provisions of the TII Policy and the DoECLG Guidelines incorporated into the new Development Plan. • Noise The Council are requested to refer to the requirements of Safeguarding S.I. No. 140 of 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations in the Draft County Development Plan. This legislation requires that development proposals identify and implement noise mitigation measures when introducing noise sensitive uses in the environs of existing and planned national roads, where such mitigation is warranted. • Safeguarding national road drainage regimes It is suggested that a new objective be included in the Draft County Development Plan associated with safeguarding investment in the national road network relating to protection of national road drainage regimes. The following Objective has been suggested 'The capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage regimes in County Galway will be safeguarded for national road drainage purposes. • Renewable Energy.
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		<p>It is recommended that an objective is included in the plan requiring the submission of Glint and Glare Assessments for solar energy developments where there may be implications for the safety and efficiency of the strategic national road network.</p> <p>With respect to grid connection for renewable energy developments, it is recommended that an assessment of all alternatives to grid connection routing should be assessed as it is inappropriate to only consider utilising the national road as a grid connection route when alternatives are available. It would therefore be welcomed if consideration was given to include an objective in the Development Plan in relation to renewable energy indicating that it should be demonstrated that an assessment of all alternative grid connection route options has been undertaken prior to any proposals being brought forward for grid connection utilising the national road network.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>It is recommended that the development objectives included in the Draft County Development Plan reflect the provisions of the DoECLG's Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines which indicates the importance of developing an evidence based approach at development plan stage for proposals with implications for the on-going safe and efficient operation of national roads.</p> <p>In summary, the Planning Authority is advised to ensure in the review of the County Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The protection of the safety, carrying capacity and efficiency of the existing and future national roads network is maintained, • Future National Road Scheme planning is provided for and schemes are safeguarded, and; • An integrated approach to land use and transportation solutions throughout the County should be undertaken such that local traffic generated by developments is catered for primarily within the framework of the local (i.e. non-national) road network. <p>The final sentence in the submission has advised that TII are available to meet the Executive of the Council to discuss the issues raised in the submission to assist in devising an appropriate sustainable development strategy for County Galway.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
14.	Údarás na Gaeltachta	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from Údarás na Gaeltachta. It is requested that the following topics would be considered in the drafting of the Draft County Development Plan;</p> <p>Irish Language and the Gaeltacht</p>



		<p>It is requested that reference would be made to the statutory status given to the Gaeltacht areas, the Gaeltacht service towns, and to mention this recognition as a rich resource in complimenting development of County Galway. It is recommended that a Local Development Plan (LDP) be agreed for the Gaeltacht as integral part of the layout of this new Development Plan. The submission has requested that recognition is given to Gaeltacht areas, and to the Irish language as a community language of these areas within mapping done of the county and should be part of preparation of the development plan. The plan should give strategic recognition for the recommendations for the Language Planning Process and the systematic implementation of these recommendations and the development approach presented in these plans. The language support wishes set out in the Galway Development Plan 2015-2021 should be included again in the new plan. The submission has provided a list of objectives which relate to the viability of the Gaeltacht and the Islands.</p> <p>People, Settlement Hierarchy and Housing</p> <p>The submission has advised that Údarás na Gaeltachta strongly supports the approach to develop a development policy focused on stabilisation and balancing of the distribution of people in the county, which comes together with the parameters mentioned in the National Planning Framework and in national, regional and other local strategies. The viability of rural communities depends, among Gaeltacht communities in Galway, entirely on policies with this main aim mentioned, to be actively and continuously put in practice.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is suggested that there should be an integrated approach to development between Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the other stakeholders to ensure that appropriate support is given to the people of the Gaeltacht with employment, housing, basic social order and hobbies, in order to ensure that there will be a sustainable community in the Gaeltacht in the future. It is also considered that current Development Plan Objectives UHO 13 and RHO 4 be retained.</p> <p>Economic and Touristic Development</p> <p>The submission has made a number of recommendations with respect to both economic and tourism related development in the Gaeltacht. It is suggested that recognition for Tourism Development and specific strategic projects of the Údarás which relate to generating employment and entrepreneurship in Galway Gaeltacht should be contained within the Draft Galway County Development Plan. The submission has also recommended that green and blue infrastructure should be prioritised within the new plan. It has been requested provision is made for improvement of facilities on the sea shore (i.e. the quay in Kilronan, parking facilities, toilets and related facilities to be improved at beaches along the Conamara Coast). The submission has also made reference to the Failte Irelands 'Visitor Experience Development Plan' for the region and recommends that the planning needs should be examined in order to develop more facilities and accommodation services in Conamara. It is also suggested that there should be a close connection</p>
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		<p>between Údarás, the Council, Fáilte Ireland and recognised stakeholders in the tourism industry to assist in ensuring viable development in the tourism industry in An Spidéal / Cois Fharráige, An Cheathrú Rua / Na hOileáin and Carna.</p> <p>The Gréasán Digiteach na Gaeltachta network This submission has provided details with respect to the gteic network. It is suggested that there should be a unified approach between Galway County Council and Údarás na Gaeltachta in developing and implementing the gteic network. The focus should be on standardising and improving the essential services on which the local enterprises depend including broadband connection and services and the provision of other telecommunication services.</p> <p>Development Plan for Iorras Aithneach It has been suggested that more investment and resources be provided so that the Iorras Aithneach Development Plan can be implemented in order to unlock the development opportunities for this area. It has also been noted that there are challenge to attract companies to areas of the Gaeltacht because of the current state of the travel and transport infrastructure, especially the roads. It is suggest that a study be carried out on this area and appropriate plans for improvement should be put in place.</p> <p>Development of the Marine Industry with respect to the marine industry it is requested that a number of recommendations are considered including development of Cill Chiarán port, sustainable aquaculture, development of the Gaeltacht quays to assist with the fishing and seaweed industry, development of the renewable energy industry, development of water supply and treatment facilities for wastewater</p> <p>The applicant has enclosed a copy of their submission to the West and North Assembly within Appendix 1 of this submission.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing, Urban Living and Placemaking, Rural Place Making and the Countryside, Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development, The Galway Gaeltacht, Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
15.	Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	<p>A submission has been received from Cllr. Alastair McKinstry. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <p>Preparation for increased rainfall, flooding with climate change It is stated that it is expected that there will be increased rainfall over the winters with somewhat drier summers. Clifden is cited with the recent flooding in August 2020. It is stated that the currently projected water flows are based on CFRAM guidance and updated modelling done for the EPA however climate change needs to be taken into account. The consequences of these precipitation changes on groundwater flow and resurgences are the subject of current work</p>



		<p>at the Geological Survey of Ireland and have yet to be included in OPW flooding guidelines. However, an increase in the expected peak flows of at least 30% would appear warranted.</p> <p>It is stated that there is a reactive approach to pluvial flooding, if the existing network is not effective, it will be upgraded. The existing drain network is considered insufficient. The heavier volume of rain leads to more debris, causing drains to be more susceptible to flooding. This was seen in February in Maigh Cuilinnn.</p> <p>It is requested that surveying of the drainage network should be carried out within the county.</p> <p>Sea level rise with climate change It is stated the council will receive a statutory update on CFRAMS from the OPW. This detail sea level rise threats in the short to medium term, that is: threatening existing buildings and land, and the increased likelihood of flooding. The previous assessment was based on the UN IPCC report AR5 (2013), which underestimated the risks due to uncertainties in Ice sheet dynamics. The CFRAMS report presumed 50cm of SLR (Sea Level Rise) by 2100, with 23-80 cm uncertainty.</p> <p>It is stated that the UN IPCC report AR6 is being prepared for 2021, which will be too late for inclusion in the CFRAMS update; however, the AR6 drafts (and science and detailed modelling in the CMIP6 simulations on which the report summarises) update the range to 1.5-2 m for the worst-case (RCP8.5) scenario which we are to date tracking. It is stated that this is based on work that ends in 2100 for convenience of modelling; in practice Local Authorities are planning for well beyond that: roads, street layouts and towns have a centuries-long future. It is stated that to ensure that roads, schools, houses and other critical infrastructure that are planned today should be well above the sea-level rise of 2200 and beyond; this should dictate our choice of “village centres” and zoning in general.</p> <p>It is therefore suggested that Planning Authorities should be zoning and granting planning permission in villages and towns to be at least 14m above sea level in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>“Co-living” and COVID (and other epidemics) It is stated that due to Covid -19, the concept of shared living should not be introduced in the county. The viability of the co-living model is untested. It is stated that there needs to be an examination of the SHD process and student built accommodation as a significant amount of these units are currently idle due to the current pandemic.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications;</p>
16.	Cllr. David Collins	<p>A submission has been received from Cllr. David Collins. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <p>Backland Development:</p>



		<p>It is stated that back land sites can contribute to the vibrancy and character of an area, while at the same time maximising the use of serviced lands. It is requested that there should be provision for back lands to be considered that would allow the aged to down size and allow young people to construct their first house possibly to the rear of the family home.</p> <p>Back land development can contribute to combatting rural isolation and connect into already existing infrastructure i.e. Water, Electricity, Broadband etc.</p> <p>Retirement Villages: Percentages in relation to the elderly profile of the county are provided. It is stated that there is currently 26,000 people over the age of 65 in the county. The Housing requirements of the elderly are required to be considered, in relation to access, public transport and provision of local services, medical care, security and personal safety. It is considered that it is important for those who wish to remain in their community and live independently and that downsizing can occur.</p> <p>Waste-Water Infrastructure: It is stated that a key objective of the Draft County Development Plan will be Urban and Rural regeneration. This cannot be carried out without waste water infrastructure, therefore a waste water infrastructure plan would be included in the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development;</p>
17.	Cllr. Eileen Mannion	<p>A submission has been received from Cllr. Eileen Mannion. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <p>Once off Rural Housing for Local People The policies and objectives in relation to rural housing need to be examined to find a solution to the difficulties experienced by residents in Conamara for getting planning permission.</p> <p>Tourism The challenges of the local coastal communities need to be examined. There needs to be greater facilities at beaches in terms of parking and toilet facilities. The regulations relating to camper vans needs to be addressed.</p> <p>Flood Risk Areas With the increased potential of flooding and the recent experiences in Clifden, it is requested that Galway County Council and OPW would progress the delivery of the flood relief scheme for Clifden. Residents in flood areas should be notified of this and advised of mitigations measures.</p>



		<p>Coastal Erosion It is stated that Dogs Bay and Gurteen Beaches are under threat due to coastal erosion. This needs to be addressed.</p> <p>Burial Grounds A policy should be put in place to upgrade and take in charge roads to burial grounds operated by Galway County Council.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
18.	Cllr. Jim Cuddy	<p>A submission has been received from Cllr. Jim Cuddy. It is requested that additional policies and objectives would be inserted in the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy UHO2 It is requested that provision of Social Housing, Special needs housing and Housing for Older people needs to be made, • It is requested that a new Policy RHO 4 is inserted as follows: That Social Housing would be provided by the Council on public owned lands, • Add new policy RHO5 It is an objective of Galway County Council that where Part V is condition on the grant of planning permission that sufficient green areas and playgrounds are incorporated in the development and that where a housing development is being considered within the Gaeltacht area that provisions of the Gaeltacht plan be incorporated • It is requested that the definition of housing need should be a person seeking planning permission who does not have a home of their own and wishes to build their first family home, • Rural Links It is stated that where an applicant seeks planning for a one-off house on their family land/farm for their first family home and that no other family lands with road frontage is available to them that in such a case back land development will be allowed, • It is requested that planning permission for a one-off house on the family farm should not be restricted to a person engaged in full time farming, • It is requested that where an application is made for a one-off house on family lands on a restricted road and the applicant can show that no other family lands are available to them their application should be considered having regard to sightlines, road safety and environment on a case by case basis,



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is requested that there would be no further depopulation of rural areas so as to strengthen rural communities and services. The present policy of forcing rural people to move into towns and cities should be discontinued, • In relation to downsizing it is requested that where a planning application is received by a Planning Authority from an applicant who wishes to downsize for family reasons and the applicant wishes to return part of their local community that such applications should be treated on a case by case basis and treated as a person as having housing need, • It is requested that where an applicant can satisfy the planning authority that they have lived in the rural area and wish to build their first family home in that area and can show their involvement in the local community, children attending local schools and the family involvement in community activities for seven years that such application should be considered on a case by case basis. This will help to strengthen the local rural area, • It is requested that where an application is made for a housing development in a town or village that does not have a public waste water treatment plant that local arrangements should be made to facilitate such a development, • It is stated that there should be an objective in the Draft County Development Plan stating that Galway County Council will work with Irish Rail, TII, Bus Eireann and Private Bus operators to ensure an efficient public transport system throughout the whole county and by so doing reducing the number of cars on our roads, • It is requested that the Draft County Development Plan should identify suitable park and ride areas, bus corridors and cycle lanes where feasible and should consider the provision of Cycle stands and electric charging points, • It is requested that each Municipal District has a yard where waste material can be brought to reduce the amount of unauthorised dumping of litter, • It is suggested that the airstrip at the Former Galway Airport should be retained and the lands should be able to provide facilities for the rescue services both on land and sea and also commercial units, • In order to get the best use of the Oranmore Railway Station it is important that the loop at the Oranmore Railway Station is not delayed. It is suggested that an entrance to the station from the dual carriageway between the Maldron Hotel and Galway Clinic with a car park at the northern side of the railway, • It is stated that the lack of Regional development is hindering the proper balanced development of many of towns in the county. It is suggested that there should be close collaboration with the IDA. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
19.	Cllr. Joe Byrne	<p>A submission has been received from Cllr. Joe Byrne. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Strategy



		<p>It is suggested that the Galway Transportation and Planning Study should be reviewed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement Hierarchy It is suggested that there should be a planned schedule indicated for the preparation of Local Area Plans (LAP's) • Single Houses in the Countryside, It is stated that this issue needs to be discussed, a question is posed "Do we want to close down our national schools in years to come due to our aggressive planning requirements for One-Off Housing in the GTPS area". A review of the Galway Transportation and Planning Study area is required. It is also requested that the Landscape Categories 3,4 and 5 are reviewed, • Rural Housing Objective (RHO) It is requested that there should be a clear definition of "Rural Links" and "Substantiated Housing Need". It is requested that "Urban Fringes" should be redefined in order to facilitate housing, where people have substantiated housing need but whose family home is currently outside the urban fringe, It is requested that Enurement Clauses should be reduced to 5 years and there should be flexibility due to circumstances i.e. families forced to sell due to marriage break-up. It is requested that family members who meet substantiated housing need but whose family lands are in Landscape category 4/5 must be facilitated. It is requested that there should be a clear definition of what a substantially completed single dwelling is. It is also requested that there should be better examples in relation to the Design Guidelines. • Economic, Tourism and Retail Development The former Airport site should be developed with close collaboration with Galway City Council. The submission in relation to the Burren Lands is supported. Include that the Burren Lowlands area of South Galway should be included in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark. It is specifically requested that Dunguaire Castle should be taken in charge by the OPW. • Roads and Transportation It is requested that a public car park would be provided in Kinvara. Develop a Quiet Man Greenway Route. Develop a Cycle Route on the hard shoulder of the N67 between Oranmore and link to the new N67 road realignment. Develop a plan for the improvement of piers in South/East of Galway city from Renville to Parkmore in Kinvara. • Water, Wastewater It is stated that development of Wastewater Treatment Plants in the small towns e.g. Clarinbridge and Craughwell should be developed
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		<p>It is requested that a plan would be developed that private WWTP maybe constructed in towns, villages with no public system. A Bond type arrangement of approximately 12 years for Developers to ensure plants are properly maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Develop a policy that large scale Bio-Energy plants are prohibited within the environs of towns and villages. Query the status of Gort as an energy hub as indicated in the 2015 Plan. The rollout of Rural Broadband should be prioritised with the State. • Climate Change and Flooding It is requested that the Climate Change Action plan should be implemented and the role of the new Strategic Policy Committee should be supported. A detailed analysis off all lands in the Local Area Plan should be reviewed as some lands located in flood zones and local knowledge would indicate otherwise. It is requested that Objective FI-4 should be updated in relation to the requirement of Flood Risk Assessments are required for one-off houses. • Heritage, Landscape & Environmental Management The landscape sensitivity rating should be reviewed, in order to facilitate people building houses in class 3/4/ and 5. It is requested that Limestone Pavement would be mapped and available for members of the public. It is requested that an assessment of all Burial Grounds would take place in accordance with the existing objective CF6. It is requested that public lands should be made available to support the development of sporting facilities. The Quiet Man Greenway should be supported and developed. • Development Management Standards and Guidelines It is requested that for residential developments of greater than 15 units, or where phasing is required procedures should be introduced for the completion of works to a taking in charge standard. These works should be completed on a phased basis, which would include the completion of roads, paths, public lightening, open spaces, operational and maintained WWTPs. <p>In relation to <i>Development Management Standard 4-Family Granny Flats (Urban and Rural Areas)</i>, it is requested these buildings would be linked directly to the family home</p> <p>In relation to <i>Development Management Standard 5-Rural Housing</i>, it is requested that an amendment would be made to these in relation to a specified period, which is proposed as 10 years, that people are deemed to having a Rural Housing Need</p>
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		<p>In relation to <i>Development Management Standard 18-Access onto National and Other Restricted Roads for Residential Development</i>, it is requested there should be a better-defined criterion and that is not subjective.</p> <p>In relation to <i>Development Management Standards 20-Sight Distances Required for Access onto National, Regional and Local Roads</i>, local roads with a width of 4m or less, the sightline should be measured to centre of road, and not the nearest edge of the road. It is also requested that a “legal” document for adjoining property owners to sign would suffice, in the event that the adjoining wall is required to be set back to achieve sightlines.</p> <p>In relation to <i>Development Management Standard 23-Controls for Signage along Public Roads</i> it is requested that Galway County Council should implement the licencing system in relation to signage.</p> <p>In relation to <i>Development Management Standard 28 Water Supply</i> it is requested that where a private well is required to service a single house, a planning condition should be included that in advance of commencement of development that full details of the borehole, chemical, bacteriological and yield result would be submitted rather than as part of the planning application.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport, Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
20.	Cllr. Michael Connolly (1)	<p>A submission has been received from Cllr. Michael Connolly. It is requested that the time frame to implement the proposed €8.9 million flood relief scheme would be fast tracked. It is stated that there is an urgent requirement to develop and identify the preferred option for the relief scheme.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
21.	Cllr. Michael Connolly (2)	<p>A second submission has been received from Cllr. Michael Connolly. It is requested that Ballinasloe should be designated an Area of Unlimited growth in the Draft County Development Plan. It is stated that Ballinasloe is strategically located on the Galway-Dublin motorway and along the railway line which increases its attractiveness for employment and residential growth. In addition, it is requested that an upgrade of Wastewater and Water services in the Ballinasloe electoral area would take place in order for this growth in population numbers to be realised.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>



22.	Cllr. Noel Thomas	<p>A submission has been received from Cllr. Noel Thomas. As part of the submission a copy of the Maigh Cuilinnn 2030 plan was submitted. It is stated that this plan was made by the community for the community and the importance of public participation and that spatial planning requires participation. It is considered that all towns and villages in the county should participate in a similar process.</p> <p>It is stated that the Draft County Development Plan needs to promote responsible development in the towns and villages. Towns and villages cannot be allowed to develop large amounts of residential developments without proper facilities in place (school, village centres, public transport connectivity, urban green spaces and design standards).</p> <p>It is stated that backland development should be permitted where the proper design standards would allow cluster developments.</p> <p>In is stated that group wastewater treatment systems should be incorporated into the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>It is stated that residential units comprising of all social housing should not be permitted in proposed housing estates.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
23.	Senator Aisling Dolan	<p>A submission has been received from Senator Aisling Dolan. This submission relates to Ballinasloe and East Galway area. It is requested that the following services and facilities should be provided:</p> <p>Ballinasloe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate roll-out of Broadband, • Development of Town Parks area to open up directly behind Main St & Society St – linked to new primary school development Scoil An Chroi Naofa, • Support at all stages of the Flood Relief Project and progression at a national level. To include cycle & walkways on embankment, • Support the delivery of the Athlone – Galway Greenway section, • Clear outline of the funds remaining from the Landfill in Ballinasloe, health & safety considerations & remediation measures – parkland space, • Develop a community parkland space, • Engagement with Inland Waterways to clear waterways in Ballinasloe Town, • Commitment to Towns & Villages / Rural Regeneration Action Plans for Ballinasloe Urban area for next 5 years, • Commitment to streetscape scheme for 90 applications to revitalise town centres,



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of Ballinasloe as a Key Town under the RSES and the linked increase in funding or cost-share for this region from national exchequer, • Work with GRETB to further develop types of courses available in the Ballinasloe College of Further Education, • Work with GRETB Music Generation to work with town band as a band for the County of Galway, • Develop St Brigid's site with national stakeholders, • Support Family Resource Centres in areas of deprivation working with Galway Rural Development, • Develop Aughrim Battle Centre. <p>East Galway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of East Galway heritage & cultural attractions within the Hidden Heartlands Brand – currently Co. Galway is not listed on the website; • Support Local Link & Transport links to Portiuncula Hospital from around the Ballinasloe Municipal District e.g. Mountbellew; • Develop regional walkways and cycleways along the River Suck Blueways from Ballymoe to Ballinasloe; • Tourism Officer engagement for towns such as Ballygar, Ballyforan, Mountbellew, Williamstown & Glenamaddy; • Strategy to develop remote working hubs and to engage actively with Grow Remote Local Enterprise Offices are facilitating courses in the East Galway area post-Covid; • Vacant units in towns & villages – aggressive plan to renovate empty residential & commercial units; • Develop walkways promotion – Beara Breifne & Hymany Way; • Increased awareness in relation to rural dumping should be raised. <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p>
24.	Eamon Ó'Cuiv TD	<p>A submission has been received from Eamon Ó'Cuiv TD. It is suggested that the Issues Paper contained an overreliance on Galway City, rather than the county being a distinct area. It is stated that it is important in the development of the County to examine both the east and west of the county and to recognise the importance of adjoining local authorities on each boundary of County Galway.</p> <p>The following topics were included in the submission:</p> <p>Housing</p>



	<p>It is stated that the indications from the Issues Paper is that the plan will be written in a hierarchical manner and that where people should live should be decided not by choice but by a directed plan. The plan seems to be directing growth towards the centre with lesser emphasis in some peripheral areas. Balanced growth should not rely on villages and towns particular focus should be given to those areas that have suffered continued population decline or stagnation over the years. Covid-19 is referenced and that people should be given a choice as where to live rather than be directed towards towns and villages and there needs to be a balance as to the dispersed settlements and clustered settlements in town and villages in the county.</p> <p>In relation to one-off housing it is stated that areas under population decline should be identified and policies to support these areas should be included in the plan. In relation to the mix of housing types it is stated that many types of housing are required. An analysis of people's preference should be carried out. There should be a provision of affordable rural and urban housing.</p> <p>In relation to densities it is stated that there should be a debate on this issue as to whether communities in the county actually want higher densities. It is stated that social housing should be delivered in areas people wish to live in based on demand. It should be demand led in type and location. Rural Social Housing should be provided where families can provide suitable sites. There should be socially integrated communities in our towns and villages.</p> <p>Urban Living and Place Making It is stated that large housing development would be preceded by all infrastructure such as roads, cycle paths, sewerage and water but also in the development of health, social educational infrastructure as well.</p> <p>Rural Place Making and the Countryside It is stated that many rural areas have vibrant and cohesive communities, but these need to be strengthened and in areas of population decline housing should be facilitated. It is stated that the settlement pattern of Galway County Council has led to the destruction in many areas of the landscape when viewed from the public road. Instead of the linear development cluster housing should be examined. In villages where there is no wastewater facilities priority should be given to these areas to ensure such facilities are available.</p> <p>Economic Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development It is acknowledged that a significant amount of industries is located in cities and towns, with some also located in the rural area. It is requested that further research is required as to where existing enterprises are located in the county between rural and urban areas and the findings as to why certain industries are located in the rural areas should be developed further.</p>
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		<p>Transport It is stated that the transport links are totally deficient in terms of road and rail. The bypasses of Galway is required as in the replacement of the R336 to Ros an Mhíl. The N59 requires an upgrade from Galway through Clifden and all regional roads in the county should be brought up to standard.</p> <p>The rail links to Galway should be improved with double tracking the Athlone to Galway rail line and the Athenry - Claremorris line should be reopened. All railway lines require high quality and frequent commuter services. The bus network should be improved especially at peak times with greater frequency of bus services. There should be integrated networks of cycle ways, greenways and pedestrian paths.</p> <p>An Gaeltacht It is stated that the Gaeltacht communities cannot survive with Irish speakers, therefore the plan should facilitate local people from the Gaeltacht settling in the Gaeltacht both in urban and rural settings.</p> <p>In relation to housing estates it is requested that there would be an independent assessment of who qualifies under the “Polasaí Neartú Gaeltachta”.</p> <p>The Irish language is the greatest resource in terms of job creation and therefore the development of this further should be central to the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Marine It is stated that the development of the marine sector should be a central part of the plan with objectives outlined. The development of Ros an Mhíl harbour should be fully supported in the Draft County Development Plan. The importance of the lakes in Galway, particularly, Lough Corrib and their preservation and development should be high level objective of the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>The continuous development and promotion of safety on piers on the islands of Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr should be an objective of the plan in view of their ownership by the Council and the importance of the piers to the islands. In relation to the island airstrip it is suggested that there should be an objective for this.</p> <p>Islands It is requested that there should be a designated section in the Draft County Development Plan on the Islands.</p> <p>Agriculture and Forestry It is stated that there needs to be clear policies in the Draft County Development Plan for these sectors.</p>
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		<p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport, The Galway Gaeltacht; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
25.	Padraig Fahey (1)	<p>The submission from Parkrun relates to the provision of Open Space for exercise. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable Open Spaces should be provided in every town and village where people can take regular exercise; • There are 7 Parkrun events in Co. Galway. The only thing stopping the addition of further events is the absence of suitable venues (i.e. Tuam and Clifden); • Parks/Woodland with suitable footpaths are needed; • A proposal for such a venue has been suggested for Clifden in conjunction with Conamara RFC, Parkrun and Galway County Council. • An outline of how Parkrun operates has also been detailed; <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development,</p>
26.	Padraig Fahey (2)	<p>The submission from Padraig Fahey relates predominately to Economic issues. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to provide office space for technology-based companies; • Small hubs should be provided in towns and villages with high speed broadband so people can work close to home; • Working closer to home, schools and creches can improve work life balance; • These hubs would improve the viability of businesses within these towns and villages; • This would also result in reduced traffic volumes in larger cities such as Galway. <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development</p>
27.	Dr. Stack	<p>The submission from Dr. Stack relates to various matters including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage, promote awareness of the past and Landscape. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <p>Architectural and Archaeological Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mill Building in Shrulle has been identified as having no protection and is in need of conservation and preservation;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both repair works and uses have been outlined to bring this structure back into use; • Buildings have also been recommended for protection. <p>Promote awareness of the past</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of environment both built and natural. <p>Buildings and Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Black River Valley should be designated as an Architectural Conservation Area from its source with its epicentre at the mill. • We can protect buildings and landscape by ensuring decisions made by the Planning Authority are not overturned by politicians. <p>Topics Raised: Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
28.	David Holland	<p>This submission from David Holland has made suggestions with respect to transport and specifically cycle infrastructure. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cycle/walking lane from Belville railway bridge Monivea to Monivea village should be considered; • Cycle lanes should be provided from Briarhill roundabout to the city centre, University, Hospita,l Salthill and Dangan; • Grants should be provided to all businesses to build shower facilities. <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport;.</p>
29.	Association of Acoustic Consultants of Ireland	<p>The submission from the Association of Acoustic Consultant of Ireland has included a noise guidance document for Local Authorities which they have prepared. This document includes specific guidance for local authorities with respect to legislation, standards and guidance, Impact assessment, setting limits, drafting conditions, integrating planning and noise management. This document has also provided sector specific guidance for industrial installations, waste facilities, scrap metal facilities, commercial facilities, deliveries, quarries, wind farms, single wind farms, solar farms, pubs and clubs, concerts and festivals, kennels and dog care centres, sports and leisure facilities, shooting, noise affecting proposed residential developments, construction, ground-bourne vibration and air overpressure.</p> <p>Topics Raised:; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
30.	Conor Tierney	<p>This submission from Conor Tierney has made suggestions with respect to the development of Galway City which are outside the scope of this plan which relates to Galway County. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All major roads should be turned into one way systems; • One lane should be retained for cars with the other lane utilised for both cycling and buses; • Tuam road intersection to include fly overs and traffic lane merging. • Wave breakers should be provided in Salthill and docks; • Upgrade and extend the prom and include walk way systems; • Four foot wall should be provided along the prom as a sea defence; • Improvement of beaches by pumping sand onto the beaches; • Pedestrianisation of numerous streets in the city. <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications;.</p>
31.	Iggy Sullivan	<p>This submission from Iggy Sullivan relates to rural housing and specifically 'Ribbon Development'. The submission has noted that under the previous Draft County Development Plan 2015-2021 under Objective RHO8 (d) discouraged 'Ribbon Development' and that this was removed for the actual adopted plan. The submission is hopeful that this issue will be addressed in the Draft County Development Plan as Ribbon Development is a problem on many country roads.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside.</p>
32.	Irish Concrete Federation	<p>The submission from the Irish Concrete Federation has included a document titled 'Essential Aggregates – Providing for Ireland's Needs to 2040' which has been prepared by the Irish Concrete Federation'. This document has provided a comprehensive report on the importance of the industry and its role in terms of achieving the targets set out in Project Ireland 2040. The document has detailed a number of recommendations which are set out in section 7 of the report and are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national policy for aggregates must be developed by Government to underpin and inform local and regional policy to promote the identification and protection of essential strategic reserves of aggregates throughout Ireland; • Local Authorities should make provision for the protection of strategic aggregate resources within their functional areas; • It is necessary that Planning Authorities are sufficiently resourced to ensure a meaningful preplanning EIA scoping process is undertaken; • Quarry developments should be prioritised by An Bord Pleanála to ensure it meets statutory objective of deciding appeals within 18 weeks; • Applications which reach a certain threshold should be sent directly to An Bord Pleanála; • Permissions for quarries should have a long duration commensurate with the planned extraction of resources present;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning system should ensure adequate provision of aggregate supplies within the context of supporting national policy by issuing sufficient planning consents; • Enforcement proceedings on unauthorised quarrying should be carried out; • State and local authorities should only procure materials from authorised sources; • The government should adopt an end of waste criteria to facilitate the reuse of recycled aggregates in the construction chain; • The industry and government need to improve public understanding of the need for aggregates for the development of local communities; • Sharing of knowledge between the industry and local authorities to address knowledge and understanding gaps; • Resources within the three regional assemblies should be pooled to avail of specialist expertise in local authorities. • Geological Survey Ireland is a source of valuable expertise available to regional assemblies and local authorities. Industry will actively encourage and facilitate education and training days and events for planners in quarries. <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p>
33.	Maureen O'Hara	<p>This submission from Maureen O'Hara has raised a number of suggestions with respect to Amenities, Tourism, Transport, Housing and Other issues in Baile Chláir:</p> <p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More amenity space and promotion of public events required (i.e. playground, public area for teenagers, community gardens, running track, greenways, museum, men's sheds). <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Castle and Friary are not advertised; • More signage required for Baile Chláir preferably in both Irish and English. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern has been raised with regard to high levels of traffic; • Concern with respect to the capacity of Baile Chláir to cope with additional traffic from new developments. <p>Housing</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern has been raised with regard to capacity of Baile Chláir to cater for all new houses approved planning permission (schools, traffic etc.); Development of vacant/derelict lands should be prioritised; More homes for the elderly in their own estate/village should be provided. <p>Other Issues raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grave locations in cemetery should be documented; Galway industry is largely based on medical devices and stem based. It has been stated that this should be promoted at junior level; Recycling/pollution control. <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p>
34.	Ándrea Tighe	<p>This submission from Andrea Tighe relates to the protection of the Irish language. It noted that that 20% of all new housing developments are required to be occupied by Irish speakers. It has suggested that that this percentage be increased to 35% to give Irish speakers the opportunity to come back to the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; The Galway Gaeltacht.</p>
35.	M. Hardiman	<p>The submission from M. Hardiman raises concern around the subject of rural houses that have been granted planning permission. The submission raises the issue of ownership and consent for use of private roads for access to the subject dwelling.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Rural Placemaking and the Countryside.</p>
36.	E. De Paor	<p>This submission from E. De Paor refers to Gaeltacht areas, stating that planning permission must be granted to local people to provide a living, active community who support businesses and schools, thus preventing population decline.</p> <p>Topics Raised: The Galway Gaeltacht.</p>
37.	Timbletron	<p>This submission highlights RPO 3.6.6 of the RSES in which the <i>“assembly supports the preparation of a masterplan for the airport site...”</i>. The submission welcomes the inclusion of this objection and notes the potential of this location form an employment and innovation hub. The submission requests that the Draft County Development Plan include a masterplan for this area.</p>



		<p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development.</p>
38.	Forbairt Pobail Maigh Cuilinn	<p>Forbairt Pobail Maigh Cuilinn have submitted the Maigh Cuilinn 2030: A Village Plan as their submission on the County Development Plan review. This document represents a collection of the requirements of over 800 residents (close to 50%) of the village. The plan presents a number of growth scenarios – planning and unplanned. The preferred growth option supports community, connectivity and collaboration.</p> <p>Village Plan – Synopsis Introduction Infrastructure including bypass, new school and Conamara Greenway due. N6 Galway City Ring Road also needed. Population to double by 2030. Communities seek improved public participation. The Village Plan places emphasis on proactive collaboration and engagement and they are changing the way they think about planning and placemaking. An outline of the VP and how it was conceived is also presented in the introduction. The plan wants for the village to grow in an open and connected manner.</p> <p>Maigh Cuilinn: The Village Location, demographic and linguistic statistics are presented. The village boasts below average employment and a good standard of education.</p> <p>Maigh Cuilinn: The History Discusses the history of the village and the evolution of this place as a village and first settlers – the O’Flaherty’s up to present day. The geographical features that influenced the village are also described as well as the up lift in population to present day.</p> <p>Maigh Cuilinn: The Legislation Discourage regional disparity and urban sprawl. In relation to PI 2040 the Plan considered that Regional Assemblies, County Councils and communities are all expected to play a critical role in planning and developing Ireland over the next decade. This section explains national, regional and local plan hierarchy in Ireland in particular the County Development Plan making process is set out in greater detail.</p> <p>Guiding Principles – The Climate Imperative This section includes detail on the national Climate Action Plan and the challenges it identifies. Agenda 2030 is also highlighted with the Paris Agreement and the call it makes for transformational shift of economies and societies towards climate resilient and sustainable development. The plan identifies agriculture with transport as being responsible for Irelands Climate Change shortcomings however the Plan highlights bad planning as a third contributor.</p> <p>The Principles of New Urbanism</p>



		<p>These include: walkability; connectivity; mixed use & diversity; mixed housing; quality urban design; traditional village structure; increased density; green transportation; sustainability; quality of life. New Urbanism makes for better planning in Ireland.</p> <p>The Process: A collective authorship of place</p> <p>The village plan presents an opportunity for active engagement for residents. Semi structured interviews have been conducted by way of engagement. Participants advised of what is unique to them about the village of Maigh Cuilinn. These include: community; GAA; other sports; landscape; environment; Lough Corrib; canals; forests; topography. In terms of needs participants identified: greenway; footpath connectivity to the GAA pitches along with cycleways; bypass; connectivity to surrounding natural environment; improved bus service; leadership over future development. There has been an absence of co-ordination in the past. Focus groups were also used to frame the village plan and opinions were further sought by means of survey.</p> <p>Irish language Plan for Maigh Cuilinn is cited and is to be encouraged. Perception of Maigh Cuilinn is explored including amenities needed, which were similar to the initial interviews. Future growth has also been investigated.</p> <p>Collective Mapping</p> <p>A system of community planning, guided by the principle of grounding the aspirations of respondents and encouraging...the collective wishes of the village. The results of this exercise are presented in the Plan.</p> <p>The findings off the various field research exercises culminate in a series of recommendations that conclude the Plan. The study found that community is vital to the successful development of a place, as such community infrastructure is integral to that.</p> <p>The key recommendations of the Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase the Co-op building for a range of community uses and job creation; • Creation of a public park to act as a central node for the community. It could be used for the weekly market and other events. It is suggested that lands adjacent to the current playground in Maigh Cuilinn could be utilised in this instance. • Connectivity. Multi modal sustainable transport is advocated, bypass and high speed broadband. Encourage greenways, cyclists could stop off in Maigh Cuilinn from Galway City. Commuters could cycle to the city via the greenway. This would encourage cycling. However, this must be carried out in close collaboration with landowners. The proposed bypass should not hinder delivery of the greenway and should include an underpass for the greenway, which would bring much needed economic benefit. • Use of Kilrainey Woods as a connection to the village through a forested cycle. The loop would connect the blueway system and form part of historical Maigh Cuilinn highlights.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus shelter and bus connectivity. Improved bus service needed. <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; The Galway Gaeltacht.</p>
39.	Criona Healy-Erkena	<p>This submission calls for the removal of the “local only rule” attached to some permissions.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside.</p>
40.	Edvins Erkens	<p>This submission relates to local housing need for single dwelling units in the countryside that are currently attached to certain planning permissions. It is requested that this stipulation is removed</p> <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside.</p>
41.	Gormanacad Ltd. (1)	<p>This submission advocates the use of a cluster policy for rural housing to reinforce small established communities and allow more natural growth. These developments, it is submitted would be connected to individual treatment plants which should comply with EPA regulations. This submission also calls for housing in these rural areas to be supported by a fund/grant to allow improved community facilities.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside;</p>
42.	Gormanacad Ltd. (2)	<p>The submission calls for enhancement works needed on the Loughrea (south-eastern side) of Craughwell village which include the addition of a footpath, landscaping (to include a welcome monument) and traffic calming similar to that provided on the Oranmore side of the village. This would provide a sense of arrival at Craughwell Village.</p> <p>Signage improvements also necessary, for example to provide information at Rahasane Turlough and the trails within the Coillte lands.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
43.	Gormanacad Ltd. (3)	<p>This submission calls for community space within each village and town in County Galway which would support wellbeing. This submission suggests compulsory purchase of a piece of land to cover and use the space as outdoor space (with sheltered elements) for multiple uses and facilities.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development,</p>



<p>44.</p>	<p>Keep Ireland Open</p>	<p>Keep Ireland Open’s submission provides a lengthy and detailed submission on a significant number of the existing objectives and topics contained in the 2015-2021 County Development Plan. With regard to walking and cycling, the submission makes numerous alternative or additional wording suggestions for many of the objectives.</p> <p>Additional Tourism and Recreation Policy suggested. Additional policy and/or objective suggested for farm diversification. Rewording suggested for objective TI 19 of the existing County Development Plan. Additional Water policies and objectives suggested including protection of natural assets. Additional objectives are suggested for Aggregate Extraction.</p> <p>Renewable Energies & Communications Technology The submission suggests an objective to carry out a Renewable Energy Strategy. The submission calls for account to be taken of public access to the countryside, heritage sites and features including walking routes and public rights of way. The submission suggests a strategy for dealing with wind energy and it calls for planning guidelines in relation to solar power. The impact of overhead power lines from a visual perspective is also covered and it is suggested in the submission that overhead lines be placed under ground.</p> <p>Heritage, Landscape and Environmental Management The submission suggests a number of policies should be removed as they are, it is considered covered elsewhere in the plan. The submission calls for the publication of a list with maps of heritage sites that are open to the public and include a strategy for access to heritage routes in delivering these objectives the submission calls for engagement with the Heritage Forum and other stakeholders. to deliver the objectives of the plan.</p> <p>Energy Efficiency and Traditionally built structures The submission supports the recognition of the importance of archaeological sites and national monuments and appropriately worded objectives are suggested which also refer to the management of archaeological sites.</p> <p>Burial grounds The submission supports the addition of objectives to support signage to archaeological sites and national monuments also that traditional access routes be designated at PROW. The submission encourages engagement with stakeholders including local communities and statutory authorities to protect general amenity and impose precautionary principles on environmental and heritage matters. A regional approach to protection is advocated in the submission and preservation of the open character of commonage land is advocated by KOI. Additional objectives in support of geological and geomorphological systems are suggested and supported in the submission.</p>
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		<p>Eskers The submission states that planning applications for quarries should have regard to the impact of it on landscape and amenity value and conserve the eskers from inappropriate development. Additional objectives to preserve eskers are suggested and provide access to same for members of the public.</p> <p>Coastal Zone The submission advocates a new objective that prohibits inappropriate development here damage to beaches and other coastal features would occur and preserve the coast and marine environment. Other objectives relating to the coast set out that the Council should work in partnership with neighbouring Council's to deliver coastal pathways/greenways and improve access to the coast. The submission calls for restriction of certain water sports/activities. Some water sports and associated infrastructure may require management plans it is considered. The submission also touches on the subject of inland waterways and suggests wording for an objective that would recognise the importance of inland waterways and increase public access. The submission also calls for the inclusion of a table of existing or potential riverside and lakeside walk/cycle routes.</p> <p>Trees Parkland/Woodland Stonewalls and Hedgerows This section of the submission suggests that additional objectives are included in the Draft County Development Plan pertaining to the protection of woodlands and groups of trees providing access thereto for members of the public. The submission touches on the protection of Riparian Zones along with proposed policies and objectives for the protection and preservation of the Natura 200 sites and NHAs – applying the precautionary principle ensuring that any proposed development that has adverse effects is avoided, remedied or mitigated.</p> <p>Landscape Conservation and Management The submission advocates the addition section in the Draft County Development Plan covering the protection and management of wetlands along with landscape conservation and management policies and objectives whilst providing access to these sensitive areas for members of the public. Also, in relation to open land the submission states that wire fencing can cause visual pollution and act as a barrier to access which should be avoided. The submission further states that fencing where necessary should meet the requirements of AEOS without impinging on access for walkers and other recreational users. The submission also suggests a requirement to be met when assessing applications for fencing, particularly in upland areas and this, it is considered should align with adjoining counties.</p> <p>World Heritage Sites This section of the submission suggests the addition of new objectives to support a sites designation whether it is UNESCO or WHS with collaboration with various stakeholders as necessary and also to explore the option of a tentative list for potential additional sites.</p>
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		<p>Wetlands The submission advocates the provision of additional access to wetlands for recreation and amenity purposes and a further objective should protect these features from any poor conservation practices.</p> <p>Peatlands The submission supports the restoration of peatlands as habitats in collaboration with various stakeholders as necessary, control peatland extraction and preserve the landscape values of peatlands. Protection of mass rocks/holy wells is also supported in this submission.</p> <p>Special Amenity Area Orders Objective suggested here which references S202 of the PDA 2000 (as amended) to propose areas for designation and undertake a feasibility study to report on other areas worthy of protection such as the Twelve Bens. The submission highlights the importance of lake islands along with others for reference in the Draft County Development Plan. A newly worded objective to do with development on the islands is suggested which would protect and enhance landscape and associated features. The submission seeks support for access to the islands and promoting recreation and amenity.</p> <p>In relation to sensitive areas the submission states that this should be repositioned in landscape conservation and management objectives and merged with proposed additional objective 4.</p> <p>The submission supported the promotion and encouragement of recreation use of river and the development of blueways for the public. It seeks to preserve through objectives recreational attractions, ensuring that for example, golf course development does not impinge on the existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) and walking routes. Protect a full range of recreational attractions including woodlands PROW etc, avoid noise generating sports and adopt bye laws to ban motor bike use on commonage and areas of rough grazing. The submission suggests additional objectives in support of PROW and its use by members of the public and these should be listed and mapped, it is suggested and the submission highlights that additional objectives in the Draft County Development Plan can give greater recognition to a PROW. A suggested method for carrying out a PROW survey is also suggested in the submission a PROW list, interim or otherwise it is suggested should be included in the Draft County Development Plan and PROWs should be extended where possible. It is noted that a PROW above all should be accessible to the public and include adequate sign posting and be protected thereafter.</p> <p>Proposed Additional Chapter: Walking and Cycling The submission states that a network of all walking routes should be mapped and included in the Draft County Development Plan and continue and support this network where possible which will provide a means of exercise and</p>
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		<p>recreation for people. With that in mind the submission supports the funding of a post for a full time Walks Officer. The submission advocates that the making of the new County Development Plan liaise with relevant stakeholders where necessary.</p> <p>Cycling It is suggested that a table of cycle routes and maps is included in the new County Development Plan as such a safe cycle network should be encouraged for users. The submission calls for the appointment of a Cycling Officer. The submission states that trails and routes should be developed, maintained and enhanced in co-operation with stakeholders. This approach the submission states should also ensure that new development does not prejudice the expansion of cycling corridors.</p> <p>Walking and Cycling Greenways The submission supports the addition of a cycleway and walkway from Galway to Dublin. It also states that the possibility of linking Ballindine, Milltown and Tuam should also be explored along with a Tuam – Athenry cycle route. Greenways are supported in the submission going from Bearna to Oranmore and Maigh Cuilinn to Oughterard.</p> <p>The submission supported the development of a network of national and regional greenway and blueway networks. Such routes and networks it is stated should be identified with adequate sign posting. Also, the submission states that access to these networks should be provided with the necessary infrastructure to make them accessible. The submission advocates the development of a funding strategy for such networks.</p> <p>Disused Railways Their retention is supported in the submission and their use as a greenway and other recreation purposes is supported. Suggested wording for the preservation of disused railway lines for recreational purposes is also suggested.</p> <p>The submission goes on to advocate the protection and conservation of rural amenities and protect these from adverse impacts of agricultural practices.</p> <p>Forestry Submission supports the recognition of forestry as a source of recreation and that is should be protected and enhanced with additional forestry development where necessary which should avoid adverse impacts on the receiving environment. The submission seeks to limit additional coniferous forests on summits above 250 metres.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
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<p>45.</p>	<p>An Coiste Comhairleach Plean 5 Bhlíana Iorras Aithneach</p>	<p>This submission is comprehensive and has raised a number of suggestions with respect to the South West Conamara, the Irish language, Transport, The Marine Sector, Planning & Rural Housing and Tourism. This submission is summarised under these headings below:</p> <p>South West Conamara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decline in the socio economic status of South West Conamara is resulting in the decline in population, employment opportunities and demographic imbalance and poses a threat to the Irish language; • The Council should support the development of Páirc na Mara on the site chosen by Údarás na Gaeltacht in Cill Chiaráin; • The Council should support the Údarás na Gaeltachta Irish Language Action Plan; • The Council should support the Údarás na Gaeltachta 5 Year Plan for the Carna/Cill Chiaráin area; • The Council should continue to lend its practical help to Údarás na Gaeltachta 5 Year Development Plan for the Carna/Cill Chiaráin and west Conamara Gaeltacht (i.e. Development of R340 and the upgrade of infrastructure and amenities in Cill Chiaráin and Carna); • The villages of Cill Chiaráin and Carna require public sewerage schemes. <p>The Irish language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preservation and fostering of the Irish language should be a primary objective of the Council; • The strengthening of Gaeltacht communities particularly in peripheral areas is required in order to sustain the vibrancy of the Irish language. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The western part of County Galway is adversely impacted by substandard roads. The upgrade of the N59, R336 and R340 should be progressed. <p>The Marine Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should look favourable on planning application for marine related industries and activities to address the decline in this sector; • The further development of Cill Chiaráin Pier should be supported; • The Council should deploy more personnel to support in energising industries that are based on the marine sector. <p>Planning & Rural Housing in Gaeltacht Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to support both agriculture and marine life it is important that planning policy is favourably disposed towards keeping young people in rural townlands; • A policy should be developed allowing rural houses to be built on quarter acre sites;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant aid is required to assist applicants who have additional costs associated with their applications due to the proximity of designated sites. <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should increase the number of staff assigned to assist in the promotion of tourism. <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; The Galway Gaeltacht; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
46.	Matt Loughnane	<p>This submission refers to sustainability where it states that it is practiced as less than comprehensive or genuine. It neglects the social and economic elements which has damaged the social and economic fabric of County Galway as evidenced through closure of shops, Garda Stations and Post Offices. This results in greater journey times to bigger towns for services which damages the environment.</p> <p>The submission also refers to Placemaking as set out in the RSES. The submission encourages the use of the County's potential in a sustainable manner. It calls for the listing of areas with broadband available as high as 1,000mb.</p> <p>Reference is made to the need to be located close to good quality public transport and the Council is praised for its role in developing the commuter rail service in east and south Galway.</p> <p>Regarding economic development the submission advises that there has been reduced emphasis on the Strategic Economic Corridor which should be updated. It references the fact that the IDA is looking for land banks in Cork and Limerick which raises the question of Galway's role in Foreign Direct Investment and the level of co-operation between Galway County Council, IDA and Enterprise Ireland.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
47.	O'Donnell's Meat Market	<p>This submission relates to business grants which would create more meat plant-based employment in County Galway along with research and feasibility study type employment.</p> <p>Topics Raised Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development.</p>
48.	Criona Maria Healy	<p>This submission relates to local housing need for single dwelling units in the countryside. The submission refers to the "Flemish Decree" ECJ ruling and It is requested that the local housing need provision be removed.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside.</p>



49.	Elaine Byrnes	<p>This submission relates to local housing need for single dwelling units in the countryside that are currently attached to certain planning permissions. It is requested that this stipulation is removed.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside.</p>
50.	Elaine Byrnes	<p>This submission relates to local housing need for single dwelling units in the countryside that are currently attached to certain planning permissions. It is requested that this stipulation is removed.</p> <p>Topics Raised Rural Place Making and the Countryside.</p>
51.	Oranmore Community Development Association CLG	<p>This submission requests that additional recreational amenity lands be provided in Oranmore town as part of the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
52.	Sinéad Ní Fhlatharta	<p>This submission relates to issues with respect to Transport, Water and Housing for Irish speakers within Conamara. The points raised include the improvement of the R336, the improvement of water quality and the importance of Irish speakers securing planning permission in the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; The Galway Gaeltacht.</p>
53.	Iarla Molloy	<p>This submission supports the addition of next generation municipal wastewater solutions in the county to deliver sustainable, eco-friendly growth in the future.</p> <p>It is requested that Craughwell Village be included for a public wastewater scheme to facilitate sustainable growth and environmental waste management which it is stated is superior to group treatment units. The submission suggests that the flood relief works to the Dunkellin works provide more options of locating municipal treatment infrastructure which would serve an increasing population.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
54.	Caoimhín Ó Ceallaigh	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from Caoimhín Ó Ceallaigh and relates to a number of issues with reference made to the impact on Irish Colleges. The submission has raised points which relate to Transport, Water Quality (bathing status, wastewater, drinking water), Housing, Climate Change/Renewable Energy, Health and Safety, Rural</p>



		<p>Housing in Gaeltacht Areas, Heritage and Culture, Working Group for State Agencies, Working Group in the media, Mobile Phone Coverage and Covid 19. This submission is summarised under these headings below:</p> <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision and enhancement of public footpaths, walking trails and cycle paths should be supported; • Off road bus stops and bus shelters are necessary; • The R336 should be repaired and maintained to an adequate acceptable standard while waiting for the new road; • Adequate parking provision should be provided at bathing areas/beaches. <p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bathing status of our beaches should be regularly monitored; • A pressure sewerage system is required from Bearna to Carna similar to Irish Water system in Gweedore; • The use of integrated constructed wetlands should be promoted in the area of each village and community; • There should be a uniform countywide standard of 100 metres setback distance between residential/sensitive receptors and any new wastewater treatment plant. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports are required to ensure adequate supply of residential accommodation for teachers and students of the Irish College. <p>Climate Change/Renewable Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports are required for the Irish College sector to promote energy efficiency for “green” upgrading of College facilities and Irish College lodging/accommodation facilities; • Additional supports are required for community halls and community facilities to ensure the sustainability, viability and vibrancy of the Gaeltacht Community and to assist in the “green” upgrading within these facilities; • A community fund should be set up for large scale renewable energy projects. <p>Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports should be put in place to ensure best practice is achieved with regards to safety in Irish college facilities and Irish College lodgings/accommodation. <p>Rural Housing in Gaeltacht Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission should be given for Irish language speakers in the Gaeltacht; • There should be a presumption in favour of development of new residential homes with established patterns of clustered housing for people who would contribute to the Irish language and the Gaeltacht;
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		<p>Heritage and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports are required to ensure the protection of Gaeltacht traditions, culture and heritage (i.e. sean-nós singing, sean nós dancing, boat building etc.). <p>Working Group for State Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state agencies play an important role in the Gaeltacht. A working group would ensure between coordination between all these bodies. <p>Working Group in the media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The various media groups should establish a working group to identify and deliver ways to access the wealth of cultural heritage in the Gaeltacht. <p>Mobile Phone Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should work with Telecom Operators to promote the enhancement of the local network. <p>Covid 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the challenges imposed by Covid 19 the Council should support planning applications which seek to amend or enhance buildings and facilities at Community Hall in Schools and Irish colleges as may be required. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht.</p>
55.	Manus O Conaire	<p>This submission relates to several issues including Transport, Housing, Broadband, Recycling, Hedge Trimming, Wastewater, Planning Permission and Bog lands. This submission is summarised under these headings below:</p> <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new and upgraded road to national road standard should be provided in place of the R336; • The R340 and R374 should be upgraded; • All roads in the Conamara Municipal District should be surveyed; • Numerous piers and slipways have been identified for replacement, maintenance and upgrade; • New footpaths required on all 4 bridges on the R374; • All bridges in the Conamara Municipal District should be surveyed; • Footpaths are needed in all villages in the Conamara Municipal District;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier access for public transport needed in the Conamara Municipal District; • New signage and more road marking required on all roads; • There should be investment into greenway infrastructure in the Conamara Municipal District. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Affordable Housing is required in Cill Chairáin and Carna. <p>Broadband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to fibre broadband required in the Conamara Municipal District. <p>Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling centre required in the South Conamara area. <p>Hedge Trimming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge trimming should be carried out annually. <p>Wastewater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewage treatment infrastructure is required in Carna and Cill Chiaráin. <p>Planning Permission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier access to planning permission required in the Conamara Municipal District. <p>Bog lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flooding of bog lands would have a negative impact on the Conamara area. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
56.	Glenveagh Properties PLC	<p>Submission received from MKO on behalf of Glenveagh Properties PLC which is summarised in the following points: The submission proposes a new housing model that provides for an age range in the same development which can be supported further in the Draft County Development Plan. Attention is drawn to the key challenges facing County Galway and the requirements for the County to comply with the Standards set out in PI 2040 and the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy.</p> <p>The focus on urban centres like Galway to deliver jobs and compact balanced growth otherwise we will have continuing sprawling growth while also realising the importance of surrounding supporting towns that provide employment</p>



	<p>development and the County Development Plan must deliver this in towns and villages. Efficient use of land must align with Development Management standards of the Plan and provide flexibility taking cognisance of good design standards with housebuilders and developers experiences to reach the aims of PI 2040 and the RSES. The submission goes on to state that the RSES delivers on the agenda set by the NPF in terms of compact growth, economic growth, sustainable transport etc. Population targets for Key Towns is noted along with simultaneously and proactively delivering key infrastructure, RPO 8.1 of the RSES and must be addressed in the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Delivery and upgrade of infrastructure to Garraun and Ardaun and wider County is essential. In relation to RPO 3.2, the population allocation and development of the MASP is highlighted. The submission calls for complete clarity within the core strategy of the Draft County Development Plan along with flexibility to facility additional growth if necessary.</p> <p>Direct new population and jobs to the MASP area and in doing so, collaborate closely with the City providing, utilising and upgrading infrastructure as necessary. Engage with stakeholders at the outset. Reference is made to NPO 84 of the NPF and RPO 7.19 of the RSES regarding lifetime homes the submission states that in order to deliver sustainable resilient communities a flexible policy framework will be needed to meet changing demand and household composition and market fluctuations.</p> <p>The submission supports land use integration with speed and quality of construction particularly important and it is considered that zoning plays a significant role in achieving strong places as does the County Development Plan standards. The submissions states that [the client] has a well-designed range of housing typologies to provide sustainable, liveable and adaptable places to live in a compact form with own door, open space and reduced car dependency, shared surfaces and pedestrian priority.</p> <p>It is suggested in the submission that the following be considered when drafting County Development Plan policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative housing types at a higher density and good design that include own door; public and private open space along with parking, cycle and bin storage maintaining residential amenity; • Provide housing mix that is planned, designed and has a mix of tenure that offers flexibility and adaptability for lifestyle demands; • Allow flexibility to provide high quality active and passive open space such as pocket parks. • Retain a broad and open approach to density as outlined in UHO 11. <p>The submission includes reference to the Section 28 Guidelines pertaining to Planning Authorities, specifically Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas. The requirements of the NPF's NPO's 3c, 4 and 13 are also highlighted. It is recommended that the Draft County Development Plan avoid the creation of monotonous housing development with little social infrastructure.</p>
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		<p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
57.	Western Inter-County Railway Committee	<p>A submission has been made by the Western Inter County Railway Committee which references RPO 6.13 (a) of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and pledges strong support is given to improved railway infrastructure services within County Galway. This includes support for a rail connection to Tuam and to the wider north-west region. The submission highlights some of the many benefits of improved rail infrastructure and how it would benefit Galway and surrounding counties. The submission highlights the Rural Regeneration Development Fund funding that has been given for the Station Quarter in Tuam, where it states that park and ride facilities can be provided. Particular reference is made to the intersection of the railway line with the N63 which could provide rail connection for commuters from north-east Galway and South Roscommon. The Council is commended for its dedication to rail restoration.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
58.	Micheál Kelly	<p>This submission calls for the restoration of civil defence premises around County Galway which are needed to provide for general rescue and emergency operations. The submission makes particular reference to Ballinasloe training building which is in need of upgrading.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
59.	Majella Ní Chríocháin	<p>A submission has been received from the An Cheathrú Rua Language Planning Officer. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention is drawn to the Council's statutory obligations in relation to the Irish Language as set out in legislation and within the S.28 Guidelines. • The provisions of the Gaeltacht Act 2012 and the requirement to prepare a language plan is also highlighted along with the provisions of the Galway County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 and its objective pertaining to the Gaeltacht. • Attention is drawn to the role and importance of An Cheathrú Rua village in the development of the Gaeltacht and the policy of Údaras to develop it as a 'main centre of industry for Irish,,,,,' and An Cheathrú Rua Language Plan refers to this village as a Main Gaeltacht Service Town and a Main Centre of Services. The range of services available in An Cheathrú Rua are listed and it is suggested that the Draft County Development Plan develop this village as a main centre of services for the Gaeltacht. • Reference is made to the Gaeltacht content in the existing County Development Plan. It highlights the Gaeltacht challenges including lack of services and protection of the Gaeltacht for Irish speakers. The



		<p>requirement for Language Impact Statements, enurement clauses and RHO4(b) along with Objective DO2 are also highlighted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is requested that An Cheathrú Rua would be identified as the main village of the Conamara Gaeltacht for development as a main centre of services in An Gaeltacht, as such An Cheathrú Rua would become the main village of the Conamara Gaeltacht. • The submission also recommends that LIS be referenced in the new County Development Plan and should prove a development would benefit the language. LIS should be prepared independently by experts to confirm a development would benefit the Irish language. • It also recommends retaining the Enurement Clauses. For language competency a B2 minimum be obtained as per Council of Europe. • Prioritise green and blue infrastructure to promote tourism, environment and well being. Support and recognise Connemara Way, provide cycle/footpaths etc. <p>Topics Raised: The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
60.	Sean Osborne	<p>This submission from Sean Osborne has made a number of suggestions with particular focus on Oughterard, Lough Corrib and Renewable Energy. The following is a summary of the key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally sourced and locally produced foods should be supported rather than imported foods; • Oughterard should be designated as a technological incubation development hub. • The addition of a viewing platform to view Lough Corrib and surrounding mountains is supported. It is suggested to locate this adjacent to wind turbines in Seanaphaistín. • Construct fishing stands around Lough Corrib to encourage trout and course angling; • Walks should be provided around Lough Corrib (“Wild Lough Corrib Way”) in consultation with landowners resulting in increased grant aid to farmers; • The railway line between Oughterard – Galway should be developed into a cycleway for commuters; • The Board of Works should manually operate the Salmon Weir gates to prevent flooding. • That the trapping of certain species be considered to promote growth of mallard duck, blackbird thrushes etc. It is noted that seagulls no longer nest in the island on Lough Corrib. <p>Renewable Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to renewable energy the submission requests that Galway County Council encourage the ESB to utilise 10kW on single phase lines; • That SEAI provide support for grant aid storage batteries up to 12kWh; • Exempt solar PV up to 10kwp on a dwelling or shed from requiring planning permission; • Black PV panels only on solar farm roofs;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESB to pay a fair rate per kWh when using domestic generated power; • That Ros an Mhíl accommodate coasters for wind turbine delivery to allow a power generation upgrade from 2.5mW turbines to 10mW turbines to reduce CO2; • Development of coastal wind turbines perhaps through CPO for access; and • Better grade road surfacing materials and washing of all chips. <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
61.	Coláiste Chamuis	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from Coláiste Chamuis. This submission relates to a number of issues with reference made to the impact on Irish Colleges. The submission has raised points which relate to Transport, Water Quality (bathing status, wastewater, drinking water), Housing, Climate Change/Renewable Energy, Health and Safety, Rural Housing in Gaeltacht Areas, Heritage and Culture, Working Group for State Agencies, Working Group in the media, Mobile Phone Coverage and Covid 19. This submission is summarised under these headings below:</p> <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision and enhancement of public footpaths, walking trails and cycle paths should be supported; • Off road bus stops and bus shelters are necessary; • The R336 should be repaired and maintained to an adequate acceptable standard while waiting for the new road; • Adequate parking provision should be provided at bathing areas/beaches. <p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bathing status of our beaches should be regularly monitored; • A pressure sewerage system is required from Bearna to Carna similar to Irish Water system in Gweedore; • The use of integrated constructed wetlands should be promoted in the area for each village and community; • There should be a uniform countywide standard of 100metres setback distance between residential/sensitive receptors and any new wastewater treatment plant. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports are required to ensure adequate supply of residential accommodation for teachers and students of the Irish College. <p>Climate Change/Renewable Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports are required for the Irish College sector to promote energy efficiency for “green” upgrading of College facilities and Irish College lodging/accommodation facilities;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports are required for community halls and community facilities to ensure the sustainability, viability and vibrancy of the Gaeltacht Community and to assist in the “green” upgrading within these facilities; • A community fund should be set up for large scale renewable energy projects. <p>Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports should be put in place to ensure best practice is achieved with regards to safety in Irish college facilities and Irish College lodgings/accommodation. <p>Rural Housing in Gaeltacht Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission should be given for Irish language speakers in the Gaeltacht; • There should be a presumption in favour of development of new residential homes with established patterns of clustered housing for people who would contribute to the Irish language and the Gaeltacht. <p>Heritage and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports are required to ensure the protection of Gaeltacht traditions, culture and heritage (i.e. sean-nós singing, sean nós dancing, boat building etc.). <p>Working Group for State Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state agencies play an important role in the Gaeltacht. A working group would ensure between coordination between all these bodies. <p>Working Group in the media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The various media groups should establish a working group to identify and deliver ways to access the wealth of cultural heritage in the Gaeltacht. <p>Mobile Phone Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should work with Telecom Operators to promote the enhancement of the local network. <p>Covid 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the challenges imposed by Covid 19 the Council should support planning applications which seek to amend or enhance buildings and facilities at Community Hall in Schools and Irish colleges as may be required. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
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62.	<p>Cumann Fharráige</p> <p>Forbartha</p> <p>Chois</p>	<p>This submission relates to a number of issues including Language Protection, Housing, Transport, Economic and Social Development. The suggestions contained within the submission are summarised below under the aforementioned headings:</p> <p>Language Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong protection of the Irish language is required; • There should be a specific section in the plan which deals with the language question of the Gaeltacht. Consideration should be given to the recommendations in the Cois Fharráige Language Plan and the section on the Gaeltacht and recommendations from the Cois Fharráige Forum for Language Planning • The Policy ‘Strengthening the Gaeltacht’ which was part of the Gaeltacht Plan should be utilised; • Planning officers dealing with South Conamara and the Aran Islands should be fluent in Irish; • Signs which are in English only should not be permitted; • An Irish language enurement clause of 80% on housing developments should be applied for a period of 20 years. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It needs to be easier for the people of Cois Fharráige to get permission for their own houses to ensure that local people do not need to leave the area; • Houses should be permitted on roads other than public roads; • Small houses or chalets should be permitted within the site of existing houses where the site is large enough and wastewater treatment can be achieved; • Agricultural buildings be adapted for use by suitable small industries; • Families which host Irish college students should be looked upon favourably to build another house; • Social Housing should be provided in Cois Fharráige for people from the area on the housing list; • Application for small developments of 2 to 4 houses should be looked upon favourably in the area of Cois Fharráige. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bus shelter should be provided on the R336 to encourage more people to use buses; • The R336 should be improved; • A ring road around An Spidéal should form part of the new County Development Plan; • More funding is required for the maintenance and upgrade of roads in Conamara; • The roads constructed within Galway Windpark could be connected to the existing road network; • A greenway from Galway to Ros an Mhíl should be supported by the Development Plan; • Roads which were improved under the Department of the Gaeltacht Road Scheme and the Local Improvement Scheme should be taken in charge/adopted.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been significant flooding of roadways in Conamara. An inspection of waterways in Conamara be conducted to address this matter. <p>Economic and Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any large scale industrial development should be sent directly to An Bord Pleanála; Planning applications to develop or increase the Irish Colleges should be favoured; Ensure there is adequate provision within local cemeteries (Cemetery in Knock specifically); Funding should be made available to local communities from windmill developments. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
63.	PROFE Engineering and Planning	<p>This submission supports backland development for one off rural housing in the countryside. It calls for the provision of backland development in the new County Development Plan. A range of stipulations are recommended in the application of such a provision which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backland sites that are granted must be on the land holding of parents/grandparents; housing need applies; Backland sites cannot be rear of a derelict dwelling and must include a Visual Impact Statement; Separate access if this is an option; Access road max 200m; WWTP to accord with EPA. <p>Topics Raised: Rural Placemaking and the Countryside.</p>
64.	The Abhainn Dú Loilíoch Woodland Group	<p>This submission provides a comprehensive introduction to outline the purpose of the Abhainn Dá Loilíoch group. The group hopes to take up the management of the woodlands in the Abhainn Dá Loilíoch Valley and have highlighted their vision for how this would be managed. The submission has suggested plans for expanding the woodland cover in the valley. The submission has also suggested plans for signposted loop walks/hikes and has also made reference to organising education with respect to climate change.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>



65.	Connacht Hockey	<p>This submission calls for a renewed focus on minority sports such as hockey which could be achieved by permitting and funding a percentage of astro pitches as 2g surface rather than 3g. The submission calls for the development of 2g astro pitches, hockey pitches and that a review of all astro pitches in the County be carried out. It calls for 50% of astro pitches to service the community, be large enough for a hockey pitch as such planning proposals should comply with this. This would facilitate more playing space for multi sports.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development</p>
66.	Construction Federation Industry	<p>A submission has been received from the Construction Industry Federation (CIF). It states that the new County Development Plan will be central to planning and strong economic development and flexibility will be needed. It calls for balanced regional development along the Atlantic Economic Corridor and wider region. It highlights County Galway's infrastructure shortcomings as a challenge and calls for delivery of the East Galway Main Drainage scheme to enable development.</p> <p>Attention is drawn to the settlement hierarchy and its importance along with the provisions of the NPF. The importance of sufficient zoning across settlements is highlighted as important to accommodate growth.</p> <p>The submission also calls for a review and appraisal of Irish Language enurement clause in an Gaeltacht and it concludes by stating that further engagement with CIF is critical in delivery a robust plan.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking;</p>
67.	Kinvara Hockey	<p>This submission seeks support for multi - sport facilities in Kinvara and wider County Galway that cater for minority sports such as hockey and this should be a key initiative in the Development Plan. It calls for sporting facilities to be planned as multi-sport in future, regulated in terms of surface type and for the Council to review pitch facilities to understand the level of potential users that are excluded from using these. An Impact Study is suggested to ensure all sports are included. Galway currently only has a single hockey pitch at Dangan, which is over utilised. The submission states that Kinvara Hockey Club has grown over the last number of years and it wants to grow further but Seamount College cannot host any games with every match requiring a bus trip away at a cost to all. The club's needs have also grown with a waiting list and weekly training for women and girls which is the demographic targeted by government in their strategy. The submission calls for a multi-sport facility in Kinvara that could link with a school and could be used by multiple sports. Visiting teams would bring people to the area to benefit the local economy.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development</p>



68.	Inishbofin Community Post-Primary Steering Group	<p>This submission relates to the provision of a Post-Primary school being provided on the island of Inishbofin. The submission is accompanied by a proposal which has previously been submitted to the Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development</p>
69.	Claregalway Tidy Towns	<p>This submission received from Claregalway Tidy Towns has raised a number of issues. The key points of which are summarised below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissatisfaction at the removal of the Baile Chláir bypass from the existing zoning map as it would allow for future development in Baile Chláir which now forms part of the MASP. It would also improve pedestrian safety and reduce heavy congestion. • Foot and cycleways to schools need to be provided to reduce car dependency and they need to be developed and upgraded elsewhere in Baile Chláir. Town and Village renewal should provide funding for this. • Improved facilities needed to meet increased population including a playground and recreation and amenity facilities. This should be provided with every large-scale housing development. It would also prevent anti-social behaviour. • Variety of housing styles needed to meet all needs. Policy should consider efficient use of housing stock including reuse of vacant properties. • The submission includes a schematic aerial photograph around the existing GAA pitch and community centre in Baile Chláir that illustrates areas of social infrastructure. It is requested to include this graphic in the new County Development Plan for use as a template for the development of recreation facilities in Baile Chláir. It is also stated that the Department of Education have provided minimum outdoor sports facilities and the community should not have to provide this. • The submission states that delivery of high densities can be achieved by constructing a bypass around Baile Chláir in the first instance. Urban living here it is considered, will not be attractive otherwise. • It is considered that motorway signage pertaining to Baile Chláir creates confusion with Belclare and this should be rectified by making them bi-lingual as all schools in Baile Chláir teach through English and the use of Irish here is low. • Reference is made to planning permission granted on Residential Phase 2 lands ahead of Phase 1 lands and it is stated that the adopted plan must be followed. <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>



70.	Éanna Byrne	<p>This submission received from Eanna Byrne raises a number of key points, summarised below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved foot and cycle paths for community and tourism, these should be considered around new and existing wind farms for example near the N59 and Conamara Region. • Provide social infrastructure - Maigh Cuilinn – An Spidéal cycle route to create a greenway cycle route via City, Salthill & Bearna, include picnic tables/viewing points etc. • Planning permission should be granted to local Irish speakers in Gaeltacht areas to sustain these communities. There should be a presumption in favour of development where there is cluster housing for Irish speakers; return migrants and those who wish to build a high BER level/passive house. • Secure bathing status for every beach, providing an additional safe amenity, making towns more liveable. Provide parking for emergency vehicles and bicycles with waste disposal at bathing areas. • Provide additional bus stops and shelters at strategic locations along the R336 to ease traffic and improve safety. Provide buggy friendly buses. • Provide traffic calming measures in villages and at beaches such as Silver Strand. • Improve drinking water quality in the Conamara Region. • Improve An Spidéal coastal walkway for use as amenity and as a tourist attraction. A grant of €80,000 would provide 1.3km of walkway and continue it to Trá Mór. The submission identifies the potential for a regional walkway here similar to Cascais to Estoril in Portugal. <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p>
71.	Paddy Medley	<p>This submission reflects on the impact of the Covid19 Pandemic. It calls for an interactive series of workshops and online surveys and for the following dimensions to be thought through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • home working; • education at home. • How will this impact our towns/villages and our homes? <p>The submission encourages buildings having multi-functional uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It supports the concept of compact living in 30-minute walking distance from local services and sourcing food locally. • It supports social centres in our towns and villages with a range of community facilities and services, promoting mental health and wellbeing.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sights Bearna as an example of a village that requires a drive to sports facilities that should be in walking distance and avoiding traffic congestion. • The submission calls for planning for an ageing population with impaired mobility. <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
72.	St. Fursa's Historical Society	<p>This submission highlights the historical attractions in Headford town and how these could become tourist attractions if tour coaches could be encouraged to stop at Headford. It calls for the addition of a Tourist Information Office in Headford and a cabin/unit at Ross Errilly as a base for guides. The submission also highlights the economic benefits of tourism and it calls for the tourism attractions in Headford to be publicised as it considers that this is currently being carried out. The submission states that Headford comes under Galway East Tourism</p> <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development;</p>
73.	Headford District Association	<p>The Headford District Association have made a submission which calls for the following for Headford Town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address dereliction in the town utilising buildings for community and/or tourism uses. Introduce an area based tax incentive scheme to encourage public realm improvements and building reuse; • Link New Street to the wastewater treatment network; • Improved community facilities including loop walk and extended library; • Improved footpath connectivity and bus facilities. Reduced speed limits is also supported preventing illegal parking and provide off street parking; • Overhead cables underground and provision of ornamental lighting including along the Demesne walk to include a Christmas lighting plan; • Provide fibre optic broadband. <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
74.	Sharon Tannian	<p>The submission calls for improved community facilities including a hockey pitch to be delivered in towns and villages at the same time as housing developments which could then host games. The submission also supports improved regional green infrastructure facilities and calls for a regional 2G multi-sport / full size hockey pitch as there is a shortage of this facility for clubs. It calls for a 2G facility in Kinvara to encourage and maintain interest in hockey.</p>



		Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.
75.	Sauti Youth	<p>A submission has been received from SAUTI Youth which raises key points that are summarised below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased dialogue/participation between Local Government and youths which is particularly important in addressing climate change and biodiversity; • Limit hedge trimming where possible to improve biodiversity; • Develop a Comhairle na nÓg similar to Wicklow; • Reduce car dependency, light rail not GCRR; • Improve water treatment (tourism is impacted by this) and quality of water supply; • Reduce disposable waste including gloves and ban non biodegradable wipes; • Monitor treatment of waste and enforce as necessary; • Improve broadband and network coverage in rural areas to encourage re-population, communication and bridge the urban-rural divide and needed for working from home; <p>Topics Raised Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
76.	Donncha Ó hÉallaithe	<p>This submission provides a comprehensive breakdown on a number of issues with respect to Cois Fharráige and initially sets the context of Cois Fharráige. The references made include Settlement Pattern, Poor Planning in An Spidéal, Irish Language, Housing, Transport and Renewable Energy. The content contained within the submission are summarised below under the aforementioned headings:</p> <p>Settlement Pattern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area between An Spidéal and An Cheathrú Rua is characterised by houses on individual sites on small roads which connect to the R336; • The area between An Spidéal and An Casla could not be classed as an urban area but contains a mixture of rural and small town aspects. This should be recognised in the new development plan. <p>Poor Planning in An Spidéal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual houses are being permitted without a housing need or a language requirement; • This result in local people being unable to purchase sites to build a house when they are being sold on the market without a housing need or a language condition. • This is resulting in people moving to An Spidéal I who have no connection to the area, who do not have Irish and who commute to Galway;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land which is zoned for housing should be used within housing schemes for people with housing needs; • Services such as sewage, water and electricity should be available. <p>Irish Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission highlights that developments of 2 or more houses provides protection but there is no such protection for individual houses. It is therefore not possible to distinguish if an application would benefit or adversely affect the Irish Language. • How can planners dealing with applications in the Gaeltacht if they are not fluent in Irish; • The policy 'Strengthening the Gaeltacht' which was part of the Local Gaeltacht Plan 2010 – 2018, should be part of the Development Plan 2022-2028 for the Cois Fharráige area. • Any signage erected on the R336 should be in Irish only or in Irish/English with Irish first and more visible than the English. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current planning rules seem nonsensical and there seems to be little consistency in how they are implemented; • Why is it necessary for a site for an individual house to be 0.5 acres when developers can have two or more houses on 0.05 acre sites? • Permission should be granted for backland development, allowing more than one house on a site and sites which do frontage on non public roads; • The development of cluster type developments (2 to 4) with one shared sewage system should be looked upon favourably; • The Council should compile a suitable land bank to provide for social and affordable housing; • Allowing small houses to be constructed on the site of an existing house and sharing the existing sewage system would contribute to the provision of housing in the area; • The Development Plan should accommodate the demand for housing. Reference is made to people who contribute to the Irish language in this regard. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the volume of traffic on the R336 it is necessary to draw up a plan to improve this road. • Bus shelters should be provided on the R336; • The provision of a greenway for Cois Fharráige should be included in the Development Plan; • A by-pass should be built around An Spidéal. <p>Renewable Energy</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tax should be paid to the council by owners of wind turbines with the monies used to improve the municipal area where these turbines are located. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications</p>
77.	MKO	<p>The key message is the need for supportive planning policies and an ambitious Renewable Energy Strategy to form part of the Draft County Development Plan, that will allow the county's wind energy resource to be harnessed. This submission proposes a number of points to guide wind energy policy in the Draft County Development Plan as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will have taken the installation of 4,200MW of wind energy over 28 years to reach 40% by 2020, and as a state, we will now have to add a further 4,000MW of wind energy in just the next ten years to reach 70% by 2030. The scale of challenge ahead in transitioning is considered enormous but the opportunity for Galway is significant. • County Galway currently has just under 300MW of wind energy installed and operating, with a further approx. 140MW permitted. County Galway could expect to double this total combined figure of 440MW, and have close to 900MW of wind energy installed across the county by the end of this decade. • The development of additional wind farms will result in substantial capital investment, add additional contributions to local community funds from the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS), and also contribute via commercial rates income over the lifetime of those projects. • It is stated that the current County Development Plan's and Wind Energy Strategy's single large Strategic Area and adjacent Acceptable In Principle areas in west Galway have accommodated a large amount of the commissioned wind energy developments in the county in the last decade. This submission has indicated that wind farm sites projects/planning applications in the future will be more widely distributed throughout the county and be smaller sites with smaller clusters of wind turbines. • It proposes that wind turbines will inevitably continue to increase in size as they are more efficient and less of them required to generate an equivalent amount of energy. • It suggests that the new wind energy planning guidelines will likely require turbines to be located at a minimum of four times their proposed tip heights away from any dwellings or adjacent properties, so each project will have to consider how best to maximise the wind energy potential of each site while adhering to the x4 tip height setback requirements. • Certain parts of the Landscape of County Galway where wind energy developments should be discouraged like the sensitive landscape of Conamara. However, is considers that the rest of the county should be deemed to be capable of accommodating wind energy developments within its landscape, subject to the guidance in the revised Wind Energy Planning Guidelines, currently under review.



		Topics Raised: Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.
78.	SSE	<p>A comprehensive submission was received which relates to energy provision. The preparation of the Local Authority Renewable Energy is welcomed. It is considered that the following should be considered in the Draft County Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies should be included in the support of the continued development of onshore wind farms to ensure targets are met that are outlined in national policy such as NPF, RSES and Climate Action Plan; • Close collaboration within adjoining Local Authorities in relation to the preparation of the LARES and it is considered that a Steering Group would be established; • The SEAI Wind Atlas, or any similar general wind resource data, is not used as a constraint when identifying suitable areas for on-shore wind. It also recommends that existing grid constraints are not considered hard constraints when preparing the RESs. • With the advancement of technologies, it is considered that planning permissions should be extended for 30-35 years duration • Due to the success of Ireland's off shore wind energy, the Draft County Development Plan should recognise the potential opportunities for County Galway post-2030 with regard to Offshore wind with the Programme for Government; • Energy efficiency is key to the infrastructure priority in Draft County Development Plan in relation to its climate action objectives, reduces energy bills while also improves health and social inclusion. The Climate Action Plan contains ambitious plans to improve energy efficiency and drive the electrification of Ireland's housing stock with deep retrofits. It is considered that the Draft County Development Plan would consider the requirements of Action 64 of the Climate Action Plan which seeks to increase the energy efficiency of the Local Authority social housing. • The sustainable transport policies are of importance given the predominance of private cars and encouraging a modal shift towards public transport and cycling is key alongside the electrification of transport. It is stated that the deployment of targeted electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the county will be vital to meet the changing needs of commuters with particular emphasis in public parking areas and employment locations • The conversion of the LED lighting in relation to public infrastructure lighting is key to reduce energy consumption • The Smart City Technology should be examined in line with the ambitions of the Climate Action Plan <p>Topics Raised: Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
79.	Mark Green	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from Mark Green which relates to a number of topics relevant to the County Development Plan Review. The following should be considered in the Draft County Development Plan:</p>



		<p>Core Strategy and Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct population to existing towns and villages. • Develop and reuse vacant, derelict or under-used brownfield and infill sites at an appropriate density. • Masterplans are proposed for each settlement and for strategic sites. • Permission for one-off dwellings outside a settlement envelope of a village or town should be severely constrained whereas building within a settlement envelope should be encouraged. • Address increased residential densities with most development in towns/villages with a mix of unit types. • Design should be flexible so that it can be repurposed in buildings and residential environments. • Other improvements could include minimal traffic, maximum pedestrian and cycle-friendly measures and additional amenities. <p>Urban Living and Placemaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of a robust Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan, in conjunction with Galway City. • It is considered that the following policies and initiatives would make urban places more attractive; a Town Centre First policy, the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) framework, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and provision of seed capital to local authorities for serviced sites in settlements. • Traffic calming improvements, digital hubs and tree planting make settlements more attractive. • Use the development levy in planning permission conditions and the zoning/rezoning processes to enhance community gain. <p>Rural Place Making and the Countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Development Plan can promote improvements in the quality of the built environment in rural areas by ensuring the retention and planting of natural hedgerows and trees and the planting. • Create ACA's in smaller settlements and publicise the protection of ACA's with information boards and sympathetic signage. • Prevent the granting of urban residential building types or layouts in rural areas or villages. • Work with Irish Water to provide wastewater treatment plants and other agencies to provide adequate infrastructure. • Provide serviced sites for affordable homes and incentivise Housing associations to build in the smaller settlements. • Work with developers to build social housing. • Consider housing within a set radius of a settlement centre subject to adequate infrastructure. <p>Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future enterprise and employment growth in Medical Devices, IT, Tourism, 3rd Level colleges, arts and culture, should be promoted. Supports should also be provided for local IT hubs, broadband rollout, local childcare. • Reduce/remove planning and rates requirements for e-business/home/home-office working.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilcornan Demesne (Clarinbridge) and the Slieve Aughty have the potential to become sustainable tourism attractions. • Promote the creation of a continuous walking route from Malin Head to Kinsale along the Wild Atlantic Way and continue developing an integrated national network of greenways. <p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support agencies in the provision of Water and Wastewater in settlements and restrict development until Irish Water have upgraded Treatment Plants. • Reduce permissions for individual one-off housing with septic tanks and small treatment systems outside settlements. • The deterioration in the quality of groundwater or rivers could be addressed by reducing agricultural runoff and increase standards for animal sheds/waste storage. • Promote the planting of trees in riparian zones and prevent clear-felling of woodland to prevent soil run-off. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better co-ordination between land use and transportation facilities by including the identification of transport corridor hierarchy (road, rail, walk/cycle). • Adopt a high quality cycling policy with assistance from the NTA, carry out an assessment of the local authority road network and develop cycle network plans. • Dovetail with the NTA's park and ride implementation plan for Galway city integrating car parking facilities with public transport and cycling networks. • The County Development Plan should work with the Dept of Transport, schools, the Green-Schools programme, and local initiatives (including Cycle Bus and School Streets) to increase the number of children walking and cycling to primary and secondary schools. • Reserve & implement QBC's, priority signalling for buses and increased Real Time Passenger Information in conjunction with service providers • Rural transport and accessibility be improved via the commitments in the Programme Government which has committed to a Sustainable Rural Mobility Plan to introduce a public transport service standard under which all settlements over a certain size in terms of population, combined with employment or education places, will have a service connecting them to the national public transport system. Local Link will play a key role in this development. • Incorporate the concept of "Smarter Travel" into the County Development Plan to reduce dependence on the private car. Allocate parking areas for both Park & Ride and Park & Stride for schools. Make Smarter Travel planning and infrastructure a requirement for all LAP's, masterplans and major planning applications. Active Travel Towns plans also to be considered. • Parking standards for new developments should reflect the need to reduce car dependency and the safety of vulnerable road users (cyclists/ pedestrians) should be improved. <p>Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main environmental issue that needs to be addressed in the County Development Plan Review is climate change manifested as increased storms & flooding and the reduction in biodiversity. Other environmental issues to be addressed include Water pollution as well as Non-recyclable waste and dumping. • It requests that the Galway County Climate Mitigation policy act as the template for adaptation to climate change in the County Development Plan. • Acknowledges the following in the County Development Plan; 'EU Biodiversity Strategy' , 'National Pollinator Plan', continue to promote and protect biodiversity, adopt the new 'National Invasive Species Management Plan' when published, reduce the use of pesticides in public areas and strengthen protection (including enforcement) of hedgerows, native woodland, and wetlands including peatlands. • Ensure robust site-specific Flood Risk Assessments prepared for new infrastructure and buildings while also promoting the use of future flood risk projections to control infrastructure and building location & design. • Develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for County Galway to restrict development in coastal erosion zones and require ecosystem-based adaptation actions. • Identify and promote nature-based solutions eg. strengthen habitat networks and reduce hard surface areas. Ensure urban storm water drainage systems for new developments account for potential future impacts of climate change in their designs. • Maximise renewable energy provision, both for developments and individual homes via micro-generation at individual and community level. • Identify potential Sustainable Energy Communities and Support the National Retrofitting Plan. • Encourage wind turbines offshore and identify sites for bio-energy plants including community bioenergy initiatives. <p>Architectural and Archaeological Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the Built Heritage of County Galway by highlighting the important of the ACA's and the important of the Protected Structures. It requests the provision of better funding for the owners of protected structures, improved signage to promote awareness of the ACA's , the protected structure and archaeology. • The following older buildings have been identified as worthy of protection including the row of 19th century cottages at Tarramuid (Clarinbridge), the three 19th century cottages in Slieveaun (Clarinbridge). • Include archaeological features in the landscape assessment so as to secure protection and promote awareness. <p>Social, Community and Cultural Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-location of schools and childcare facilities is proposed. • Promote the multi-use of existing community buildings and facilities through financial aid. • Additional community facilities required in rural areas for teenagers. • Make provision in the County Development Plan for drinking water fountains with Irish Water as per the scheme envisaged in the Programme for Government. • It requests additional cultural and arts facilities including affordable workspaces for artists.
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		<p>Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development should be surrounded by hedgerows to reinstate sections of existing natural heritage and biodiversity lost during construction and to continue the ecological corridor effect. • Protect Landscape views by siting developments close to existing settlements. • Green Infrastructure (GI) should be acknowledged and included in the County Development Plan including the draft policies and objectives in the Climate Mitigation Plan.e.g. Recognising the value of existing trees as well as planning for an increase in tree population, promote green infrastructure such as living roofs and walls, protect all trees in ACA's by requiring planning permission for any work to them and implement Tree Preservation Orders on a countywide basis. • Kilcornan Wood could be developed further as a key piece of GI to benefit the community. • Promote green infrastructure and sustainable design in the built environment to help nature to adapt to climate change by strengthening habitat networks, reducing habitat fragmentation and providing opportunities for species to migrate. <p>Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It request additional Investment in harbour and associated transport infrastructure to aid the development of the blue economy in coastal communities. • Encourage the use of land for afforestation by changing the use to (native broad-leaved). • Promote Close to Nature continuous cover forestry systems. • Support farm forestry/rewilding options. • Identify suitable landscapes for afforestation as part of the Landscape assessment and work with the Climate Action Regional Office and public bodies to review land available for planting/afforestation. • The County Development Plan shall align with the proposed marine spatial planning policy and National Marine Planning Framework as envisaged in the Programme for Government. <p>It requests the County Development Plan to encourage the development of the marine sector for renewable energy (wind, wave, tidal) and introduce Marine Protection Areas to help realise carbon sink potential.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
80.	Colm Ó Neasa	<p>This submission is comprehensive and relates to a number of issues including Housing, Employment, Wastewater, Transport, Sports Facilities and Services. This submission is summarised under these headings below:</p> <p>Housing:</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and affordable housing should be provided in the Carna and Cill Chiaráin area; • Local people should be able to build on their own lands. <p>Employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement should be given to companies to locate at Erras Aithneach Support Marine Park; • Grants should be provided for enterprises who wish to set up in the area. <p>Wastewater:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewage treatment infrastructure is required in Carna and Cill Chiaráin. <p>Transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade to the R340, R336 and N59 is required. • Upgrade of footpaths in Carna, Cill Chiaráin and Aird Mhór. • Improve public transport (Local Link Carna to Scrib to link to An Cheathrú Rua to Galway. • Suggested greenway in Iorras Aithneach. <p>Sports Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports required to committees operating in Iorras Aithneach. • Upgrade of football pitch and new dressing rooms required at Carna. • Development of water sports at Cill Chiaráin bay. <p>Service Town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Carna as service town in Iorras Aithneach. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
81.	Kevin O Hara	<p>A submission has been received from Kevin O’Hara.</p> <p>The following is a summary of the key points raised: The first point highlighted in the submission refers to the increasing population around Galway City while other more rural parts of the County are in population decline. As an example the submission cites the Conamara Gaeltacht as an area that is poorly served even though populations in Bearna and Maigh Cuilinn are increasing. The submission calls for an improved network of villages in Conamara to improve its Gaeltacht status along with improved public and social infrastructure such as wastewater treatment appropriately buffered, water supply, public transport, pavements/lighting and greenway from Bearna to An Spidéal / Maigh Cuilinn - Galway. The submission highlights the modest population growth west of Na Forbacha.</p>



		<p>In relation to the currently designated “Other Settlements” the submission suggests that public consultations should be carried out in each locality to gauge support for redesignation. The submission also states that restricting one off housing would be unsuitable in Conamara as one off housing preserves the Gaeltacht. It is also stated that social and affordable housing along with local services should be provided for local people in these areas. The submission calls for balanced population growth across the County and one off housing should be permitted for local people on family land.</p> <p>The submission describes the settlement pattern in Gaeltacht Conamara largely as Baile Fearann or townlands and it calls for recognition of this in the new County Development Plan. The submission highlights the beauty of the Conamara landscape but calls for it to be recognised as a living landscape with a vibrant community.</p> <p>To serve remote home working the submission calls for improved communications infrastructure in Conamara.</p> <p>The submission highlights Ros an Mhíl Harbour as an area with an opportunity for a deepwater quay and associated employment creation also on the subject of economic development the submission calls for the development of outdoor activity based tourism across Conamara. In particular the submission references the redevelopment of Slí Chonamara An Spidéal – Ros an Mhíl linking to Seanadh Mhachadh and Ros Muc/Carna. The submission states that information boards should also be provided along these routes preserving certain locations of beauty and historic interest.</p> <p>In relation to Blue Way – the submission calls for the route from Galway City to Ballyquirke to Ross Lake to be explored using the existing network of lakes and canals. Also on the subject of outdoor activity the submission calls for development and marketing of the area from An Spidéal to Carna as a watersports centre of excellence. Along with providing an option for various outdoor watersports this addition, it is highlighted would create employment and highlight the varied landscape in this part of Conamara. The submission states that beaches should be maintained to preserve their amenity value. The submission calls for the incorporation of An Ghaeltacht into the Wild Atlantic Way with public consultation in this regard.</p> <p>The submission highlights a vision for An Spidéal as gateway to the Gaeltacht – along with a coastal walkway from Galway to Ros an Mhíl via An Spidéal the submission calls for the development of the old Ceol na Mara site to improve village vibrancy along with maintenance of the beach n Chéibh Nua. In relation to An Spidéal the submission states that parking improvements should be carried out in the village and water quality it is state should be improved at Trá na mBan to obtain Blue Flag status.</p> <p>The submission calls for an information trail in Ros Muc to improve tourist visitor numbers.</p>
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		<p>The submission states that the N6GCRR should be completed with minimal impact and planning permission should be provided elsewhere for those losing their dwellings. The submission proposes the development of a new national road north of the R336 with appropriate cycle/pedestrian facilities. The submission states that park and ride facilities should also be provided on this new road. The submission states that the existing network of roads in Conamara should be improved.</p> <p>The submission states that where works are to be carried out to the benefit of the community they should be done with appropriate care and mitigation measures without detriment to SAC's. It is also stated that community or public spaces should have improved vegetation/tree cover in an effort to implement the Pollinator/Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>The submission states that renewable energy developments should be dispersed across the County and should include a significant community development fund. The submission supports marine based renewable energy and it calls for the development of Ros an Mhíl Harbour as a centre of excellence for the servicing and development of marine based renewables.</p> <p>The submission states that Gaeltacht Comharchumann should be resourced to develop their own catchment areas as energy communities and refitting houses with renewable energy should be encouraged.</p> <p>The submission calls for improved refuse services from Galway County Council.</p> <p>The submission states that protection for archaeological heritage is inadequate and designated and undesignated structures should be identified and discussed with the owner for an action plan. The submission calls for a number of sites to be taken over by Galway County Council and the preservation of other sites being incorporated into a heritage/cultural walking tour.</p> <p>The submission calls for a range of community facilities to be provided in each settlement proportionate to its size including for example the redevelopment of the old swimming pool in Ros Muc.</p> <p>The submission highlights the importance of local services and states that a primary care facility should be developed in An Spidéal. Also, the submission states that certain local services could be provide on a part time basis through the medium of Irish to preserve the Gaeltacht status.</p> <p>The submission states that centres of excellence should be designated in An Ghaeltacht to teach and host classes to strengthen the continuation of the arts in Conamara. Also, the submission states that the maintenance and upkeep of Galway Hookers should be supported, which could it is stated, create a tourism boost with boat races and other marine</p>
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		<p>activity. The submission supports the Men's/Women's shed movement and states that this should be supported and encouraged.</p> <p>The submission calls for Local Area Plans for Gaeltacht settlements and for the rural Gaeltacht area. It also calls for signage in Irish; public services from Galway County Council bilingual; public services in An Ghaeltacht provided though Irish and Galway County Council should support the use of Irish as a living, spoken language in the community.</p> <p>The submission states that mapping and eradication of invasive species should be put in place, also that farmers and fishermen should be supported by the County Council. The submission states that small piers should be developed across Conamara and maintained by the County Council</p> <p>Finally the submission states that the Council should support traditional seaweed harvesters to register as appropriate and ensure that harvesting is carried out fairly and in an environmentally sustainable manner.</p> <p>Topics Raised Core Strategy and Housing, Urban Living and Placemaking, Rural Placemaking and the Countryside, Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage, Social, Community and Cultural Development, The Galway Gaeltacht, Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure, Agriculture, Fishing, Marine and Forestry.</p>
82.	Stiofán Ó Briain	<p>A comprehensive submission has been received from Stiofán Ó Briain which relates to a number of issues with reference made to the impact on Irish Colleges. The submission has raised points which relate to Transport, Water Quality (bathing status, wastewater, drinking water), Housing, Climate Change/Renewable Energy, Health and Safety, Rural Housing in Gaeltacht Areas, Heritage and Culture, Working Group for State Agencies, Working Group in the media, Mobile Phone Coverage and Covid 19. This submission is summarised under these headings below:</p> <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision and enhancement of public footpaths, walking trails and cycle paths should be supported; • Off road bus stops and bus shelters are necessary; • The R336 should be repaired and maintained to an adequate acceptable standard while waiting for the new road; • Adequate parking provision should be provided at bathing areas/beaches; <p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bathing status of our beaches should be regularly monitored; • A pressure sewerage system is required from Bearna to Carna similar to Irish Water system in Gweedore;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of integrated constructed wetlands should be promoted in the area for each village and community; • There should be a uniform countywide standard of 100metres setback distance between residential/sensitive receptors and any new wastewater treatment plant; • GCC should work with the Irish Colleges and Uisce Eireann to address issues around water shortages; <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports are required to ensure adequate supply of residential accommodation for teachers and students of the Irish College. <p>Climate Change/Renewable Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports are required for the Irish College sector to promote energy efficiency for “green” upgrading of College facilities and Irish College lodging/accommodation facilities; • Additional supports are required for community halls and community facilities to ensure the sustainability, viability and vibrancy of the Gaeltacht Community and to assist in the “green” upgrading within these facilities; • A community fund should be set up for large scale renewable energy projects; <p>Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional supports should be put in place to ensure best practice is achieved with regards to safety in Irish college facilities and Irish College lodgings/accommodation. <p>Rural Housing in Gaeltacht Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission should be given for Irish language speakers in the Gaeltacht; • There should be a presumption in favour of development of new residential homes with established patterns of clustered housing for people who would contribute to the Irish language and the Gaeltacht; <p>Heritage and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports are required to ensure the protection of Gaeltacht traditions, culture and heritage (i.e. sean-nós singing, sean nós dancing, boat building etc.) <p>Working Group for State Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state agencies play an important role in the Gaeltacht. A working group would ensure coordination between all these bodies. <p>Working Group in the media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The various media groups should establish a working group to identify and deliver ways to access the wealth of cultural heritage in the Gaeltacht.
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		<p>Mobile Phone Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should work with Telecom Operators to promote the enhancement of the local network. <p>Covid 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the challenges imposed by Covid 19 the Council should support planning applications which seek to amend or enhance buildings and facilities at Community Hall in Schools and Irish colleges as may be required. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development;</p>
83.	Thomas Lally	<p>This submission relates to (Housing) the provision of independent living units for the elderly, disabled and those needing palliative care that are not confined to settlements. The benefits of providing these units outside of settlements has been outlined within the submission.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Rural Place Making and the Countryside;</p>
84.	Irish Wheelchair Association	<p>This submission has provided a comprehensive report which has provide several suggestions in terms of accessibility for people with disabilities. The submission has sets out its recommendations under the following 6 headings 1) Inclusive Approach to Planning, 2) Infrastructure and the Public Realm, 3) Social Housing, 4) Transport, 5) Consultation and Collaboration and 6) Enterprise and Employment. The submission has been summarised as follows under the aforementioned headings:</p> <p>Inclusive Approach to Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan must be aligned to all relevant disability specific legislation emanating from the Disability Act 2005 and to aspirations set out under the Articles of the UNCRPD; The plan should deliver best practice. <p>Infrastructure and the Public Realm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan should adopt, utilise and promote the <i>Irish Wheelchair Association Best Practice Access Guidelines</i> Edition 4 2020 within all areas of building and environmental design; The plan should embrace a Universal Design approach in adopting <i>the Irish Wheelchair Association Best Practice Guidelines</i> Edition 4 2020 to inform its' planning and design in all aspects of the Public Realm <p>Social Housing</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should ensure that all social housing projects funded by the Department deliver a minimum 10% of integrated fully wheelchair accessible social housing units; • Development should be accessible to community amenities and transport links; • Developments should include a fully wheelchair accessible design to be incorporated into each social housing project. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should ensure a commitment to ensure collaboration with all transport service providers that will result in wheelchair accessible transport availability across all transport services. <p>Consultation and Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that the plan commits to continuing process whereby the Council fully engages and consults on the details of design within the public realm and of public buildings and in the delivery of services, with people who have a disability so that their voice is heard and taken on board throughout any project. <p>Enterprise and Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should commit to achieving 6% service employment target for persons with disabilities within the lifetime of the County Development Plan; • The Council should provide leadership to local employers in raising awareness regarding employment of people with disabilities; <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport;</p>
85.	Galway County Public Participation Network	<p>This submission has provided a comprehensive report which relates to Core Strategy and Housing, Urban living and Placemaking and Rural Placemaking and the Countryside, Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage, Social, Community and Cultural Development, The Galway Gaeltacht, Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure, Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry. The submission has been summarised as follows under the aforementioned headings:</p> <p>Core Strategy and Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More affordable and flexible housing options are needed; • Aging populations need to be provided for to live independently or at home in secure environments and discourage rural nursing homes as this leads to social isolation. • retirement villages and housing developments that promote intergenerational living should be encouraged;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for housing for refugees should be considered; • Housing models successfully implemented elsewhere should be encouraged (i.e. Ballyhoura Development in Limerick); • Funding should be provided to renovate existing derelict/vacant properties; • Vacant tax levy/CPO should be considered, or land repurposed for social use. This could include commercial units for rent at a reasonable cost to start ups etc.; • Planning procedures for domestic dwellings are considered cumbersome. Applying should be made easier and more consistent. Approving single houses in and adjacent to existing settlements would help address population decline and strengthen communities; • Small town and villages should be developed. <p>Urban living and Placemaking and Rural Placemaking and the Countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MASP must focus on improved public transport including park and ride and more cycle paths; • Designated free parking and charging points for electric cars will attract visitors to towns along the motorway; • Development of multi-storey/ underground car parking to reduce land space requirements; • Local co-working hubs and working from home should be encouraged; • Building a local digital hub offering a strong broadband connection would help generate businesses and improve social living; • Local community needs a voice in local development decisions; • Childcare, recreational facilities and access to local services are important; • Enhanced pedestrian movement should be encouraged (limited night time street closures, street closures for community events); • Litter needs to be removed and control needs to be more robust with stricter fines imposed; • Incentives needed to renovate empty or derelict shops; • Extended pavements, street lighting and public seating should be provided in the rural area; • Rural hand pump locations should be utilised as drinking fountains and as a meeting point; • Drinking water is of poor quality in some parts of the county. This needs to be addressed; • Rural housing design can be improved; • Arts and Culture play a vital role in creating vibrant communities and the plan should encourage developing community facilities for such use. <p>Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should focus on attracting retail and commercial development to smaller towns; • The plan should support local enterprises with ongoing investment in community enterprise centers; • Remote working needs to be factored into the new plan;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council needs to focus its central position in the Atlantic Economic Corridor and develop better links to the north and south part of the AEC. • The plan should support community-led cooperatives; • A county wide tourism concept should be developed; • Greenway projects must be supported; • Spurs off the Wild Atlantic Way should be developed to showcase events in towns and villages; • Local Tourism should be promoted and linked where possible. One such example suggested is a food trail which could link retail, farming and tourism sectors; • A local development officer to help develop this sector is required. <p>Infrastructure and Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double yellow lines should be provided at the entrance to housing developments to stop illegal parking at these locations; • Wastewater infrastructure needs to be improved; • Additional Bus lanes stops and shelters are required; • More frequent bus services with attractive fare structure is required; • School children within 15km of the city should use bus transport only to reduce traffic levels during school term; • Remote working, car-pooling, Park and Ride and cycle lanes should be encouraged to assist in reducing traffic levels; • Bus services between towns are required as opposed to just into the city are needed; • Services such as the Local Link service operated in Mayo should be introduced; • Digital trackers would help passengers know when buses will arrive; • Reopening phase 2 of the Western Rail Corridor with improved frequent train services which are better connected to bus routes; • Double rail track to Athenry should be provided as well as an assessment undertaken into the feasibility of a double track to Athlone; • The report rail connection to Tuam and Claremorris should be published with a decision made to upgrade the track or replace it with a greenway; • More cycle lanes and wider footpaths in towns are required; • The plan should support the development of Greenways across the county; • Maintenance and monitoring of road signage is required. <p>Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should focus on raising awareness of current environmental concerns;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should support renewable energy sources such as solar, tidal, district heating and off shore wind; • The plan should support housing loans to support retrofit houses with heat recovery units; • Rainwater harvesting in schools, marts and other public places should become mandatory; • A bioregional approach should be encouraged with respect to fuel, food and fibres; • The plan should promote reusable materials and ban the use of single use plastics; • Recycling must be promoted across the county with additional WEEE recycling collection events; • Littering and dumping needs to be tackled more systematically; • The Plan should include an awareness and educational campaign and allow for a stronger enforcement of relevant laws around dumping; • The plan should include measures to encourage and safeguard biodiversity; • Providing better broadband is crucial to promoting development in the county; • Communication between Galway County Council and communities needs to improve; • Council website is very outdated and needs to be completely redesigned for simplicity of use; • Community led energy cooperatives should be supported. <p>Architectural and Archaeological Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive audit should be carried out that captures historic, protected structures and those considered as such by the local community. Resources must be allocated and collaboration with NUIG/GMIT should be sought; • Aim of this audit should be to encourage restoration and public ownership of protected buildings with grants for redevelopment; • In certain cases, the restrictions on Protected Structures can be prohibitive. A balance needs to be found in terms of protection and also redevelopment to ensure continued use. • The plan should encourage the protection of visual artists work around the county; • Public consultation should be required for planning applications that may interfere ACA's, PS or historical, unlisted sites which may be locally regarded as important; • Scenic views should be protected. <p>Social, Community and Cultural Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each town and village in the county should be surveyed to capture its community assets and facilities; • Each settlement should have an innovation and enterprise centre, playgrounds and other community amenities (further community facilities such as community kitchens, allotments, hubs for artists and men's sheds etc have been listed); • Digital hubs close to community facilities due to rise of home working;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission notes that larger housing developments are required to provide a crèche, but this is not the case schools; • Co-location/Close proximity of schools and creches should be encouraged; • Footpaths spanning a 5km radius in all directions from every school in Galway should be provided; • Safe access and transport essential around schools; • Development of community gyms or other focal points for physical activities should be encouraged; • County wide consistent signage to highlight pre existing walking / running circuits; • Encourage National Age friendly Strategy in settlements; • Each Municipal District requires more resources for community development; • Development officers should be assigned to assists groups to make grant applications and to encourage community building; • Central information page to list all available funding streams available would be helpful; • Initiatives to support the Arts in smaller towns; • More river walks are awareness around our natural habitat; • Increase the provision of water safety courses; • Provide funding for small out door sport facilities (handball/tennis); • Organise recreational park runs in every town; • Promotion of local heritage trails; • An Umbrella share project should be established at car parks, bus stations etc. • Integration of other nationalities and cultures into the communities should be encouraged. <p>The Galway Gaeltacht</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern raised with respect to some compulsory elements associated with the promotion of the Irish language particularly in education; • Some members of the PPN have suggested that signage for some settlements and towns should be bilingual (ie Bhaile Chláir has been confused with Belclare). This has been contested by other members of the PPN. • It is recommended that clear road signage is provided but also reflects the Official Languages Act 2003; • Communities around Lough Corrib should be surveyed to gauge their ideas on the active revival of the Irish language; • Retailers should be encouraged to use Irish while trading by providing free Irish language classes; • Grants should be provided to promote bilingual signage in shops. <p>Natural Heritage Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora and Fauna of the Slieve Aughty mountains should be protected.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the natural heritage and landscape of each area in the County needs to be assessed with a view to controlling the flora & fauna rather than allowing uncontrolled growth that can give rise to problems such as flooding. <p>Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A landscape strategy should be prepared that focuses on the unique landscape of the West; The plan should support organic, community farming; Education on biodiversity required and cease use of chemical sprays; The plan should support regenerative farming practices; Concerns raised with respect to pollution from spreading of slurry and phosphate and nitrogen; Better supports should be provided to grow hardwoods; Supports for eco-tourism should be put in place; Certain areas of the county should be utilised for the planting of native Irish trees; A bioregional approach should be adopted; A Marine Park should be developed; A community-led data portal for the river Corrib should be set up. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
86.	Fóram Chois Fharráige um Pleanáil Teanga	<p>This submission relates to matters with respect to the Gaeltacht and the Irish language predominately within the Cois Fharráige Language Planning Forum which includes the electoral divisions of Na Forbacha, An Spidéal, Cill Aithnín, Sailearna and Kilcummin. The submission has provided a background to the organisation and also the obligations of the Planning Authority with respect to the plan process. The submissions contains 12 suggestions which have been summarised below under the following headings – Housing, Irish Language;</p> <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site sizes should be reduced to 0.33 acre; Consideration be given to dwellings on non adopted roads and on back roads where there are currently houses Consideration be given to amending planning rules to reduce the overall cost and obstacles currently experienced by native speakers if Irish who wish to obtain planning permission; A specific zoning should be created in Cois Fharráige settlements to provide housing to local people. <p>Irish Language</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Officers should be aware of language planning matters and be able to speak Irish; • Single dwelling houses should have the same language condition applied as in the case of housing estates; • There should be a question about Irish language competence in the application form even in areas zoned for housing in situations where the development could influence the areas linguistic equality; • The 'Gaeltacht Strengthening' policy which formed part of the Gaeltacht Plan 2008-2018 should form part of the new County Development Plan; • Language Enurement Clause of 80% on residential developments of 2 houses or more should apply; • Language Enurement Clauses should apply for 20 years; • Applicants applying under the Language Enurement Clause should be examined to Irish language recognition standard for use. Independent monitoring should be done on the examination proves. • Signage on the R336 should be in Irish only. If bilingual with Irish should be on top. • Place names and names of housing developments should be in Irish only; • Signage for businesses should be in Irish or where other languages used Irish should be first; • The County Council's Irish Language Officer and the Language Planning Officers should have a role in the process for suggesting the wording, approve and allow it. • It should be a policy of the Council to use placenames in Irish; • Planning applications which relate to implementation of language based and community based projects should be given a favourable outlook; • Special recognition should be provided to An Spidéal as it is the only village near Galway City where a significant share of the population use the Irish language. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; The Galway Gaeltacht</p>
87.	<p>Chumann Forbartha Chois Fharráige</p>	<p>This submission relates to a number of issues including Language Protection, Housing, Transport, Economic and Social Development. The suggestions contained within the submission are summarised below under the aforementioned headings:</p> <p>Language Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong protection of the Irish language is required; • There should be a specific section in the plan which deals with the language question of the Gaeltacht. Consideration should be given to the recommendations in the Cois Fharráige Language Plan and the section on the Gaeltacht and recommendations from the Cois Fharráige Forum for Language Planning • The Policy 'Strengthening the Gaeltacht' which was part of the Gaeltacht Plan should be utilised; • Planning officers dealing with South Conamara and the Aran Islands should be fluent in Irish; • Signs which are in English only should not be permitted;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Irish language enurement clause of 80% on housing developments should be applied for a period of 20 years. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It needs to be easier for the people of Cois Fharrage to get permission for their own houses to ensure that local people do not need to leave the area; • Houses should be permitted on roads other than public roads; • Small houses or chalets should be permitted within the site of existing houses where the site is large enough and wastewater treatment can be achieved; • Agricultural buildings be adapted for use by suitable small industries; • Families which host Irish college students should be looked upon favourably to build another house; • Social Housing should be provided in Cois Fharrage for people from the area on the housing list; • Application for small developments of 2 to 4 houses should be looked upon favourably in the area of Cois Fharrage. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bus shelter should be provided on the R336 to encourage more people to use buses; • The R336 should be improved; • A ring road around An Spidéal should form part of the new County Development Plan; • More funding is required for the maintenance and upgrade of roads in Conamara; • The roads constructed within Galway Wind Park could be connected to the existing road network; • A greenway from Galway to Ros an Mhíl should be supported by the Development Plan; • Roads which were improved under the Department of the Gaeltacht Road Scheme and the Local Improvement Scheme should be taken in charge/adopted. • There has been significant flooding of roadways in Conamara. An inspection of waterways in Conamara be conducted to address this matter. <p>Economic and Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any large scale industrial development should be sent directly to An Bord Pleanála; • Planning applications to develop or increase the Irish Colleges should be favoured; • Ensure there is adequate provision within local cemeteries (Cemetery in Knock specifically); • Funding should be made available to local communities from windmill developments. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht.</p>
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88.	Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga	<p>This submission has provided a comprehensive review of the existing objectives with the existing County Development Plan 2015-2021 and in the County's Gaeltacht Plan as well as providing information within the Gaeltacht Act (2012) and the Planning and Development Act (2000) with respect to the Irish language and the Gaeltacht. The submission has made 5 recommendations which are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific recognition needs to be given to the language planning process with consultation with the Language Planning officer and lead organisations to assist the Council in preparing Objectives with regards to the Gaeltacht and the Irish Language; • Obligations with regard to signage in Gaeltacht areas has been highlighted; • With respect to Language Influence Statement is should be stated that this shall be prepared by a specialist in sociolinguistics and the statement should prove the development will be beneficial of the Irish Language locally. This individual should be independent and appointed by Galway County Council; • The Language Enurement clause as per the current plan should be implemented; • Language competence during evaluation should be at Irish B2 or higher level. <p>Topics Raised: The Galway Gaeltacht.</p>
89.	Marty Concannon	<p>This submission relates to the use of lands zoned coastal edge to be extended. Currently this designation is restricted to rural housing need. It has been suggested that uses such as eco-tourism and low impact camping be considered within this designation.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development.</p>
90.	The Clare River Valley Blueway	<p>This submission has provided details with respect to the 'Clare River Valley Blueway'. This proposed blueway extends for 100km before emptying into Lough Corrib. The submission has suggested that this be supported by Galway County Council.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
91.	Flynn Family	<p>It is requested that the following two points should be included in the new Draft County Development Plan as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer provided communal treatment plants should be permitted in smaller settlements and once completed these treatment plants can be handed over to Irish Water to operate;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent of village centres should be clearly defined on maps and the provision of sustainable residential developments in these villages would be preferable that one off dwellings. Lackagh is referenced as an example. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport</p>
92.	An Post	<p>This submission sets out An Post's current and future requirements to adequately serve expanding catchment areas and to request that Galway County Council provide a supportive policy framework for the future provision of postal infrastructure.</p> <p>The submission also requests that Galway County Council include supportive policies to facilitate enhanced postal services in the County over the next 6 years and includes three suggested policies which it argues would assist greatly in the delivery of future An Post projects in the County.</p> <p>Firstly, 'To support An Post in the provision of new postal facilities and the enhancement of existing facilities, including operational requirements, in the County', secondly, 'To facilitate the provision of postal infrastructure at suitable locations in the County,' and thirdly, 'To promote the integration of appropriate post office facilities within new and existing communities that are appropriate to the size and scale of each settlement.</p> <p>The submission also requests that the Local Authority recognise the specific operational requirements of An Post with regards the operation of post offices and mail sorting offices including that postal infrastructure should be deemed important public infrastructure and it is requested that flexible land use zoning to accommodate such infrastructure and services at suitable locations is included throughout the County's settlements.</p> <p>It is also argued that postal facilities require flexibility with car parking standards for postal facilities (including charging points as the transition is made to the use of environmentally sustainable vehicles) and that postal facilities may require a greater quantum of car parking spaces going forward as postal trends continue to evolve thus it is imperative that facilities are future proofed to ensure the long term viability of An Post's service.</p> <p>The submission also requests that any restrictions on the times of deliveries/collections to/from An Post facilities could have a serious impact on the ability of An Post to meet the postal needs of the public and agreed service legal agreements with the State and it is therefore requested that the Local Authority recognise this requirement as part of the County Development Plan Process and in the future assessment and preparation of planning policy, providing for a sufficient level of vehicular access and that loading bay space is provided to accommodate the collection and delivery of mail. Finally, the submission requests that during the preparation of future public realm and movement strategies,</p>



		<p>Galway County Council consult with An Post to ensure sustainable solutions are considered to maintain loading space whilst also improving the appearance and function of town centre areas for the public.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport</p>
93.	Galway City Council	<p>This submission has highlighted the strong interrelationship between the city and the county and has also referenced the implementation of the Galway Transport Strategy, delivery of the N6 GCRR and the East Main Drainage Waste Water Treatment Plant and welcomes the ongoing support for the implementation of same in the County Development Plan. The submission also acknowledges the reference in the issues paper to delivery of climate change adaption measures. The City Council would welcome the opportunity for further discussion during the formulation of the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
94.	Tesco Ireland Ltd	<p>The retail sector makes a major contribution to Galway County towns and villages and acting as an economic anchor, creating significant employment and indirect economic and social activity. Tesco operates 2 no. stores in the Galway County administrative area and is keen on expanding their presence at appropriate locations across the county. As the County's population continues to expand over the next decade, it is important that the Local Authority provides for additional retail convenience centres at appropriate locations that serve the needs of current and future residents of these communities. It is requested that the new Galway County Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides flexible land use zoning objectives and policies to deliver convenience retail development. • The requirements of modern retailers including appropriate floorplates, car parking and servicing access should be acknowledged and where possible, the Galway County Development Plan and associated Retail Strategy should include reference to these requirements. • • The preparation of a retail strategy for the county would be welcomed. A retail survey and strategy could assess current retail provision in the County and explore ways to enhance the retail environment in a sustainable manner • Given the predicted growth of urban areas during the lifetime of the new Galway County Development Plan, it is possible that retail leakage could occur and as such it is considered vital that Galway County Council provide policies and objectives as part of the Plan to spur new retail investment in the County's settlements



		<p>especially in the settlements currently underserved by convenience retail floorspace and in cases where trade may be being lost to neighbouring larger settlements (retail leakage).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An array of factors will determine the attractiveness of a location for new retail development and these should be considered as part of the Galway County Development Plan. These factors include: Quality of the public realm; Retail layout achievable; Traffic management & movement strategy; Servicing / deliveries & accessibility; Height /mix of uses; Car parking; Health and safety; and Planning policy restrictions. <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development</p>
95.	Noel O'Mainin (1)	<p>This submission has suggested the inclusion of an objective which would encourage the revitalisation of Na Forbacha through the redevelopment of brownfield sites and improvements to the streetscape. Proposals would need to ensure satisfactory upgraded effluent treatment systems are proposed. The submission highlights national and regional policy in support of the suggested objective. The submission also makes reference to the existing County Development Plan, the EPA Code of Practice and Urban Design in support of the suggested objective.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
96.	Noel O'Mainin (2)	<p>This submission relates to the Gaeltacht and specifically the language enurement clause. The submission requested that the duration of the enurement clause would be reduced from 15 years to 7 years. The submission has stated that 38.5% of the population speak Irish on a daily basis within the Electoral Division of Na Forbacha and that the current requirement of 80% is entirely excessive.</p> <p>Topics Raised: The Galway Gaeltacht</p>
97.	William Gordon	<p>The submission states that a greater population should be allocated to Garraun given its location in Metropolitan County Galway and its existing provision of infrastructure and services. It highlights the importance of location higher density development close to transport corridors and the RPO's in relation to population growth as set out in the RSES.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
98.	Oisin Kenny	<p>This submission requests increased plan boundary and population allocation in the Draft County Development Plan for Baile Chláir to accommodate MASP growth targets and higher density development.</p>



		<p>Baile Chláir is described in the submission as a strategic settlement, of regional and national importance with a number of strong locational advantages to accommodate future development growth which include proximity to Galway City, Galway Airport, provision of infrastructure and services. For these reasons, the submission considers that Baile Chláir can accommodate a greater population allocation growth during the plan period.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
99.	Martin Coyne	<p>The submission highlights the need for increased population allocation within the Briarhill UFP area and suggests potential uses. The submission highlights that Briarhill it is now located in Metropolitan County Galway. The submission highlights the locational and infrastructural advantages of Briarhill and as such it is considered in the submission that this area can accommodate a far greater population allocation than has historically been the case.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
100.	Solus Junction ulc	<p>This submission relates to Headford and it is requested that there should be an increased Core Strategy population allocation. In addition, it is requested that Headford should be positioned higher in the Settlement Hierarchy so as to potentially enable the identification of suitable lands for development within the Settlement together with the consideration of additional lands currently outside the development boundary for higher density development. The geographical location of Headford has been cited with the range of facilities listed.</p> <p>While Headford is currently identified as “Other Villages” under the provisions of the “Settlement Hierarchy” in the County Development Plan 2015-2021 it is noted that the village has existing wastewater infrastructure available, hence it should receive a higher population allocation.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development.</p>
101.	Truskey West (Property Holdings) Ltd	<p>The submission highlights the need for increased population allocation within the settlement of Bearnna due to the settlement location within the Galway Metropolitan Area. The requested increase in the core strategy population allocation would potentially enable the identification of suitable lands for development within the Settlement, in the interest of consolidated and sequential urban development in line with the strategic aims of the County Development Plan and the aims of the current Bearnna Plan. The submission highlights the locational and infrastructural advantages of Bearnna and it is considered essential that the population allocation for Bearnna is mindful of the settlements</p>



		<p>designated strategic role. Reference has been made to recent planning outcomes considered relevant to the settlement.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport</p>
102.	Donoghue & Co	<p>Submission received in support of a strong yet flexible planning framework for future growth in Briarhill. The submission requests that a number of issues are considered in the making of the Draft County Development Plan:</p> <p>Compliance with national and regional policies and guidance including the requirements for Metropolitan County Galway.</p> <p>The submission highlights the locational advantages of Briarhill and the existing provision of infrastructure and local services in this area. The submission calls for objectives for improved public transport links in accordance with the GTS and it states that engagement with landowners to facilitate engagement.</p> <p>A number of points raised in the submission are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a positive but flexible approach to densities, building heights and compact growth in appropriate locations i.e. towns and villages close to employment sites. • Policies and objectives should anchor development towards logical sites which have or have the opportunity to have adequate infrastructure. • There should be a well-integrated placemaking framework design/masterplan for mixed-use schemes and the location of light industrial and office development in close proximity to residential development with excellent pedestrian/cycle/bus links to relieve car dependency. • The Local Planning Authority should incorporate the design principles, in the Urban Design Manual. • There should be emphasis in the emerging plan on the importance of ecological enhancement, along with enhanced pedestrian connectivity and consideration of recreational lands within proposed developments. • The Draft County Development Plan should include provision for commercial uses in suitable locations, with employment capacity. The Local Authority should also consider setting out key locations and policy objectives where larger scale enterprise developments would have the opportunity to integrate with residential development, and vice versa.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consideration of viability in the planning process should also be incorporated into the emerging development plan as the viability of a scheme is paramount to its realisation. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
103.	Aodán mac Donncha	<p>This submission relates to Transport and specifically commuting into Galway City. The submission has suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that public bus transport needs to be improved; additional bus lanes required for main routes into the city; working from home should be encouraged; Support has also been expressed for the city bypass, carpooling, park and ride, cycle lanes; The submission has suggested a light rail system would need to encompass the city and its environs but that the cost of same may not be economical; A double railway track should be provided between Galway and Athenry and also to consider if it is viable to extend same to Athlone. A decision needs to be made on the Western Rail connection between Tuam and Claremorris. If this is not to be utilised for rail, then a replace it with a direct nonstop sheltered cycle path as a fast route for cyclists and concentrate on a Fast Public Bus transport with less Cars for access to Galway City from all county areas Galway instead. <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
104.	Coiste Jobanna do Iorrais Aithneach	<p>This submission relates to the following issues:</p> <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social and affordable housing should be provided in the Carna and Cill Chiaráin area; Local people should be able to build on their own lands. <p>Graveyard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cemetery in Cill Chiaráin is almost at capacity and needs to be extended. <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouragement should be given for companies to locate at Erras Aithneach Support Marine Park;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants should be provided for enterprises who wish to set up in the area. <p>Wastewater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewage treatment infrastructure is required in Carna and Cill Chiaráin. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade to the R336, R340 and N59 is required; Upgrade of footpaths in Carna, Cill Chiaráin and Aird Mhór. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
105.	Patrick Medley	<p>This submission relates to a number of potential issues in a post Covid 19 world. The submission has suggested that in the future homes will become a place of work and study which may require current housing densification strategies to be reflected upon. The submission has also highlighted the potential for social and mental challenges because of working from home and the importance of home offices and green spaces. The submission has also suggested that multifunctional office spaces would be a good idea in satellite towns/villages.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
106.	Conor Hayes Consulting Engineer(1)	<p>This submission has suggested that the Core Strategy and Housing should consider additional lands for zoning for Residential purposes in towns such as Athenry where development pressure exists.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing.</p>
107.	Conor Hayes Consulting Engineer(2)	<p>This submission has highlighted concerns with regard to Rural Housing. There are limited options within local towns and small villages due to lack of services. This is resulting in people looking to build in rural areas. Restrictions on people building on family lands, proximity to designated sites etc. will result in a reduced population in rural areas which will see closure of schools, local clubs and societies.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>



108.	SCAN Sustainable Energy Community	<p>This submission from the secretary of Sustainability Energy Community (SEC) in Milltown relates to an Environmental sustainability project.</p> <p>The aim is to provide a 'Green Smart Hub' as a pilot gold standard dissemination platform, for community's across Galway County and the North Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) by using practical, display and learn techniques to young children and adults alike.</p> <p>This pilot project will start with a smart metering installation scheme throughout Milltown, Co. Galway with further phases of Green technologies.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
109.	Milltown Community Council	<p>This submission has requested the provision of an age friendly walk in the settlement.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
110.	Castlegar Developments Ltd	<p>A comprehensive submission was received in relation to the Briarhill area and the associated IDA Parkmore Business Park. It is acknowledged that Briarhill is now located within the MASP and therefore should accommodate significant residential and employment development. It is stated that the IDA Business Business Park in Parkmore should be referenced in the Draft County Development Plan as this is not currently the case.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development.</p>
111.	Moycullen Tidy Towns(1)	<p>This submission calls for the incorporation of the findings and recommendations of the Maigh Cuilin 2030 plan to be incorporated into the new County Development Plan. The submission calls for increased green spaces in Maigh Cuilin and suggests that the area of Kilrainey woods and the wooded area rear of Páirc na gCaor would be suitable. It is stated that completion of a Maigh Cuilin – City greenway is supported and would benefit locals and tourists. The addition of a safe footpath is also suggested from the village to the GAA grounds which are in high demand and most travel here by car which is unsustainable.</p> <p>The purchase of the Co-op building and its use as cultural/community hub is also supported as the area lacks community facilities. An improved city return bus service is also called for to serve the increasing population</p>



		<p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure;</p>
112.	Moycullen Tidy Towns(2)	<p>This submission calls for at least 20% of the green space on housing estates to be designated as pollinator zones (PZ). The submission states that these PZ's should be planted with pollinator friendly specific planting. This would be in the interest of preserving and enhancing biodiversity and working in conjunction with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications</p>
113.	Kevin Monroe	<p>This submission relates to potential employment opportunities within Headford and a number of employment uses have been suggested.</p> <p>Topics Raised Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
114.	Derrick Hambleton	<p>This submission is made in the context of achieving the objectives and targets outlined in the Climate Action Bill and the Programme for Government.:</p> <p>Core Strategy and Housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Housing has resulted in unacceptable long commutes to places of work. • Additional rural housing is not conducive to sustainable living and could result in the decline of towns and villages and further decline. <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of collaborating with the adjoining local authority, Galway City acknowledged as advantageous when competing for government funding bids in regional competitions involving other larger authorities. <p>Urban Living & Placemaking & Rural Placemaking & the Countryside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalising small towns and villages requires involvement of local communities in decision making. • Make provision for local Digital Hubs in settlements with good broadband connectivity. • Development of Community Centres should allow for multi-purpose uses. • Make financial incentives available for the conversion of empty shops/premises for alternatives uses such as the Arts and as Cultural centres. • Rural areas require roads verges/hedgerows to be kept tidy and drains maintained. <p>Economic Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local enterprise development should encourage local employment and enterprises into towns or villages which would help reduce car commuting to the larger towns or into Galway City.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests an audit made of locations along the Atlantic Economic Corridor so as to identify places with local enterprise potential. <p>Infrastructure & Transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The over reliance on the private car to commute to work for people who live within the 40km radius of the city is detailed as concern in relation to transport planning in Galway exasperated by the large percentage of dispersed new 'one-off' houses granted in the county. • It requests that the recently adopted MASP by the City & County Council, make provision for Housing, Business Parks, Schools and Retail in areas that cause least traffic movement. • Traffic congestion in the expanded MASP area could be reduced with the progression of a Light Rail Network which is considered an essential project. • Requests the provision of alternative forms of public transport such as light rail connections into the city from Oranmore, Bearna and Baile Chláir as an alternative to additional road infrastructure. • Carnmore, the former airport is considered an ideal location to place a LRT depot with Park and Ride options and two potential routes for the LRT are proposed a Bearna terminus similarly equipped for Park and Ride. • It requests a modern commuter train service into and out of Galway to include the twin tracking of the line from Ceannt Station out towards Athenry and Ballinasloe. • It proposed that Galway City and County jointly bid for regional public transport funding allocations. • It requests that Phase 2 of the Western Rail Corridor be developed with the redevelopment of rail transport as far as Sligo which should include improved and more frequent train services connected to bus services. It specifically requests the publication of the Ernst & Young Report so that policies can be advanced. <p>Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Development Plan Review should set out how it proposes to deal with rising levels of pollution including high levels of ammonia contributing to climate change. • It requests the development of alternative environmentally sustainable energies in Galway including wind farm development, solar farm developments and Ocean Energy in appropriate locations. • The submission has queried the status of the Offshore wind turbines off the coast of Conamara (Skerd Rocks). • The economic and claimed employment benefit associated with the development of energy hungry Data Centres is contested. • Digital Hubs should be identified in the County Development Plan in central village/town areas as broadband is slow in some rural areas. <p>Architectural and Archaeological Heritage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledges the importance of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage in County Galway. It suggests a full audit of structures with priority given to those most in danger of being lost.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of historic buildings in the county would benefit from funding, conservation plans and restoration including Tyrone House, Kilcolgan, Castlema Garrett, Tuam and Woodlawn. The Heritage Council could survey and list those considered most eligible for funding. • Local groups of Heritage volunteers and Family History Societies could be supported to do research and conservation or care of local heritage including our collective Heritage. <p>Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It requests the mapping of each town and village and the recording of all features. Maps could show topographical features, community services and locations for new Cultural facilities. <p>The Galway Gaeltacht and the Islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission acknowledges the importance for a country to have its own unique language and that its daily use should be encouraged. • A number of concerns in relation to Oileáin Árann have been outlined included the increased tourist numbers, the capacity constraints of existing water and wastewater infrastructure, the effect that any additional wind turbines may have on the Islands and concerns in relation to changing farming practices. • Acknowledges the work of the local community company insulating houses and providing the installation of energy conservation systems. <p>Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It requests that Greenways should not be built on unused rail alignments that are still capable of being brought back into use. • The phasing out of commercial turf cutting should be preceded by the development of plans to repurpose the bogs for natural environment projects and local job creation. <p>Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Pollution and Ammonia emissions from agriculture is a concern with harmful effects on delicate ecosystems and on human health. Ammonia emissions need to be limited especially in agriculture. • Leakage from agricultural and forestry activities of slurry into streams, rivers and lakes could cause a recurrence of Cryptosporidium or other diseases into our drinking water. • Sustainable forms of agriculture and forestry are welcomed so as to limit leakage from these activities. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p>
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115.	Michael Dunworth	<p>Cill Chiarán Community Committee seek improvements to housing, infrastructure facilities, roads and footpaths, community facilities, employment and tourism in Cill Chiarán in the Review of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purchase of land in Cill Chiarán for Housing including the establishment of a social and affordable housing scheme in Cill Chiarán. • Ensure that local people are able to attain planning and build a house on their own land. • Extend the site of the cemetery as the existing graveyard is almost full and upgrade the existing cemetery with improvements to drainage and maintenance work. • Encourage employment in the area by supporting the Marine Park and secondly by giving grants to people and companies who want to succeed in the area. • Construction of a sewerage system in Cill Chiarán as previously planned. • Complete upgrade of the following roads including the N59, the R340 and the R336. • Complete upgrade of footpaths on the roads in Cill Chiarán and Ardmore. • Development of Greenway in Iorras Aithneach in order to develop tourism in the area. • Development of a Marina at Cill Chiarán pier as previously planned and encourage the development of water sports events at Cill Chiarán pier. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
116.	Tony Lee	<p>The submission has highlighted and proposed the provision of Major Trailheads on the proposed Galway – Clifden Greenway and other proposed Greenway.</p> <p>This submission provides a summary of the main issues outlined in the document ‘Greenway and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines’ produced by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport in partnership with Sport Ireland, July 2018. This comprehensive document provides guidance on the installation and creation of ancillary infrastructure intended to bring a Route to life and make it an attractive and enjoyable experience for users. Other documents provide specifications and guidelines for the construction of greenways and cycle routes. These ‘Ancillary Infrastructure’ guidelines have been formulated for Greenways and support the national ‘Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways’ also published by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport.</p>



		<p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
117.	Gabriel McGoldrick	<p>This submission specifically highlights the lack of infrastructural facilities in the settlement of Bearna and requests the prioritization of walking, cycling and public transport in the future. The lack footpaths for pedestrians and residents is considered incompatible with the policies and objective outlined in the County Development Plan to prioritize pedestrians and cyclists. It requests a footpath up the Maigh Cuilin Road in Bearna given the traffic flows in the immediate area and in the interest of pedestrian safety. The submission also requests the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests that land zoned in the Bearna LAP comply with ‘The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009’ (or any superseding document) and the aims of the County Development Plan as it is considered that some lands within the settlement with specific flooding objectives do not comply with the Guidelines. • This submission is concerned that pollution has taken place in the Truskey Stream which is connected to the Galway SAC and specifically requests water quality tests and analysis be undertaken by the Council prior to any further development. • Highlights the lack of amenities in Bearna and concerned that no progress made on the new primary school or no provision made for sporting facility or play areas in the village or elsewhere. • Concerned that Bearna is a car-dependent community with inadequate amenities. The submission maintains that there has been no progress on the new primary school and no provision for sporting facility or play areas in the village. • It requests the council to carry out a review and reject the old Part 8 planning for the inner relief road in Bearna given the precedence set in Naas and Ardee to review their original Part 8 proposals. • It proposes that the location of the existing footpath shall be acknowledged in any Review. • It requests a more accurate population density to be used for Bearna based on the census and the location of Bearna in the Metropolitan area. <p>The submission has included a comprehensive record with additional information and a background into the planning policy issues related to lands and issues reviewed above.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development</p>
118.	Headford GAA Club	<p>This submission from the Board of Headford GAA club has indicated that the increased population in Headford has resulted in a greater requirement for community facilities. The submission states that there is limited sporting facilities</p>



		<p>available in the village and there is a requirement for increased community facilities for the village which needs to be addressed in the new Galway County Development Plan.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
119.	Ben Walsh (1)	<p>This submission relates to both Housing (for an aging society) and On-Line M6 services. With respect to housing the submission has suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing policies need to be developed to take into account our aging population; • Housing solutions should range from retirement villages to rural independent living. <p>With respect to On-Line M6 services the submission has suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Airport Lands have huge potential for accommodating future large-scale employment with main access for future employees coming by way of the nearby M6 motorway. On this basis the submission considers that consideration of provision for on-line services near this location. The envisaged development of this area as an employment hub as noted in the RSES 2020 will no doubt require robust services in the way of fuel and dining options. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
120.	Ben Walsh (2)	<p>This submission relates to Tourism and particularly Loughrea. The submission has suggested that it be considered that Loughrea be included in the Wild Atlantic Way to help realise the potential of Loughrea lake as a destination for tourists and families. The submission has also stated that Loughrea Lake is currently underutilised and the fishing, boating and other activities on the lake would benefit the town of Loughrea.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development.</p>
121.	Ballinasloe Tennis Club	<p>A detailed submission has been received from the Ballinasloe and District Tennis club which has been summarised below.</p> <p>It draws attention to the Club's lease with the existing Sports Hub, its range of facilities and the fact that planning permission has been obtained by the Tennis Club for 4 tennis courts which is about to commence on a phased basis due to funding. The Tennis Club has ambitions to develop a multi purpose community and sports centre for residents. The facility, it is advised would benefit the town and it would include: attracting numerous sports and events; enhance and encourage use of the running track; enhance the Sports Hub and Ballinasloe as a sporting destination; encourage</p>



		<p>tourism; attract corporate events; cater for large numbers including foreign students during summer; boost community spirit and benefit local businesses.</p> <p>It would be a self sustaining and environmentally friendly facility, powered by renewable energy where possible. The submission highlights that Ballinasloe requires an indoor multi use facility for all. Uses could include a range of sports and other social activities with weather related limitations.</p> <p>The club has engaged with a range of stakeholders including public representatives and other groups who are interested and support the project. Plans for the project have been prepared by architects which was presented to Galway County Council and a response is expected on this. It has also been presented to other public representatives and groups who support and input into the project.</p> <p>The submission advise that this project originates with Ballinasloe Tennis Club, however it is recognised that input is needed from others and a company will be formed with interested parties to progress matters and a call for funding is from Council and Government is made. The Council, it is considered should make a joint funding application for funding with the committee, the Council should also incorporate this project into the new Plan given the benefits. The submission calls on the new County Development Plan to achieve similar community facilities type objectives as the existing Plan along with shared facilities and social inclusion.</p> <p>The submission also includes an image of the proposed development and an extract of the presentation to Galway County Council and others from 2019. The presentation includes their vision; schedule of facilities; social benefits including for persons with disability; benefits for Ballinasloe; Club Director Details. Statistical information is provided regarding young people in Ballinasloe and the numbers involved in sport. Research from a US study found that the addition of a community centre reduced crime and anti social behaviour by 25%. Reduction in obesity has also been achieved. The submission makes reference to the seven pillars of inclusion which will cater for young people. It is sought in the submission to implement the objectives and framework of the LAP in relation to community facilities and developing shared facilities along with promoting the town as a sporting and community hub for cycling and enhancing lives. It is believed that vibrancy will attract business across all sectors</p> <p>Topics Raised: Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
122.	Ronan Barrett	A comprehensive submission was received from McCarthy, Keville, O’Sullivan, Planning and Environmental Consultants on behalf of their client Ronan Barrett c/o Castle Star Holdings Group. The submission has focused particularly on South



		<p>Conamara. It is requested that the following topics would be considered in the drafting of the Draft County Development Plan.</p> <p>Core Strategy and Housing It is considered that the new plan should promote and facilitate the expansion and growth of communities in South Conamara. The development of housing clusters has been suggested.</p> <p>Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development It is suggested that a Retail Planning Strategy is implemented to address the high vacancy rates and decline of retail facilities within the county. It has been highlighted that settlements need to adapt to the current environment and the need to convert disused retail premises to alternative uses to enhance the vibrancy of the county's settlements. It has also been suggested that the plan should support the delivery of essential retail facilities (i.e. Retail & Healthcare) in settlement throughout the county that act as service hubs. The settlements of An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Maigh Cuilin and Oughterard have been identified as such hubs within South Conamara.</p> <p>It is suggested that a coastal greenway and blueway (South Conamara) walking, cycling and kayaking trail should be supported. This new infrastructure could be linked to the proposed Conamara greenway route to create a cohesive network of looped routes. It has been suggested that a cycle tour route be created by creating cycle links between settlement. This initiative should help promote South Conamara as a destination for cycling tourism.</p> <p>It has been suggested that South Conamara should be promoted as an "Adventure Tourism" destination. The provision of a new Mountain Bike trail and adventure facility as a "Destination Attraction" along the new coastal route should be promoted. It is suggested that this could be provided at commonage lands located at either Baile na hAbhann /Ros an Mhíl and/or An Cheathrú Rua.</p> <p>The submission has suggested that the new plan needs to align with Failte Ireland's Visitor Experience Development Plan for the Conamara Coast and the Island's. It has also been suggested that the plan should promote the development of a "Camino Connemara" as part of a All-Ireland network of walking routes. This initiative would present an opportunity to attract both domestic and international visitors to the region.</p> <p>It is suggested that the plan should promote the concept of "Heritage Piers". These heritage assets should be promoted as destinations for recreation and amenity to promote water-based tourism and cultural based tourism linked to South Conamara's affinity with the sea. In addition it has been suggested that piers and harbours that are not owned or taken in charge should be acquired or taken in charge by the local authority, support the creation of new facilities including toilets, shower and changing facilities and storage facilities at these piers to support water based activities, support the</p>
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		<p>provision of signage, public art, food kiosks and cultural tourism and heritage centre facilities at a number of key heritage piers.</p> <p>It has been suggested that the plan should support the development of a Geopark and Geotourism initiative for the county.</p> <p>The submission has also suggested that an audit of all beaches should be carried out with a view to facilitating the delivery of “bathing status” to all beaches so that water quality can be monitored, and facilities enhanced. It is considered that council should seek to ensure the local community takes a proactive role in the monitoring of water quality and maintenance of these important assets and that bathing status is granted to all beaches used by the public. Access and parking facilities for emergency service, waste disposal, recycling and composting facilities should be provided at designated bathing areas.</p> <p>Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>It is considered that the plan should support a number of infrastructure projects including the Galway City Ring Road, the upgrade or replacement of the R336, the expansion Galway Airport, the need for enhanced public transport, fibre optic broadband, the upgrade and enhancement of mobile phone coverage, the delivery of a high pressure sewer network to service South Conamara, the use of Integrated Constructed Wetlands as an alternative waste water collection and treatment solution, upgrade of potable drinking water network in South Conamara, transfer of 15 wastewater treatment plants from Údaras na Gaeltachta to Irish Water.</p> <p>With respect to private waste water treatment plants to serve rural housing developments details it has been requested that clear detail is provided with regard to the suitability or otherwise with criteria provided with regard to the management of same. Clarity is also sought with regard to Discharge Licences. There should be no dual standards applied to planning applications between state agencies and the private citizens and businesses.</p> <p>Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications</p> <p>It has been suggested that the new County Development Plan should impose an obligation on developers of renewable energy projects to establish a Community Fund which should provide supports for local community groups and local initiatives.</p> <p>Architectural and Archaeological Heritage</p> <p>It is considered that the plan should promote an Archaeological Audit of the entire South Conamara region and the Aran Islands to document the heritage of the area. The information gathered should be utilised to develop an Ecclesiastical Heritage Trail as part of the Tourism Strategy for the region.</p> <p>The Galway Gaeltacht</p>
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		<p>It is considered that the plan should support and encourage the protection and promotion of traditions unique to the Gaeltacht (i.e. sean-nos singing and dancing, boating etc.), the protection and promotion of the Irish language colleges and Mná an Tí, the development of Cultúrlann (which should be located in the old convent facility in An Spidéal).</p> <p>Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p> <p>It has been suggested that the emerging plan considers and addresses the protection of the Galway Hooker boat tradition, the development of a Maritime Cultural Heritage Centre (to focus on the Galway Hooker and the South Conamara regions maritime heritage), the expansion and diversification of Ros an Mhíl Harbour.</p> <p>The submission has also provided numerous suggestions for a number of specific towns and villages including Bearna, Furbo, An Spideál, Inverin, Na Mine, Tullach, Baile na hAbhann, Ros an Mhíl, Casla, Sruthán Pier, An Cheathrú Rua, Ceantar na nOileán, Maam Cross, Oughterard and Maigh Cuilin.</p> <p>The submission has also enclosed within Appendix 1 and 2 their submissions for both the National Marine Spatial Planning Framework Strategy and the RSES.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; The Galway Gaeltacht; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
123.	Coillte	<p>The following are key asks of the local authority in this submission and in the preparation of the Galway County Development Plan with respect to renewable energy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include policies and objectives in the Plan that recognise, promote and facilitate onshore wind and commit to ensuring the renewable energy potential of the county is maximised to achieve the targets set out in the Climate Action Plan and objectives of the recent Programme for Government. • Recognise and respond to the scale and urgency of climate change as part of the County Development Plan review process by incorporating a Renewable Energy Strategy for the county (as proposed) based on the most up to date national targets and the principles of the SEAI LARES – Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy. • Lead the Northern and Western region in developing a consistent approach to key RES issues including a consistent approach to identifying suitable lands and categorising landscape sensitivity. Ensure that wind speed, site specific engineering issues, and existing grid capacity issues are not considered constraints in identifying suitable lands, and ensure a sufficient quantum is identified to account for site level attrition. • Reconsider the attachment of conditions of finite duration to wind farm permissions. • Recognise the DHPLG Wind Energy Development Guidelines and any updates thereof, as the appropriate national standard rather than seeking to alter or replace the requirements therein.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with other government agencies and third parties, including the public, to achieve these goals. • The submission has indicated that Coillte is the largest forest company in Ireland with a diverse forest estate of 396,000 ha of land that plays a critical role in contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing Ireland's energy security and contributing to a post-carbon and climate resilient economy. Estate has grown to over 440,000 hectares or approximately 7% of the total land mass of the country. Coillte has provided the public with a range of benefits from recreation, to critical infrastructure (including telecoms and wind energy), to environmental services. <p>Tourism / Recreation and Community</p> <p>The submission states that the Coillte estate is located within a range of scenic location in County Galway and is in a strong position to play a key role in supporting the provision of new tourism and recreation uses,. It is considered that investment in outdoor recreation and forest-based activities drives economic activity,.</p> <p>Coillte will continue to protect and enhance the walking and cycling trails within the Coillte estate, including those at Aghrane, Árd na Gaoithe, An Fhairche Wood, Lackavrea, Monivea, Mountbellew, New Village and Portumna Forest Parks, in full collaboration with Galway County Council and relevant stakeholders in the county.</p> <p>Coillte supports the continued inclusion of policies in the forthcoming Galway County Development Plan (and Portumna Local Area Plan), which support the provision of tourism infrastructure,.</p> <p>Infrastructure and Development including Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Coillte supports the development of green infrastructure resources and welcomes the opportunity to work in consultation with the Council to further develop this infrastructure, where appropriate within the Coillte estate.</p> <p>Coillte can also provide appropriate locations and suitable lands to facilitate the upgrade of infrastructure and services necessary to deliver the economic development of the county, for example sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure, telecommunications or transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Coillte also has land close to towns and village centres across the county including, for example those at Portumna, Clarinbridge, Mountbellew and Maigh Cuilin (where development has been permitted for residential use). It is considered that these lands could also provide for and accommodate some alternative uses which would positively contribute to the sustainable development of the county. It is requested to consider the provision of planning policies</p>
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		<p>/ land use zoning objectives where appropriate, to support the provision of infrastructure / development on Coillte lands where suitable and to provide, for example, tourism, commercial, community and residential and/or other uses.</p> <p>Renewable Energy</p> <p>The submission considers it important that the Coillte source of renewable energy continues to be promoted and facilitated in the new Plan.</p> <p>A clear and consistent plan-led approach to the delivery of a considerable quantum of renewables is requested to provide certainty and predictability to the market and to ensure the appropriate balance between all land use constraints/ opportunities, and community and other interests.</p> <p>Coillte highly commends the Council for commissioning the preparation of a Renewable Energy Strategy which will form part of the new County Development Plan.</p> <p>Coillte strongly supports the development of a regional Renewable Energy Strategy, which would co-ordinate the identification of sites of scale and ensure inter county consistency in relation to designating renewable energy zones and identifying landscape sensitivities. It states that there does not appear to be any central guidance on the quantum (MW or GW) of new renewable energy development each local authority needs to make provision for.</p> <p>In preparing its RES, Coillte suggests Galway County Council engages closely with neighbouring and other local authorities in the Northern and Western region to attain important benefits and synergies.</p> <p>It is imperative that a set of guiding principles is agreed and used by all local authorities in developing local authority RESs. To this end the methodology and principles set out in “SEAI’s Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy” [2013] remain valid.</p> <p><u>Coillte’s suggests a number of recommendations to complement the principles in the SEAI document including the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each local authority ensures a proportionate contribution by the county to the achievement of new national targets. • The individual County Development Plan’s Strategic Environmental Assessment should use an evidence-based approach to confirm that the proposed contribution is sufficient to comply with each local authority’s obligations.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each local authority carries out a full assessment of all lands within their county and classifies areas for renewables using agreed terminology. • Each local authority consider/reconsider its Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and identify landscape sensitivities vis a vis renewable energy development. • It should be noted that wind turbine technologies have advanced and recommend that the SEAI Wind Atlas, or any similar general wind resource data, is not used as a constraint when identifying suitable areas for onshore wind. • Existing grid constraints are not considered hard constraints when preparing RESs as the development of the Grid will react to (planning) consented developments where necessary. • Coillte requests that the Galway County Development Plan recognises the 2019 Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines and any updates thereof, as the appropriate national standard rather than seeking to alter or replace the requirements therein. <p>It is stated that the removal of time limiting conditions would enable wind farms to continue producing clean energy</p> <p>Coillte and IWEA recognise the importance of having decommissioning provisions in place for a wind farm when it does reach the end of its life.</p> <p>.</p> <p>The submission suggests that the Council continue to support sustainable rural based enterprises such as forestry and tourism in the county and make adequate provisions and objectives to facilitate their delivery.</p> <p>Coillte requests that Galway County Council promote the use of sustainable timber products in the County Development Plan policies and objectives.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p>
124.	COPE Galway	<p>COPE Galway is a local charity that provides a range of services to some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in Galway across three main areas: Homeless Services, Domestic Abuse Services for Women and Children and Services for Older People.</p>



		<p>This submission focuses on the theme of 'Core Strategy and Housing' and Cope Galway considers that the Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 must prioritise and address the range of housing needs of its diverse population. This should include avoiding a one type suits all approach to social housing builds, with consideration being given to the construction of one bed accommodation suitable for single person households, a demographic who make up approximately 50% of the social housing waiting list. The design of all accommodation must take into account the needs of its future residents which may change as they progress through life and should therefore take into account the principles of universal design. The development plan must also take into consideration the needs of its homeless population and develop homeless supports within the county.</p> <p>The submission outlines a number of findings and key points from relevant policy documents to consider in the review of the County Development Plan including the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 1,595 households Galway County social housing waiting list of which 811 are one adult households and 81 are couple households. • The age of the main applicant for 68 households on the social housing waiting list is 65 years or older. • There are 290 households on the social housing waiting list for whom the main need for Social Housing Support by the main applicant is having a disability or exceptional medical needs or on compassionate grounds. • There are 77 households on the social housing waiting list whose main need for Social Housing Support is due to being in an Institution, emergency accommodation or hostel • 21 households on Galway County Councils Housing list were homeless. • The majority of households in Galway County Councils functional area who become homeless and are in need of residential homeless services such as emergency and/or supported accommodation rely on such services provided in Galway City. This means those who need emergency accommodation must travel to the city, away from any local, family and community supports they may have in their local area. • In 2018, there were an estimated 14 Traveller Families on unauthorised sites. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing;</p>
125.	Roadstone Ltds	<p>This submission highlights the importance of the extractive industries to the wider economy and the need to protect the operations of working quarries and proven aggregate resources. The submission outlines the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning authority should consider the recently published <i>Essential Aggregates – Providing for Ireland's Needs to 2040</i>, prepared by the Irish Concrete Federation when preparing policies that reflect the importance of the extractive industries. The objective of this document is to highlight to Government the need for a



		<p>national planning policy for aggregates, which will underpin local and regional planning policy and ensure the sustainable supply of aggregates for Project Ireland 2040 and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 acknowledges the importance of quarrying and other extractive industries. • The submission states that Issues Paper does not make any reference to the extractive or mineral industries in the Economic, Enterprise, Tourism, and Retail Development section and the economic benefits of the quarry and extractive industry do not feature in the content of the Issues Paper at all. It is considered that the aggregates and minerals sector should be regarded as one of the county's key economic strengths, supporting enterprise and commerce. • The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 plan should adequately outline the economic value and significance of the aggregates and minerals sector in County Galway, The submission states that the Draft County Development Plan should allow for the provision of adequate aggregate resources to meet the future growth needs of the county and to facilitate the exploitation of such resources where there is a proven need for a certain mineral/aggregate. • • The submission states that the county has significant but finite mineral resources and it should be the aim of the proposed County Development Plan to safeguard areas of significant resources from incompatible developments to ensure the continued viability of the extractive industry, while ensuring that environmental, rural, scenic and residential amenities are protected. • It is further stated that there is a need to safeguard valuable un-worked deposits from permanent development that would prevent or hinder their future extraction and thus appropriate control measures should be put in place so as to support the county in realising its population growth targets and related construction activity requirements.
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		Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development;
126.	DMOD Ltd	<p>This submission relates to the sustainable development of Baile Chláir and seeks to propose the following in the forthcoming County Development Plan 2022-2028:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to ensure the continued growth of Baile Chláir the Galway County Development Plan needs to allow a sufficient quantum of land to be allocated for residential (phase 1) development. • The submission considers that most of the suitable land for residential development is currently zoned Residential (phase 2) and would require the development of existing Residential (phase 1) lands before it becomes available. • It is proposed that the Land Use Zoning plan development boundary should be expanded to the west and to the south of the R381. This will help create a secondary hub subordinate to the village centre but clustered around the Business Park and Secondary school. This area has seen the most residential development over recent years, the ribbon of development along the R381 is the most suitable land to provide the required quantum of residential (phase 1) land to ensure the sustainable growth of the town. • The submission acknowledges that there has been significant development in of Baile Chláir town along the R381 as it runs southward out of town. In addition, there has been a large number of medium sized housing estates added to the east and in particular to the west of the R381, forming a ribbon of development along this main artery feeding into the town. This ribbon of development ends with the creation of the Baile Chláir Corporate Park, and Coláiste Bhaile Chláir to the east of the R381. This development bodes well for the future of Baile Chláir and the sustainable settlement of the town, ensuring the preservation and growth of a valued Gaeltacht Area. • The lands to the north east of the town would appear to be unsuitable for residential development due to the flood risk associated with the nearby River Clare which arch's to the south and then to the east. There is potential for the Land Use Zoning plan boundary to be expanded to the west on the northern side of the N83 but this land would lend itself more to an extension of the Village Centre rather than Residential. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking</p>
127.	Neil Dunworth	This submission suggests a number of strategic policy requirements for County Galway and specific issues relating to the town of Oranmore as follows;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To request a reduction in car hierarchy in towns and villages by promoting temporary street closures for events /community activities and establishing a public strategy guide for settlements. • To request the expansion of the city boundaries to encourage housing development in appropriate areas. • To improve broadband services to provide access throughout the county. • To make provision for bus stops that are accessible within a five minute walk of residential development proposals. • To promote the planting of trees in green areas / wetlands / ancillary external spaces. • To encourage and establish open and transparent Community Development Groups that encourage community participation, feedback and ownership while also identifying overlooked areas that could be addressed and developed. • To request the imposition of the underused vacant property tax / compulsory possession orders on vacant urban centre buildings. • To encourage the use of land for sale for social uses including the encouragement of commercial units for rent at reasonable cost to start ups / small businesses group working hubs. • To make provision for additional family homes in central urban areas to create a sustainable model without vacant properties. • To prevent mass lot sales, prevent ownership of streets / commercial units / shopping centres and encourage single unit sales to provide more local opportunity. • To support the promotion of the arts by providing insurance and creative spaces and to offset vacant tax levy against provision of space for community / small business use. • To support the creation of more areas for teenagers to engage in activities such as sports or the arts while also promotion the involvement with local community groups by developing focus groups to establish needs and strategies. • To limit the floor area allowance of rural housing to prevent inappropriate mass one off dwellings in the landscape. It also proposes more robust design standards in relation to density by allowing shared wastewater services. • To encourage connected cycle lanes and pedestrian routes between adjacent developments /estates and continue by connection the cycle routes to residential developments with amenities. These routes should be well lit and off road where possible for safety e.g. Westport, Co. Mayo. • To request the exploration of mass renewable energy options including tidal energy, district heating and cooling model (Copenhagen, Denmark), off-shore wind farms, etc. • To encourage local produce production of food and provide facilities for sale at markets.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To request the identification, listing and protection of buildings and landscapes of importance. • To request the provision of a frequent and direct bus service from Oranhill and Oranmore Village to Parkmore Business Park. • To request the provision of a Bus Service from Galway City to Renville Park and a bus service from Oranmore Train Station to Oranmore / Galway City as well as the provision of Bus Shelters within Oranmore Village with timetables / digital trackers. • To make provision for a Cycleway from Oranmore to Renville Park. • To direct investment into Oranmore to provide sustainable infrastructure for the population which has tripled in the last 30 years. • To promote Oranmore as a tourist destination for day trips from Galway City and encourage bus parking facilities as a way of promoting economic tourism opportunities. • To promote county wide consistent signage to highlight pre-existing walking and running circuits such as around the village of Oranmore. • To request the provision of more green space within urban centres while also retaining naturalised green amenity areas. It is suggested areas such as the field adjacent to Oranmore Aldi by the river which was claimed during the Covid lockdown be claimed. • To ensure the protection of protected views to points of interest such as the view from the bridge in Oranmore to the Castle. • To promote Oranmore and Renville as key tourist attractions by making provision for sea ferries from Galway docks, bus routes and cycle routes from Galway City to Renville Park. • To make the Oranmore centre ACA more robust and expand on requirements and boundaries similar to the Clarinbridge Local Area Plan. • To request the further development of the list of protected structures (include Furze Lodge, Renville) while also encouraging the restoration of protected buildings in public ownership with grants for redevelopment. It is suggested to allow for those buildings in public ownership an extended lease agreement for private occupation with low/ no rent in return for maintenance of property. • To include protected buildings in heritage week tours / talks so as to be more accessible to the public, encourage workshops in restoration techniques and encourage local community groups such as Oranmore Historical Society. • To request the establishment of Renville Park and buildings as an ACA and the establishment of Ardfry House and environs as an ACA. • To develop an updated local area plan for Oranmore that would expand village boundaries to provide more opportunity for housing/ mixed use development.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make provision for more indoor amenity spaces for sports / music, arts, and the theatre etc. in Oranmore as well as a multi-storey/ underground car parking to reduce land space requirements. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p>
128.	Burkeway Homes Ltd	<p>The submission highlights the need for increased population allocation within the settlement of Bearna due to the settlement location within the Galway Metropolitan Area. The submission has identified a number of strategic locations that present the opportunity and capacity to deliver the necessary quantum of housing to facilitate targeted growth. The submission highlights the locational and infrastructural advantages of Bearna and as such it is considered in the submission that this area can accommodate a far greater population allocation than has historically been the case.</p> <p>The submission also highlights the built, archaeological and cultural heritage of Bearna are important assets that should be conserved appropriately, including the Pier Road Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage.</p>
129.	Renewable Energy Systems Ltd	<p>This submission is made by Renewable Energy Systems and focuses on strategic issues concerning renewable energy policy. It outlines a number of issues for consideration as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery of a Regional Renewable Energy Strategy for the North West Region and an updated Renewable Energy Strategy for County Galway as part of the Draft County Development Plan is welcomed. It specifically requests that the Renewable Energy Strategy would be pro-active and plan-led (including all forms of Renewable Energy – Onshore Wind, Solar and Battery Storage) which would deliver progressive policies and objectives so as to ensure that Galway can deliver its share of the national climate change and renewable energy targets in line with the NPF and the Climate Action Plan . It is considered that onshore wind will provide the majority of the required electricity yield out to 2030, with Solar also playing an important role. It is specifically requested that areas regarded suitable for renewable energy development would not be constrained particularly for wind generation. It is requested that the review and update of the Wind Energy Strategy would be carried out in the context of the CAP targets and review its designations for wind energy development so that wind speeds and proximity of grid nodes are not constraints to development in land-use zoning or designations.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is requested that the LARES would be compliance with the guidance and specific planning policy requirements in the (DHPCLG) Section 28 Guidelines <i>'Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change'</i> (July 2017). • It is requested that the Draft County Development Plan would indicate how it will contribute to national targets (in MW) and also compliance with regard to development management objectives, which will be subject to SEA and AA. • It is requested that the Renewable Energy should be identified in the Draft Plan as a significant potential contributor with economic benefits, investment opportunities to the local community, contributing to communities through community benefit funds and to the local authority through rates. • It is suggested that the time limits pertaining to wind farms should not be restrictive as wind turbine technology has improved operational lifespans • It is requested that the Local Authority would support the redevelopment and amendments to wind farms as a result of the advances in technology or the co-location of other forms of low carbon generation or technologies (i.e solar and energy storage) so as to enable more efficient and lower cost energy generation. • It requests that the Draft County Development Plan and Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy would not seek to alter or vary emerging guidance documents from the Department by way of the targeted review, but should just refer to the Departmental guidelines as setting the project-level design standards expected of any wind farm developments proposed for County Galway. • It is requested that the Draft County Development Plan and the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy would recognise that Wind Energy Development can co-exist with Tourism developments; • The IWEA submission has been referenced and that there is general agreement with its content. <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
130.	Grúpa Pobail Chéibh An tSruháin An Cheathrú Rua	<p>This submission relates to wastewater treatment plants and has suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater treatment plants should not be located on scenic sites adjacent to the foreshore, or close to public piers and amenities; • There should be a buffer zone of 100m around wastewater treatment plants; • The submission has also highlighted an area in An Cheathrú Rua that would be more appropriately zoned Recreation and Amenity Area rather than utilised for a wastewater treatment plant. <p>Topics Raised: Infrastructure and Transport; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>



<p>131.</p>	<p>Peigí Uí Chéidigh</p>	<p>This submission has been made by Comharchumann Shailearna Teo and relates predominately to issues in the Gaeltacht. The aims of Comharchumann Shailearna Teo have been listed at the beginning of the submission to set out the context of the points raised in the submission. The submission has made suggestions in relation to the following topics Housing, Community Facilities, Transport, Wastewater, Marine, Water Quality and Renewable Energy Development. The submission has been summarised under these headings;</p> <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for young people to be able to secure planning permission on family owned lands or on land they purchase for the purpose of building a family home. This is important to help the Gaeltacht community to survive; • Suggestions have been made with respect to the provision of affordable housing being provided in the An Spidéal area; • It has also been suggested that the new plan should require the Council to support groups who plan to deliver housing development to meet the needs of the Gaeltacht. <p>Community Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sufficient funding is available to secure lands for new and extended cemeteries; • A renewal centre should be provided for rural areas to provide education opportunities for the communities in the community itself. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The R336 needs to be repaired; • Walking and cycle paths need to be developed in the area; • Roads which were upgraded using funding from the Department should be taken under the control of the Council; • Parking facilities for public and emergency services need to be provided at beaches; • The provision of bus stops and shelters are required at specific locations. <p>Wastewater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional measures are required in terms of providing sewage treatment for the area as the absence of same is hindering development. <p>Marine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the Marine Park is part of the National Development Plan. <p>Water Quality</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that the water quality at all beaches is regularly monitored for best health and safety practice. <p>Renewable Energy Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large scale renewable energy developments should be required to set up a community fund for the local area. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p>
132.	Helena McElmeel Architects	<p>The submission focuses on three main areas for the Draft County Development Plan as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protection and enhancement of the Built Heritage and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) Proposals for consideration in relation to the County Towns and Villages How new developments protect biodiversity. <p>It is stated that the above will be achieved as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide educational and informational campaigns and workshops for owners of buildings in (ACA); Introduce grant schemes for refurbishment works to buildings (prioritising owner occupied residential properties) in ACA; Facilitate radon testing scheme in ACAs and grant supports where remedial works are required; Developments within ACAs should be designed by qualified professionals skilled in design. Some clachans and smaller groups of buildings could be designated as ACAs; Focus on the potential of villages and towns with sufficient infrastructural capacity; Where public sewerage cannot be prioritised for a settlement, partnership proposals from private entities should be considered for the provision of communal wastewater systems; Identify the centre / core area for all settlements including 'other settlements', where development opportunities for village / streetscape interventions required. It proposes slightly denser cores and appropriate forms of development that would contribute to a sense of place, village streetscape while also reinforcing the character of the smaller settlements; It proposes that a Village Design Guide for the County would help protect and ensure new development contributes to attractive settlements, particularly the smaller, lower tier settlements; Request Public realm plans for some of the towns and villages, with integrated mobility plans that could be delivered by multi-disciplinary teams; New development should include appropriate designs that focus on biodiversity enhancement;



		<p>Requests the adoption of a Green Factor / Biotope Area Factor as part of the Development Management Standards in the County Development Plan to mitigate the effects of new developments by maintaining sufficient levels of Green Infrastructure while enhancing the quality of the remaining vegetation. An information note has been attached relating to Biotope Area Factor prepared by Architects Declare Ireland.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
133.	Bord na Mona	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from Bord na Móna's.</p> <p>It is requested that the Draft County Development Plan would acknowledge the following:</p> <p>Rehabilitation programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is considered possible to successfully integrate this emerging biodiversity and amenity rich landscape in Bord Na Móna's ownership with other commercial, industrial and employment generating uses. <p>Peatlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2011 Bord na Móna land use strategy, <i>Strategic Framework for the Future use of Peatlands</i> is under review and it is requested that this document will be considered in the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. • The role of appropriate peatland management in achieving climate change mitigation targets is recognised in the Climate Action Plan. An outline of the commitment to decarbonisation has been given. It is acknowledged that successful rehabilitation does take time to develop naturally functioning peatland habitats and several bogs in County Galway have already been restored e.g. Moyarwood. • It is proposed that the vast majority of Bord Na Móna former industrial cutover peatlands will be rewet and rehabilitated with the objective of supporting the re-establishment of thriving peatland environments with associated carbon mitigation and sequestration potential. <p>Climate Action and Renewable Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is stated that there is potential for utilising the extensive Bord na Móna landholding to support renewable energy generation. <p>Economic development</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outline of the economic role that Bord na Móna has been referenced. It has noted that the unique nature of the landholding, industrial, remote and with access to key infrastructure opportunities exist to support industries that require scale which is not readily achievable elsewhere in Ireland. • It is stated that the existing network of workshops and production facilities hold opportunities for the re-purposing of these facilities for new sustainable industries. <p>Natural Assets & Green Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is stated that the rehabilitated cutaway will naturally revert to a rich and diverse natural habitat enhancing biodiversity and supporting other ecosystem services and Bord na Móna are committed to protect and enhance this ecologically rich landscape while integrating other sustainable land-uses. • The baseline Ecological Survey which was carried out by Bord na Mona has been referenced and the potential biodiversity values of the lands are outlined. Rehabilitation has already been carried out on the Attymon Bogs and rehabilitation measures are ongoing in Castlegar Bog pilot programme. • Examples of Bord na Móna enabled green infrastructure include the restored Abbeyleix bog County Laois with the Walking Loop Conservation project. • Future opportunities to develop green infrastructure on Bord na Móna sites in the county have been outlined • There is also potential to develop cycleways and walkways through Bord na Móna sites in Galway (as part of the planned greenway between Athlone and Ballinasloe). <p>Supporting Rural & Urban Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is stated that the accessibility and connectivity to amenities is crucial and cutaway peatlands have enormous potential to provide quality recreational areas for both local and national users. The bogs of Kilmacshane, Lismanny and Garryduff with their proximity to the River Shannon and River Suck have enormous potential to further enhance existing tourism initiatives such as Irelands Hidden Heartlands and the Beara Breifne Way. • It is considered important to maintain a balance which recognises the suitability of a site as a potential future amenity or as a site which can be developed for the purposes of commercial activity strengthening local rural economies and communities. • The submission states that Bord na Móna are pioneers in the development of Community benefit schemes providing significant funds for investment in catchment communities for rural, town and village regeneration supported by the commercial renewable energy developments. It also acknowledges the potential to draw in additional matched funding under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS). <p>Topics Raised: Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p>
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134.	S.P. Ó Cuinn	<p>This submission relates to wastewater treatment plants (An Spidéal WWTP particularly) and has suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The siting of wastewater treatment plants needs to be considered particularly the proximity to schools, businesses and dwellings; • Siting of wastewater treatment plants close to schools may cause issues in terms of public health; • Value for money and future proofing of wastewater treatment infrastructure is important; • The siting of wastewater treatment infrastructure needs to take account of climate change; • There should be a buffer zone of 100m around wastewater treatment plants; • Wastewater treatment plants should be sited in locations where there is room for future expansion and not within the centre of a settlement. <p>Topics Raised; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
135.	Mary McGann	<p>This submission has been made by the Age Friendly Programme Manager in Galway County Council at the request of the Community & Culture SPC. This submission is focused on mainstreaming the infrastructural elements of a new Age Friendly Strategy through embedding the relevant commitments in the County Development Plan. The submission focuses its attention on four main areas including Outdoor Space/environment and public buildings, Housing, Transport and Social Participation/Community Supports;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside space /environment and public buildings have a major impact on the independence, mobility and quality of life of older people and are a key determinant of one's ability to 'age in place'. Age Friendly Ireland developed a Walkability Audit Tool with the strategic aim of ensuring that public realm associated with towns and villages in the County are sufficiently pleasant, safe, accessible and vibrant to entice the public to live, work, shop and socialise there. It is proposed that mainstreaming Walkability Audits as part of the County Development Plan and all public realm works to identify issues in accessibility, mobility and connectivity, and address deficits in relevant areas such as footpaths, pedestrian crossing points and traffic calming, parking, age friendly parking spaces, public toilets and public seating, as part of those funding applications. In addition, a commitment to deliver Public Realm Training workshops to create awareness of the recommendations included in national policy guidelines "Being Age Friendly in the Public Realm". • Include a commitment in the County Development Plan to enable people as they age 'to get out and about' through the provision of accessible, affordable, and flexible transport systems in both rural and urban areas, and by supporting the design and development of age friendly public and community transport options and infrastructure, in consultation with local communities. Ensure a commitment to examine bus shelters and



		<p>seating suitable for older people bus stops is provided in accordance with “Guidance on Bus Stop locations” issued by NTA.</p> <p>The strategic aim is to provide access for all in an integrated manner with an enhanced choice of transport options including the Rural Transport Programme. Continue the provision of a range of transport options within the County in collaboration with other statutory agencies and transport providers, including a safe road network, a range of bus and rail services, adequate facilities for walking and cycling and opportunities for air and water-based travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote and support the development of housing for older people and those with disabilities, including the concept of independent living and the development of “life cycle housing” i.e. housing that is adaptable for people’s needs as they change over their lifetime. A range of housing options needs to be in place to enable people to stay independent as long as possible in their own home of community. <p>The County Development Plan should support the current Programme for Government which includes a commitment to “embed ageing in place options for older people into the planning system, as the County and City Development Plans are redrawn this year” and to draw on ‘housing need assessments and population projections to gain a better understanding of the need and location of housing options for older people’. Older Persons are entitled to different housing options to suit their requirements. Alternatives to nursing homes should be provided through supported housing such as sheltered housing or assisted living developments. Specialist housing allows people to remain living within their own community and has a long-term beneficial impact on quality of life and well-being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft County Development Plan shall include the strategic aim to assist where possible the development of community facilities and services within the County. Encourage and facilitate, where feasible the provision and extension of integrated community facilities to serve the needs of communities in the County. <p>Participation in leisure, social and cultural activities with family and community is strongly connected to health and wellbeing. An age friendly community should provide opportunities for people to participate in public life and quality community-based health services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lockdown of communities due to the Covid-19 pandemic had a particular impact on older people, and loneliness and social isolation were issues which emerged as key priorities from member groups of the Community Response Forum. It is vital to put in place structures such as an Older Persons Council to provide
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		<p>a social participation forum for older people, and as part of this, to support essential community facilities such as Community Centres and Libraries to act as social and cultural hubs for people in their communities.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p>
136.	Seán F. Ó Drisceoil	<p>This submission relates to Irish Language. The submission has suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Irish language in a Gaeltacht area shall be a conservation goal, similar to the environment; • It should be ensured that policies do not push residents out of their School Catchment Area on account of housing shortages; • That affordable housing shall be available in the Gaeltacht areas, as per the national guidelines on Linear Towns; • That the County Council map details the true population of the Gaeltacht properly, and that their decisions be grounded on accurate information. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; The Galway Gaeltacht</p>
137.	Gerry Huban	<p>The submission recommends that the Council should have the sewage network systems upgraded in Athenry Town without further delay. It has been highlighted that the treatment plant in the town has been upgraded and that Irish Water was also to have the network upgraded. However, the situation at present is that there is a functioning plant with capacity to cater for considerable development of lands, however feedback is that the network in some areas has to be upgraded before any additional loading will be allowed to make its way to the treatment plant /site.</p> <p>The submission has highlighted their ownership of lands at Monivea road, Athenry that has been developed for housing. However, the remainder of his lands cannot be developed until the aforementioned upgrade takes place, despite having all pipework (water & sewer) within the curtilage of the undeveloped section of his lands. Athenry is strategically located, on the periphery of Galway City and yet lacks critical infrastructure despite the new treatment plant installed. It is considered incumbent that development of Athenry is progressed and receives the necessary funding and commitments to allow additional housing development without further delays.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport.</p>
138.	Comhairle Ceantar na nOileánteo	<p>This submission relates to Ceantar na nOileán and has made suggestions which have been summarised under the following headings, Transport, Core Strategy and Housing, Economic Development, Environmental Issues, Renewable Energy and Communications:</p>



		<p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long term plan should be put in place for the bridges in Ceantar na nOileán; • An assessment of all bridges should be carried out from a safety perspective; • A public lit cycleway and footpath should be provided from Bealadangan Bridge to the crossroads at Teeranea National School; • An Emergency Plan for Ceantar na nOileán should be put in place in case of any major problems with any of the four bridges; • The R377 and R366 are required to be upgraded to the same standard of other regional roads in Galway; • There should be school crossings for children should be provided for primary schools; • Overgrowth of roadsides need to be addressed. <p>Core Strategy and Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special recognition should be given to language planning process; • Lead organisations in the area should be consulted when setting targets and plans for housing in the Gaeltacht; • Young people of the Gaeltacht are demanding the right to build housing on the land of their relatives; • A single sewerage system should serve settlement such as Lettermore, Trabane and Lettermullan Island. <p>Economic Development, Environmental Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More blue flag beaches are required; • The provision of maintenance, lighting and water on piers and beaches; • Develop walks and small loops in Ceantar na nOileán; • A recycling centre should be made available to the community of South Conamara; <p>Environmental Issues, Renewable Energy and Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy should be implemented for a clean renewable energy programme; • The County Development Plan should consider renewable proposals on an individual basis in certain areas such as onshore and offshore wave technologies, underwater marine turbines and solar PV projects; • Ceantar na nOileán wishes to adopt a micro-generating network within the islands of Ceantar na nOileán using renewable sources; • the National Broadband Scheme for the community of Ceantar na nOileán should be extended from Bealadangan to Lettermullan <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
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139.	Joseph Francis Kelly	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from Joseph Francis Kelly. This submission includes two presentation titled “The Atlantic Greenway Project” and “Galway Commuter Rail”.</p> <p>This Atlantic Greenway Project presentation includes a number of slides which detail the route of proposed cycle infrastructure (both existing and proposed). The presentation also provides information with respect to the distance and cost of both the Waterford Greenway and The Great Western Greenway (Westport).</p> <p>The Galway Commuter Rail presentation includes a number of slides which detail the Galway to Athenry Commuter Rail and a number of proposed new infrastructure at Hawthorn-Ballyloughane, Roscam. The presentation also includes an integrated approach linking with a bus rapid transit and details the advantages and comparisons of Bus Rapid Transit. The submission has also included a number of case studies where Bus Rapid Transport is utilised namely Jonkopong, Sweden, Lorient, France, Douai, France and Cambridge, England.</p> <p>Topics Raised; Infrastructure and Transport; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
140.	Elgin Energy	<p>This submission focuses on the Galway County Council renewable energy policy, in particular solar energy. It outlines a number of points relevant to solar energy which can be summarized as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elgin Energy support the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) as it is considered that solar PV and energy storage can form essential parts of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. • This submission outlines the need for Galway County Council to adopt a pro-active and plan-led approach to renewable energy development in the county in order to meet national targets. The submission considers the most cost and time-effective and non-intrusive way to achieve climate targets is through the deployment of solar PV. The technology’s potential has also been recognised and supported by the government through the first auction of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) whereby 796.3MW / 63 solar projects were successful in the auction alongside 479.24MW of onshore wind. These projects are to connect to the grid over the next 18 months. • The submission supports the identification of suitable locations for development within the LARES however these should not be overly prescriptive and development in areas outside of these identified locations should still be considered, provided the site selection process can be justified. The submission proposes that suitable locations for renewable energy projects should, where possible be in close proximity to existing points of connection to the national grid (i.e. substations or overhead lines), avoid areas designated for environmental protection (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation) and also avoid sensitive landscape areas. • The site selection process for a renewable energy project must consider and balance a significant number of factors (a)The suitability/strength of the grid and accessibility to it (b) The landscape character of the County(c)



		<p>Ecological impact (d) Zone of visual influence and visual impact of the structures (e) Glint and glare report and potential impact on adjoining road networks and dwellings (f) Road access and traffic impact (g) Archaeological impact.(h) Flood Risk Assessment (i) Incorporation of security measures – use of CCTV/surveillance cameras and security fencing (j) Decommissioning. Proposals that adequately address these criteria should be supported as they should mitigate any potential negative impacts on the surrounding environments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefit funds are now mandated for projects awarded contracts through RESS as instigated by the (DCCA) and the contribution of €2 per megawatt hour (MWh) will be made to communities located close to renewable projects for the first 15 years of the project lifetime and will be invaluable to the local area. • The submission encourages policy which supports the electrification of transport and increased adoption of EVs and facilitates the implementation of charging infrastructure for EVs both on the roads of county Galway and in new developments while also supporting growth of the EV market such as EV priority parking in town centres. • The current development contribution scheme is set at a comparatively high rate which has a direct impact on the project's commercial viability. Due to the established nature of the Irish wind industry, many development contributions were set based on that technology and this baseline does not transfer to solar projects. For example, a 1MW solar project will typically produce 0.9MWh per annum, powering almost 300 homes. In comparison, a 1MW wind farm will produce approximately 2.7MWh per annum powering almost 650 homes. Equally sized wind and solar projects produce different levels of electricity and therefore earn different revenue. It is requested that the Development Contribution Scheme is amended to reflect this disparity and that the contribution for solar is reduced accordingly. • Solar can assist in boosting local economies, providing significant levels of employment in an entirely new sector, attracting new business, providing beneficial community funding, producing clean renewable energy, and making a significant contribution towards local and national climate change targets. • The solar resource in Ireland varies slightly from Cork to Donegal which should not limit the potential development throughout the island of Ireland and specifically County Galway e.g. Ireland has a similar solar resource to that of the UK which has 13,000MW of solar installed and solar PV delivered over 11% of UK electricity demand across one week in April 2020 as the UK solar industry is experiencing significant growth with a current solar pipeline exceeding 10,000MW. • Producing indigenous renewable energy reduces Ireland's dependence on imported energy and increases security of supply. Solar PV is the fastest deployable renewable energy in the world and is best placed to assist Galway County Council with the decarbonisation of its electricity network.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar PV is low impact and can be located close to demand centres and make use of existing electrical infrastructure. At the end of the project's life the project is decommissioned, and the infrastructure is removed and recycled. The land can then be restored to its original use. • The report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that global beef consumption must reduce dramatically to avert a climate crisis. Diversifying into solar farms could allow a significant number of the Galway farms involved in beef production (65%) to transition to sheep grazing and alternative forms of farming in conjunction with the development of solar farms. • Galway County Council can generate additional investment opportunities by attracting businesses that want their operations to be powered by solar energy/renewables, such as data centres. <p>Topics Raised: Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications.</p>
141.	Ronan Mac Giollapharaic	<p>This is a comprehensive submission and relates to a number of issues with reference made to the Islands, Transport, Tourism, Housing, Climate Change, Water, Waste & Recycling, and Other Issues. This submission is summarised under these headings below</p> <p>The Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should have a contact liaison person with knowledge of the of the islands; • There should be a Local Area Plan for the Islands; • There is a need for a vision for the villages on the islands; <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new harbour is needed in Inis Oirr; • The second phase of the harbour on Inis Meain should be completed; • The installation of pontoons for small boats at On Aran (Inishmore) should be considered; • Traffic management is required at Dun Aonghasa. • A greenway should be considered on Aran; • Buses can be problematic considering road widths on Aran; <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public toilet should be provided to deal with tourist traffic (old fisherman shed in harbour suggested). • The overnight tourism trade needs to be developed on the islands. • The Aran Islands should be considered as a dark sky area similar to Kenmare in Co. Kerry. • A GMIT Study which is looking at tourism on the Aran Islands should be worked into this plan where possible.



		<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of all housing stock on the islands should be carried out. This would benefit islanders looking for housing and not for holiday home market; <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future changes due to climate change have been identified (sea level rise, coastal erosion etc.) The Council should continue to support Comharchumann Fuinnimh Oileáin Árann in becoming energy independent by 2022. This date of 2022 should be extended. <p>Water, Waste & Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sewer needed for Cill Ronain. The islands award winning waste and recycling system should be included in the County Development Plan. Droughts are becoming more frequent. Water saving measures should be looked for in homes and business. <p>Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public toilets on the islands need to be reviewed both quality and numbers; Arainn should be used instead of Inis Mór when referring to the island in Irish. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; The Galway Gaeltacht; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p>
142.	Clarinbridge Oyster Co-Society Ltd.	<p>This submission has raised a number of points with respect to flooding, landscape, wastewater treatment, urban sprawl, water quality (oysters/biodiversity), transport (GCRR). This submission is summarised below:</p> <p>Flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be no building on flood zones and any lands considered should be thoroughly investigated before being zoned; Application to build in flood risk areas should be referred to the OPW; <p>Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protection of the landscape should be prioritised as it is vital form tourism; <p>Wastewater Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential developments proposing to use shared wastewater treatment plants should not be allowed. Problems with such systems in the Clarinbridge area have been highlighted;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been suggested that the wastewater treatment infrastructure at Mutton Island is almost at capacity; • Generally wastewater infrastructure is in poor condition. It is suggested it will take sixty years for Irish Water to rectify this issue. <p>Urban Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission notes that Oranmore, Bhaile Chláir and Bearna now form part of the MASP. It has been suggested that anymore development of these towns will lead to urban sprawl; <p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns have been raised with respect to water quality from pollution which is adversely impacting on the native Oyster and the biodiversity of the bay; <p>Transport & Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed new Galway City Ring Road will not reduce traffic in Galway. The road will add to urban sprawl; • It is suggested that public transport is not good enough. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p>
143.	Plastic Free Kinvara	<p>This is a comprehensive submission which has highlighted the both the background and perspective of Plastic Free Kinvarra. The following has been suggested under the following headings Urban living and Placemaking and Rural Placemaking and the Countryside, Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications, Biodiversity and Role of Youth representative in the County Council.</p> <p>Urban living and Placemaking and Rural Placemaking and the Countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural hand pump locations should be turned into drinking water fountains and promoted as meeting points; • Cycling should be promoted with improved infrastructure put in place to facilitate same. <p>Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public should be encouraged to wear reusable face masks; • Cost of litter collection shall be passed onto producers of plastic based single use masks; • Galway should prioritise and incentivise R&D for the development of a plastic free Alternative to the currently non-biodegradable mask materials. • the removal of single-use plastic from the supply chain wherever possible. • Retailers/producers should be required to provide disposal and recycling of their packaging;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items imported should have a customs tariff that covers cost of any packaging which will require disposal in Ireland. • Plan should include strategy for dealing with waste; • Frequent WEEE recycling collection which should be free; • Enforcement with respect to dumping required; • Emphasis use of plastic to be reduced rather than recycled. <p>Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replanting of native species should be carried out throughout the county. <p>Role of Youth representative in the County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic Free Kinvara heartily endorse the PPN suggestion of inclusion of a youth representative in County level strategy, and policy planning and governance; • we would like to see the PPN representation updated to include a third seat on the SPC for Climate Change and Biodiversity reserved for a representative of the youth. <p>Topics Raised: Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
144.	Siobhán Ní Ghadhra	<p>This submission relates to the following topics 1) Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail, 2) Rural Life & Tourism, 3) R336, 4) Planning permission, 5) Mobile Phone Cover and 6) E-Charging points.</p> <p>Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an action plan to promote and support the film and television industry. <p>Rural Life & Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling paths should be improved; • Bus stops would increase pedestrian safety; • Safe outdoor space is required where you can exercise as a family or on your own. <p>Bóthar Chois Fharráige R 336</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic congestion is a major issue for people using the R336. The delivery of the Galway Outer Bypass is vital for those living west of Galway City. <p>Planning permission</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is vital that planning permission be granted for new houses or for the refurbishment and extension of old dwellings for Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht. <p>Mobile Phone Cover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the improvement of the local network. <p>E-Charging points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The installation of E-Charging points needs to be put in place particularly in rural areas. <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development.</p>
145.	Comharchumann Forbartha Árann	<p>This submission relates to the Islands and has made the following suggestions which have been summarised under the following headings The Islands, Housing, Transport, Wastewater, Irish Language, Education, Employment/Economic, Health, Tourism, Climate Change, Broadband, Marine and Other Issues. The suggestions made are summarised below;</p> <p>The Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that Island Policy is formulated with input from the islanders; A interdepartmental body/committee dealing with the islands in the provision of policies and supports should be established; Subsidy's for childcare should be doubled on the islands; and A policy needs to be developed to address population decline on the islands. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants and supports should be provided for the construction of social housing and for renovation of old houses. Supports should be provided to implement home improvements; <p>Infrastructure and Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport options via air boat and freight are required; Access for disabled people is required; A car park on the mainland (Ros a Mhíl) is required; A community bus service (7 days a week) is required. Public sewer plan needed for Cill Ronain.



		<p>Irish Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance is needed in the development of the Language Plan and implementation for signage, events and festivals. <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the submission has stated that 'The Air Service must be compatible with your educational needs', proportion of teachers to be increased; reimbursement of island allowance for teachers on offshore islands; extend the number of Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht scholarships from 30 to 60; and provide a larger budget for island schools. <p>Employment/Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives needed to attract families and businesses back to island; Tax incentives should be provided for islanders and to attract people to live on the islands; and Employment and services are required. <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference has been made to the implementation of a health publication on Islands Primary Care Services. <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding should be made available for tourism projects. <p>Broadband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality broadband required. <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding should be provided so skills can be developed in the area of Climate Change. <p>Marine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide policy support to the fishing sector/fishermen. <p>Cultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional supports required for the Arts, Culture & Language services to the public and visitors to the islands.
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		<p>Other Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments in youth and sports is required; • A designated seat on the Council should be made available for a representative from the three Aran Islands; • Investment in infrastructure on the island required; • Recognition and support for local groups. There have been significant cutbacks over a number of years; • Planning clinic on the island should be provided. <p>Topics Raised: Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Social, Community and Cultural Development; The Galway Gaeltacht; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry</p>
146.	Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre	<p>This submission is from the Ballinasloe Area Community Development Company (BACD) Ltd who are currently formulating a ten-year plan focusing on sustainable living, tourism and healthcare. Their comprehensive submission is summarised below.</p> <p>Sustainability/Smart Living Town The submission highlights the proximity of Ballinasloe to AIT, NUIG and GMIT making it suitable for companies in medical, pharma, software and fin tech sectors to locate here. Portiuncula will also attract additional opportunities in the town. The submission draws attention to the town's working population.</p> <p>The submission states that the town has good access to transportation arteries with a range of vacant buildings and it considers that the town and buildings would be suitable for remote working hubs and the town is working towards the delivery of the actions in the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Improvements to building appearance and efficiency in the town is supported in the submission along with provision of outdoor dining and electric vehicle charging points in the town.</p> <p>The submission states that alternative uses should be considered for St Michael's Square and the Fair Green.</p> <p>Tourism The submission states that the range of existing attractions in the town mean it is poised to become a new Hidden Heartlands Destination location and it could become an axis between Hidden Heartlands and the Greenway which should be supported online. The submission supports the establishment of a Tourism, Genealogical Heritage Centre to encourage visitors. The submission also contends that the delivery of trails and associated amenity facilities in and around the town and the river Suck needs to be expedited. The submission supports the inclusion of a boardwalk on the levees that will form part of flood relief works and infrastructure in Poolboy bog for walkways and include signage</p>



		<p>Mental Health The submission states that the St Brigid's facility could become a support centre for the existing hospital and all medical care distributed in the town along with the pharmaceutical manufacturing plants which are based nearby in Athlone and Galway.</p> <p>The Past, The Present & Our Future This section of the submission highlights the economic challenges and administrative changes the town has faced in the last number of years pertaining to unemployment</p> <p>The origins of the BACD group are explained, the jobs they have he and the legacy of previous investments in the town which include housing, community facilities and leisure facilities</p> <p>The submission calls for the prioritisation of the development of the parallel street from the school in the Convent grounds, a Biosphere river park and walk and a new road way with commercial opportunities, which it is stated would have obvious benefits for the town. It is stated that the new Draft County Development Plan should include timescales and implementation phases. The Ballinasloe population has not grown like the towns of Tuam and Loughrea it is stated.</p> <p>The submission draws attention to the position of Ballinasloe in relation to Athlone where it is stated that 25% of its citizens work in Athlone. Harmonising approaches with Roscommon and Offaly County Councils' should be explored.</p> <p>Core Strategy and Housing The submission calls for Ballinasloe town to become an area of unlimited growth along with fast track delivery of infrastructure. Appropriate housing with adequate facilities are also supported along with the reuse of the St. Brigid's site. Infill developments are supported in the submission.</p> <p>Urban Living and Placemaking This section of the submission calls for grant supports, broadband, facilities for community facilities, marina enhancements including improved connectivity the town, promote new businesses, promote Ballinasloe as a stop on the Galway – Athlone Greenway, improved cycleways and footpaths to encourage physical activity in and around the Town. The submission promotes living over the shop.</p> <p>Rural Placemaking and The Countryside The submission calls for the reconnection of the town with Shannonbridge.</p> <p>Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development</p>
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		<p>The submission calls for improved budget for enterprise centre/tourist office to highlight ecclesiastical and heritage sites within a 30-mile radius, the facilitation of dialogue for hub developments, greenway link to Hymany Way and Beara Breifni Walkway with Aughrim Centre. The submission calls for additional resources in the town including from the Council Tourism Officer, shop front enhancement and utilising library space.</p> <p>The submission calls for improved wastewater facilities for housing and industrial developments in Ballinasloe and 20KM catchment also to encourage water conservation and provide information on this.</p> <p>The submission calls for the provision of improved sports and community facilities along with improved frequency in public transport to reduce car dependency.</p> <p>The submission supports the fast tracking and urgent delivery of the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme.</p> <p>The submission states that they hope to become a low carbon community with reduction in carbon emissions and promotion of renewable energy. Recently established as a Sustainable Energy Community and prevent dumping and improve recycling and clean up options. Submission calls on the Draft County Development Plan to underpin the deliverables of the SEI Plan which include promotion of renewable energy and protection of the environment.</p> <p>Architectural and Archaeological Heritage</p> <p>The submission calls for an architectural conservation plan for St Brigid's; restoration of headstones at Clontuskert Abbey; protect all local archaeology heritage sites; provision of maps guides at Clontuskert Abbey, Kilconnell Friary and a heritage trail within the town. The submission also seeks to promote awareness of the County's past. The submission supports the reuse of protected buildings. The submission calls for additional ACA areas in and around Ballinasloe along with suggested additional buildings that are worthy of protection. The submission states that the associated bodies for preservation should be consolidated and awareness should be promoted</p> <p>Social, Community and Cultural Development</p> <p>The submission calls for a cultural events calendar the performance of cultural and artistic productions in vacant buildings in Ballinasloe as such an greater emphasis on performing arts in the town should be made. The submission states that the plan must encourage and foster greater collaboration and comarketing of these groups and it must assist Ballinasloe Social Services.</p> <p>Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</p> <p>The submission calls for investment in Bog Sculpture and art to support local arts and crafts people.</p> <p>The submission concludes with a call for renewed fish stocks in the river, fishing cuts and promote swims and jetties and encourage Coillte to signpost forest plantations to south and north of town other sign posting in the town should also be considered.</p>
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		<p>A number of documents have been appended to the submission which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACD Company Details and Background Details. • Summary presentation of 10 year Plan. • The Re-Imagining of St Brigid's Report. • List of firms supported and jobs fostered from BEC. • 2014 Town Benchmarking Report & 2016 Town Benchmarking Review. • Pages from RSES 124 and 125 detailing the Key Town priorities for Ballinasloe. <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Agriculture, Fishing Marine and Forestry.</p>
147.	Disability Federation of Ireland	<p>A comprehensive submission was received from the Disability Federation of Ireland. It is requested that the following topics would be considered in the drafting of the Draft County Development Plan;</p> <p>Core Strategy and Housing It has been suggested that a designated Disability Specific Technical Housing Specialist be appointed to support the better response now to the current and future housing needs of people with disabilities, an open and transparent housing allocation process for people with disabilities, more flexible housing solutions to meet diverse needs, recognition of those who wish to live independently, 10% of all social housing should be wheelchair accessible, ensure the Galway County Housing Steering Group is effective and functions to the best standard, work to promote and publicise the process which housing applications are assessed, regular updates of the number of persons with a disability are on the housing list and improve communication with housing applicants.</p> <p>Urban Living and Placemaking and Rural Placemaking and the Countryside People with disabilities should have a choice to live in both urban and rural settings. Footpaths should be widened. New developments which include new public spaces should be required to use universal design and accessibility.</p> <p>Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development Employment/Social Enterprise: The submission has highlighted that 22% of disabled people in Galway are in employment compared to an average of 54% nationally. The council should be a leader in promoting an accessible workplace and hiring people with disabilities.</p> <p>Tourism:</p>



	<p>This submission has provided figures with respect to the numbers of people with disabilities and also the aging population who travel and have recommended that making our tourism services more accessible will attract more people to Ireland as it would be an accessible tourist destination. There needs to be incentives to make tourist accommodation more accessible and accommodation providers made aware of the economic benefits of being disability friendly. All publicly funded buildings being developed should contain a Changing Places facility and a large accessible toilet.</p> <p>Retail: All new developments should be universally designed. Guidance has been provided with regard to town and villages to ensure safe places, local amenities and transport options are accessible. Retailers should be encouraged to keep their shop and the paths outside clear of obstructions.</p> <p>The Council should continue to support the Make Way Campaign Day. The Council should commit to the maintenance and upgrade of pedestrian infrastructure and to tackle the issue of dog fouling. All large retail developments should include Changing Places facilities and this should be a condition of planning.</p> <p>Transport and Infrastructure The submission has detailed that 17% of people who have a disability in County Galway did not have access to a car or van and that a number of bus routes in the county are not accessible to people with disabilities. It is recommended that the Council work with Bus Eireann and the Gardai to ensure there is adequate bus stops and shelter infrastructure to safely operate wheelchair lift on buses. An audit of existing bus stops should be considered.</p> <p>It has been suggested that that Council work with relevant stakeholders to improve transport options for people with disabilities. It has been requested that specialised transport options should not be introduced at the expense of improving the accessibility of mainstream transport options. Local link bus service could be expanded to support an increased number of people with disabilities who lack transport alternatives.</p> <p>Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications All weather alerts issued by the council should be accessible and in a format that people with disabilities can understand. Climate change initiatives including public transport need to be fully accessible.</p> <p>Renewable forms of heating should be installed in housing for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Architectural and Archaeological Heritage</p>
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		<p>The submission has suggested that heritage sites should be made more accessible and has cited the works carried out at the Rock of Cashel as an example. Access to historical sites should be upgraded with creative solutions to improve accessibility for all.</p> <p>Social, Community and Cultural Development</p> <p>Playgrounds: Children's playgrounds should also be accessible to all and should encourage interaction between children with disabilities and their peers. The submission has included suggestions for disability friendly playgrounds including wheelchair accessible swings, merry go rounds, mazes, roundabouts etc.</p> <p>Sports: The plan should support the development of accessible multi use community facilities and support disability-specific clubs to ensure they can continue to provide these opportunities.</p> <p>Arts: The plan should support the development of accessible multi-purpose cultural and arts community facilities.</p> <p>Pedestrian paths: Safe and accessible footpaths and cycleways should be provided between residential areas and schools and commercial areas. Benches and rest stops should also be provided along all routes.</p> <p>Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure The submission has stated that natural heritage should be accessible to all. Suggestions have been made with respect to wheelchair access and signage. Guidance has also been provided with respect to Blue ways, Greenways and Cliff Walks.</p> <p>Additional comments The submission has identified that one in six people have difficulty with literacy. The plan once written should be assessed to ensure it meets plain English. The plan should be available in accessible formats and further consultations should take accessibility into account.</p> <p>Topics Raised: Core Strategy and Housing; Urban Living and Placemaking; Rural Place Making and the Countryside; Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
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<p>148.</p>	<p>Irish Wind Energy Association</p>	<p>This submission from Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) focuses on Galway's energy policy in particular renewable energy.</p> <p>IWEA commend Galway County Council for initiating the preparation of a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) as part of the Galway County Development Plan Review. It states that County Galway needs a progressive and ambitious LARES with clear and supportive policies in favour of further wind energy development.</p> <p>IWEA advise that onshore wind needs to continue growing in Ireland to meet future renewable energy targets with Ireland's Climate Action Plan proposing an increase from 4200 MW at the end of 2020 to 8200MW by 2030.</p> <p>This IWEA submission has made a number of suggested solutions to the key challenges facing renewable energy in Galway as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWEA encourages Galway County Council to take an ambitious policy approach in deciding the actual installed capacities of wind energy in the new LARES for County Galway. IWEA advise that the quantum of land identified as potentially suitable for wind energy development must go beyond the actual amount required, to allow for a natural attrition rate across development sites and projects. IWEA strongly suggests that the Draft County Development Plan and LARES for County Galway must classify a sufficient quantum of land as being suitable for wind energy, to ensure national renewable energy targets can be achieved, and demonstrate how the quantum of land classified as suitable is sufficient for this purpose. • IWEA encourages Galway County Council to engage with its adjoining Local Authorities to ensure a consistent approach is taken across county boundaries. • IWEA urges Galway County Council not to consider the following potential constraints or facilitators in the process of identifying areas as being potentially suitable for wind energy developments in the LARES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Grid Capacity - (b) Wind Speed - Wind speed should not be used as a constraint for site suitability or unsuitability at the strategy preparation stage, as wind turbine technology is quickly evolving to be able to harness lower wind speeds. The SEAI Wind Atlas of Ireland is also derived from a computer model and would not be as accurate as on-site wind measurements. (c) Nature Conservation Areas - • Landscape Capacity and Landscape Sensitivity –it is suggested that wind energy developments will have to extend from the least sensitive landscape areas with the most capacity, into areas of slightly more sensitive landscape. It is stated that the most scenic parts of County Galway can still be protected and deemed not normally permissible for wind energy in the new LARES for County Galway, but it will still be necessary to
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		<p>extend the areas that will be considered suitable for wind farm development into slightly more sensitive landscape areas if we are deliver on the requirements of the Climate Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWEA believes that the new Draft County Development Plan and LARES for County Galway should not seek to replace or alter the requirements of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines currently under review. The new County Development Plan and LARES for County Galway should refer to these Guidelines and require future proposed wind energy developments in County Galway to comply with the guidelines of the day. • IWEA has been advocating for a regional-approach to the spatial planning of wind farm developments for some time, to compliment the Local Authority-level approach. IWEA maintain that the regional approach would provide a more appropriate platform for ensuring national policy can be transposed effectively to local level, and ensure a consistent approach is used across the entire country that reflects Government policy. <p>Topics Raised: Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications; Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.</p>
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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council