



Planning Department
Galway County Council
Áras an Chontae
Prospect Hill, Galway

6 July 2022

RE: Draft Ministerial Direction to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

A chara,

I refer to your notification of 23rd June 2022 in relation to the Draft Ministerial Direction and inviting submissions in respect to it.

The Regional Assembly has engaged with all previous stages of the plan making process for the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and it is considered appropriate to make a submission in respect of the Draft Ministerial Direction.

It appears from the documentation that there are essentially two main strands to the Draft Ministerial Direction. The first are a series of zoning proposals in the lower tier towns of Clifden, Headford, Ceathra Rua, Oranmore, Oughtererd, Maigh Cuilinn and Woodlawn. The second include policy proposals in relation to siting of waste infrastructure in the Ballinasloe and Tuam areas.

The Assembly has not heretofore made a specific submission on any zoning proposals in relation to any settlements below the Key Town tier - the rationale for this was that the zoning of lands in lower tiered towns is not specifically referenced in the RSES and, per se, does not have regional significance in the context of consistency with the RSES. However, the Assembly has made submissions where the quantum of land zoning has a potential implication for consistency with the RSES.

In respect of the Draft Ministerial Direction and on the topic of the zoning strand, the Assembly defer to its position set out within the submission to the proposed Material Amendments. Wherein, the submission noted the amount of additional residential lands to be zoned in Baile an Chlair, Bearna and Oranmore and queried the impact of these additional lands on the core strategy table, since the revisions were not reflected within the core strategy and no evidence based rationale had been provided. It remains unclear how these lands are to be accommodated and justified if retained. It also noted that the Area Plans for Briarhill and Garraun had also proposed increases in residentially zoned lands, which also may have an impact on the core strategy table.

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In the case of the second strand of the Draft Ministerial Direction regarding infrastructure in the Ballinasloe and Tuam areas (both of which are Key Towns), the Assembly defer to the concern raised in its submission, whereby it considered that the proposals under MA 7.8 to exclude certain areas (Tuam, Ballinasloe) as being suitable for regional waste management facilities was short of much relevant information in terms of technical appraisal and evidence and did not include any maps to examine or determine the areas involved. For that reason, it was observed that it may be contrary to regional policy in its present format.

I attach a copy of the Regional Assembly's submission and, in the absence of evidence being specifically provided to the contrary, it is the Assembly's view that the Draft Ministerial Direction should be accepted by Galway County Council.

Mise le meas,

David Minton
Director