



**Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe**  
**Dréacht an Phlean Forbartha 2023-2029**

**Measúnachtaí Timpeallachta**  
**Dréacht-Tuarascáil Straitéiseach**  
**Measúnachta Timpeallachta**

**Galway City Council**  
**Draft City Development Plan 2023-2029**

**Environmental Assessments**  
**Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment**  
**Environmental Report**

Eanáir 2022 | January 2022



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council



CATHAIR NA GAILLIMHE  
PLEAN FORBARTHA

GALWAY CITY  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Minogue & Associates  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY



# Non-Technical Summary

## Introduction

Galway City Council as the competent authority, has prepared the *Draft Galway City Development Plan (GCDP) 2023-2029*. In accordance with the requirements of EU and national legislation on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared. This is the Non-Technical Summary of the SEA Environmental Report. The purpose of this environmental report is to:

- Inform the development of the *GCDP 2023-2029*;
- Identify describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the *GCDP 2023-2029* Plan and its reasonable alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for the statutory authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this environmental report and accompanying *GCDP 2023-2029* through consultation.

This Environmental Report complies with the requirements of the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) as implemented in Ireland through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended.

## Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

The *GCDP 2023-2029* will effectively replace the current plan, *Galway City Council Development Plan 2017-2023* as adopted by Galway City Council in 2017. The *GCDP 2023-2029* must include objectives relating to land use zoning and protection of the environment. The Plan is being prepared in line with Ministerial Guidelines under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and relevant national and European legislation.

Under Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (NPF), Galway is a designated Regional City. It recognises that the city offers a range of opportunities for social and community interaction, potential for innovation and prosperity and also gives support and opportunity to the wider western region. The aim of the NPF for Galway City is to enhance the experience of the city as a place to live and work or as a destination for visitors. Sustainable city living, strong vibrant places, enhanced quality of life and reduced carbon footprint are key elements of the NPF which will be reflected in the plan. The NPF targets the population of the city to grow by between 40,000 - 45,000 people by 2040 which is an increase of almost 55%. It also targets half of the homes to accommodate this population increase to be located within the existing built footprint on lands which include key regeneration/brownfield sites, infill sites and underutilised lands at locations that are well served by existing and planned public transport, amenity, social and community infrastructure.

At regional level, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) developed by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly sets out a framework for implementation of the NPF. Included in the RSES is a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway City and surrounding settlements, which gives greater detail of how the overall objectives of the NPF and RSES will be implemented at this sub regional level.

## SEA Process

The steps involved in SEA are as follows:

- Screening (determining whether or not SEA is required).
- Scoping (determining the range of environmental issues to be covered by the SEA).
- The preparation of an Environmental Report.
- The carrying out of consultations.

- The integration of environmental considerations into the Plan or Programme.
- The publication of information on the decision (SEA Statement).

SEA was integrated into the various stages of the plan making process and guided the preparation of development scenarios, Core Strategy, policies and objectives, with the overall aim of achieving the sustainable development of the city. The SEA process was carried out having regard to international and national legislation, strategies, plans and guidelines on environmental protection and sustainable development. Submissions received from Environmental Authorities were taken into account in the drafting of the GCDP and Environmental Report. Recommendations from environmental assessments relating to European sites and flood risk also informed the SEA process. Based on the requirements of the legislation and guidance, the information provided in the Environmental Report is outlined in **Table 1**.

**TABLE 0-1 REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEA DIRECTIVE AND RELEVANT SECTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

Schedule 2B of Statutory Instrument 435 of 2004	Addressed in this SEA ER
a) an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans	Chapter One Introduction and Chapter Two Methodology outlines contents and main objectives. Chapter Three details the relationship with other relevant plans
b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Chapter Four Environmental Baseline provides this information
c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Chapter Four Environmental Baseline provides this information
d) any issues and threats problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive	Chapter Four Environmental Baseline provides this information
e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Chapter Five Strategic Environmental Objectives provides this information
f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors	Chapter Seven Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on the Environment provides this information
g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan	Chapter Eight Mitigation Measures provides this information
h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	Chapter Six Alternatives Considered provides this information and difficulties encountered are listed at the end of Chapter Two Methodology



i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan	Chapter Nine Monitoring provides this information
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	This is the focus on this report

## Relevant Aspects of Current State of the Environment

As part of the Environmental Report baseline data was provided on the current state of the environment in Galway City. This was collated through a review of currently available data, as recommended in SEA legislation and related to indicators set out in the SEA Directive.

Chapter Four Environmental Baseline details baseline data on the following:

- Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services
- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Population, Human Health and Noise
- Air and Climate
- Water
- Soil and Geology
- Material Assets
- Landscape
- Cultural heritage
- Inter-relationships of the above.

SEA legislation requires that consideration be given to the likely evolution of the current baseline where implementation of the Plan does not take place. **Table 2** presents the likely evolution of the *GCDP 2023-2029* in the absence of the Plan.

**TABLE 0-2 EVOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PLAN**

SEA Topic	Evolution of same
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<p>There would be no overarching city level framework to inform and guide where development and land-use activities can take place whilst facilitating the objectives of the NPF and the RSES. Applications would be on a case-by-case basis with no overall strategic focus or vision.</p> <p>Depending on the location, scale, size and type of developments this could potentially result in significant adverse in combination and indirect effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna due to further erosion of ecological connectivity, declining water quality and climate change effects.</p> <p>The opportunity to embed climate change adaptation, mitigation measures and enhance blue and green network would be lost. The opportunity to embed proactive and positive measures in the GCDP relating to blue and green infrastructure and ecological connectivity would not be realised; nor the opportunity to promote co benefits around public realm measures and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan of which GCC is a signatory.</p> <p>The chance to incorporate the requirements and measures in the AA, SFRA and SEA environmental assessments would be missed and the means to plan for appropriate development and avoid more environmentally sensitive areas would result in overall much weaker protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.</p>

<p><b>Population, Human Health, Noise</b></p>	<p>In the absence of the Plan, the development including around regeneration areas, compact growth, public realm, urban greening and blue/green infrastructure and most critically adaptation to climate change would take place in an uncoordinated manner.</p> <p>Tailored policy responses and spatially targeted measures would not be promoted in the absence of the Plan. The accompanying co benefits in relation to enhanced permeability, improvements to the public and urban realm and opportunity for the environmental enhancement for the plan area and its citizens may subsequently not be realised.</p> <p>There would not be a localised framework within which to regulate, aid and/or control development whether economic, social or environmental. A lack of controlled development could lead to pressure on adequate service provisions and infrastructural facilities, thus affecting the natural environment in which the population lives leading to human health and quality of life issues. In the absence of an agreed target population and appropriate zoning of land, all environmental parameters would be adversely affected to varying degrees.</p> <p>In the absence of the Plan, Core Strategy and population targets; infrastructure, including services and housing provision would not be catered for accurately.</p>
<p><b>Air and Climate</b></p>	<p>Climate change is predicted to increase problems of flooding and potential increase in periodic droughts due to changes in rainfall patterns. Provision needs to be incorporated into the Plan for mitigation and adaptation measures to provide for the Plan area to become resilient to meeting the challenges of climate change.</p> <p>GCC is well placed through the plan process to lead and advance climate change adaptation and mitigation through spatial planning. If the Plan were not to be implemented adverse climate change effects may impact on vulnerable lands, habitats, and species. In addition, a proactive approach through the plan process may be lost in terms of protecting and supporting critical service infrastructure. The roll out and delivery of the GTS may be slower in the absence of the plan and measures in the GTS provide for significant public transport and modal shift patterns for the plan area.</p> <p>In the absence of the <i>GCDP 2023-2029</i>, existing provisions in relation to climate change and air quality will apply but the strong commitment and vision to respond and adapt to Climate Change may be reduced. The opportunity to embed co benefits across climate change adaptation may not be maximised.</p>
<p><b>Water</b></p>	<p>Whilst there is a significant amount of European and national legislation for the protection and enhancement of water resources and quality, the primary issues affecting water quality and flood control such as population increase, loss of floodplains, coastal squeeze, surface and groundwater pollution, capacity of water supply, and wastewater and increased run-off which can be controlled locally through the Plan process will not be adequately addressed. The process for assessing the issues which affect the surface water and groundwater resources of the plan area may not be comprehensively addressed from land-use planning, resulting in a general deterioration in this aspect of the environment.</p> <p>The application of the SEA, AA and SFRA environmental assessment processes would also be missed and the accompanying influence of these processes on both policy/objectives and land-use would be missed.</p>
<p><b>Soil and Geology</b></p>	<p>Soil quality and function may be enhanced through measures associated with flood resilience and nature-based solutions. The regeneration of brownfield and city centre sites through the GCDP reduces requirements for additional geological resources and greenfield development. This policy is well reflected in both the NPF and RSES, and with no plan this would be not maximised and planned for.</p>

	<p>There would be no framework for future development and therefore protection of the soil resources. A key objective to rehabilitate brownfield and derelict sites opposed to developing greenfield sites may not be achieved which will result in potential subsequent impacts not only on soil quality, but on biodiversity, groundwater quality and water supply and consequently potential impact on public health.</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<p>Existing objectives that relate to this parameter would apply. Many of the measures in the GCDP are identified with a view to minimising adverse effects of climate change on material assets and responding and facilitating behavioural and modal change in energy use and transport. An integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy may not be advanced in such a holistic manner in the absence of the Plan.</p> <p>The current legislation which provides for the protection and enhancement of the water resources and quality at European, National, Regional and County level will protect and maintain existing water bodies in the Plan area. However, there would not be a planning framework to regulate aid and control development in accordance with specific local issues in relation to potable water, wastewater treatment, flooding and development. This could result in significant impacts across a range of environmental parameters including biodiversity, water, human health, landscape and soil and geology.</p> <p>As the Galway Transport Strategy may not be embedded in the absence of the GCDP, the achievement of modal shifts and sustainable transport patterns may not be fully realised.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>There would be no framework within which to regulate, aid and/or manage future economic, social or environmental development. A lack of development objectives would lead to uncontrolled development with no framework for directing development to appropriate locations. Certain areas could continue to experience development pressures, for example, along the inner Galway coastline with accompanying adverse landscape and seascape effects.</p> <p>The implementation of the Galway Public Realm Strategy and landscape enhancement measures through green network improvements may not be fully or appropriately realised.</p> <p>The Plan will include objectives that provide for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the landscape as part of an integrated sustainable planned approach to future development within the plan area. Therefore, the absence of the Plan would remove such protection and enhancement measures for the landscape, potentially leading to its fragmentation, loss and deterioration in local and city landscape, townscape and seascape character.</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>The identification and detailed consideration of city centre and public realm issues may not be fully advanced or promoted. The relationship between the public realm, townscape and cultural heritage features and intangible cultural heritage would not be considered in the same level of detail in the absence of the Plan.</p> <p>The opportunity to promote, support and reuse existing buildings and improve energy efficiencies in older buildings and plan for climate change effects on structures may not be maximised.</p> <p>Galway City has a significant assembly of cultural heritage with extensive and effective legislation and guidance from International to national level affording both the architectural and archaeological heritage a high level of protection. There may not be a framework within which to regulate, aid and/or control development whether economic, social or environmental. This may lead to uncontrolled development resulting in losses and/or deterioration in the cultural heritage of the plan area.</p>

	Under the above circumstances, the cultural heritage within the administrative/ settlement boundary, in the absence of the Plan would suffer. Ultimately, the potential for fragmentation, loss, and/or deterioration of cultural heritage would occur of this irreplaceable resource.
<b>Inter-relationships</b>	<p>In combination effects arising due to the absence of the Plan would be potentially significant:</p> <p>Evolution of the environment in the absence of the plan could generate effects in terms of loss of ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. Disturbance to biodiversity, flora and fauna through unregulated development and poor design such as increasing light levels, emissions from transport, energy.</p> <p>Flood events particularly around coastal and fluvial flooding with potential interactions across all SEA parameters.</p> <p>Effects of climate change on critical infrastructure, combined with loss of opportunity to adapt and embed nature based solutions and strengthening the green and blue network. Risk of not meeting/contributing to reduction in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Potential adverse effects on water quality for estuarine, freshwater and groundwater with accompanying interactions across all SEA parameters.</p> <p>Increased greenfield development with release of carbon in soil as well as other ecosystem services that soil provides.</p> <p>Aligned to this would be the risk of not achieving compact growth and not meeting the NPF and RSES targets in this regard.</p>

## Strategic Environmental Objectives

The Environmental Report set out Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO) for the Plan. These were identified based on a current understanding of the key environmental issues and informed policy formulation. **Table 3** below presents the SEOS that have been developed to test and assess the potential environmental effects of the *GCDP 2023-2029*.

**TABLE 0-3 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES**

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna</b>	B1: Protect, conserve and promote the enhancement of habitats, species and their sustaining resources in international and national designated sites and prevent adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect) from development within or adjacent to these sites.
	B2: Protect and conserve rare and threatened habitats and species, including those listed in the Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Acts.
	B3: Protect and conserve the marine environment and promote the appropriate sustainable management of the coastal zone taking cognisance of potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on European sites.
	B4: Support measures to control and manage alien/invasive species.
	B5: Protect areas of local biodiversity value and stepping stones which provide connectivity for species and prevent wildlife habitat fragmentation.

	B6: Promote ecological awareness and biodiversity.
<b>Population, Human Health, Noise</b>	PHH1: Promote good quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns, land uses, including potential adverse noise quality impacts.
	PHH2: Promote social inclusion and wellbeing/healthy living in the city.
	PHH3 Minimise noise, vibration and emissions from traffic and minimise impact on residential amenities.
<b>Air and Climate</b>	C1: Promote climate adaption and mitigation measures in line with the Galway City Climate Change Adaption Strategy and any future plans.
	C2: Enable sustainable development by encouraging new and existing development to reduce carbon emissions and build climate resilience.
	C3: Improve air quality within the city.
	C4: Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2009).
<b>Water</b>	W1: Maintain and improve, where possible, the quality of surface water, rivers, lakes and groundwater to meet the requirements of the National River Basin Management Plan.
	W2: Maintain and improve, where possible, the quality of transitional and coastal waters, and to prevent the contamination of bathing water.
	W3: Support the maintenance and improvement of drinking water supplies.
	W4: Support the promotion of water conservation.
	W5: Progressively reduce discharges of polluting substances to waters.
<b>Soil and Geology</b>	S1: Maintain the quality of soils.
	S2: Maximise the sustainable re- use of brownfield lands, and the existing built environment.
	S3: Minimise the consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.
	S4: Protect and conserve important and audited geological heritage sites.
<b>Material Assets</b>	M1: Maximise use of the built environment in a sustainable and efficient manner.
	M2: Maximise and support sustainable modes of transport.
	M3: Ensure water and wastewater are planned for and provided as critical services infrastructure
	M4: Facilitate measures to reduce all forms of air pollution.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH1: Promote the protection and conservation of the city's cultural, built archaeological and linguistic heritage, and where appropriate enhance character.
<b>Landscape</b>	L1: Conserve and enhance the built heritage and landscape features of the city.
<b>Interrelationships</b>	IR1: Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes

IR2: Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement.
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## Consideration of Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan. The alternatives available for the Plan are framed and guided by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including the NPF and the RSES. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as land use zoning, core strategy, targets for development on brownfield sites and other key environmental and spatial planning considerations. For the purposes of the Development Plan review, three alternative development strategies for the city were evaluated in order to achieve the best sustainable development option:

**Alternative 1: Continue Density Strategy (A1)** - This scenario supports an integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy and applies existing densities allowed under the current *Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023* and the *Ardaun Local Area Plan 2018-2024*.

**Alternative 2: Increase Density Strategy (A2)** - This scenario supports an integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy. It has a focus on the growth of regeneration areas at Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and lands in the Headford Road area and includes for the direction of development to a urban extension on the east side of the city at Ardaun. It aims to achieve further compact growth and consolidation of neighbourhood areas by **primarily focusing on increasing residential densities within areas that are highly accessible to existing /planned frequent public transport services**.

**Alternative 3: Sustainable Neighbourhoods (A3)** - This scenario supports an integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy. It has a focus on the growth of regeneration areas at Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and lands in the Headford Road area and includes for the direction of development to a urban extension on the east side of the city at Ardaun. It aims to achieve further growth by promoting **increased residential densities** at appropriate locations including additional strategic regeneration and opportunity sites that have spatial advantages such as in close proximity to the city core, a location along an existing /planned high frequency bus route, good proximity and access to employment, services and amenities. This scenario also aims to **strengthen neighbourhoods** around the city and to support the development of new communities. It focuses on ensuring that new development takes into account of a wide range of relevant issues including the context of the site and the character of the surrounding area and the need for good **quality urban and building design to support successful place making and liveability**. The development of sustainable neighbourhoods through guidelines, standards and through the implementation of local area plans, masterplans / frameworks / area plans is also promoted.

Based on the evaluation of the alternatives against the Strategic Environmental Objectives, at strategic level **Alternative 3: Sustainable Neighbourhoods (A3)** is identified as the preferred alternative.

## Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where the environmental assessment identifies potential significant adverse effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such impacts or where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. In order to facilitate the consideration of environmental resources in any future development associated with the *GCDP 2023-2029*, mitigation measures have been included. The overall strategy of the *GCDP 2023-2029* is to protect and improve the environment of the city and its various aspects, including designated sites, air and water quality, waste management and biodiversity. A substantial and comprehensive set of mitigations measures have been provided within the Plan. **Section 8.2** presents the ~150 principal environmental mitigation measures present in the draft *GCDP 2023-2029* and **Section 8.3** presents SEA mitigation measures on the draft Plan (See **Chapter 8** of this report).

Monitoring will focus on the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly impacted upon by the implementation of the *GCDP 2023-2029* and is detailed in Chapter Nine. **Table 4** presents the Monitoring Programme. Monitoring is to be carried out on an ongoing basis through the assessment of planning

applications and environmental monitoring programmes. SEO and targets are linked to indicators, which measure changes in environmental quality and which facilitate the monitoring of Plan implementation. A review of the monitoring programme is integrated into the Development Plan review process. A preliminary report on SEA monitoring will be prepared to coincide with the Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on progress reached in achieving Plan objectives and targets, within two years of the making of the Plan.

TABLE O-4 SEA MONITORING TABLE

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<p><b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b></p> <p><b>BFF</b></p>	<p>Condition of European Sites</p> <p>Biodiversity gain</p>	<p>Control significant adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts) to relevant habitats, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites and networks</p> <p>Control significant adverse impacts on rare and threatened habitats and species or their sustaining resources, including those in the Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Acts</p> <p>Improvements to the green network and public realm whilst projecting the city's ecological heritage</p> <p>Delivery of actions identified under River Basin Management Plan, All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2026 and local plans including Galway Biodiversity Action Plan, Heritage Plan, Public Realm Strategy and forthcoming Greenspace Strategy.</p>	<p>GCC, NPWS, DHLGH, DTCAGSM, EPA, RBD stakeholders, GCC Biodiversity Action Plan and Heritage Plan stakeholders</p>	<p>NPWS and Department reports and database, National Biodiversity database centre, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments</p>	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the development management process</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>



SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Population, Human Health and Noise</b>  <b>PHHN</b>	<p>Implementation of Plan measures in relation to meeting population targets, improvements to provision of social and physical infrastructure including availability of public transport / public and community facilities, services, public realm and amenities</p> <p>Reduction in travel times and distances to and within the city and alleviation of traffic congestion</p> <p>Increase in modal shift from private car to public transport and active travel</p> <p>Increase in social inclusion and accessibility</p>	<p>Improvements to physical and social infrastructure, green network, public realm, active travel</p> <p>Delivery of actions in Galway Transport Strategy, LECP, Public Realm Strategy, forthcoming Greenspace Strategy</p>	GCC, Co, NTA, TII LECP stakeholders	GCC, TII, CSO, LECP, Healthy City and Age Friendly research, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the development management process and of plans and strategies including Galway Transport Strategy</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Air and Climate</b> <b>AC</b>	<p>Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</p> <p>Traffic volumes and % modal shift, see also PHH monitoring measure</p> <p>Changes in air quality as identified during air quality monitoring programmes</p> <p>Improvements to the green network and public realm</p>	<p>Achievement of measures relating to climate reduction targets in plan and Galway Climate Adaption Strategy and 5 year action plan, future energy plan and energy action plan, implementation of Noise Action Plan</p> <p>Increase the percentage of population travelling by public transport including cycling and walking, and decrease in private vehicle dependency</p> <p>Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NOx and particulate m</p>	GCC, EPA, NTA, TII, DECC, CARO, SEAI, Climate Adaption Strategy stakeholders	GCC, SEAI , CSO databases, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the EPA monitoring programmes and regulation through development management process – planning conditions and enforcement</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholder to feed into 2 year report</p> <p>.</p>

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Water</b> <b>W</b>	<p>Status of water bodies and drinking water quality as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programmes</p> <p>Trends in water conservation</p> <p>Flood Risk Assessment incorporated into development proposals in flood risk areas</p> <p>Number of flood protection measures provided</p>	<p>Not to cause deterioration in the status or affect the ability of any surface water groundwater, transitional and coastal waters to achieve 'good status'</p> <p>Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle (once finalised)</p> <p>Implementation of objectives of River Basin Management Plan, Water Framework Directive, EU (Drinking Water) Regulations, Bathing Water Quality Regulations</p> <p>Minimise development on land susceptible to significant flood and/or coastal erosion risk</p>	EPA, Irish Water, OPW, CFRAM stakeholders, RBD stakeholders including GCC and GCoCo	EPA, Irish Water Monitoring Programmes and databases, GCC, EPA , Irish Water reports, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the EPA monitoring programmes and regulation through development management process – planning conditions and enforcement</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Soil and Geology</b>  <b>SG</b>	<p>Area of brownfield land developed</p> <p>Increased densities appropriate to neighbourhood character</p> <p>Reduction in vacant sites and derelict buildings on registers</p> <p>Monitoring of historical landfill sites , enforcement</p> <p>Increase in recycling, and recovery of C&amp;D waste,</p> <p>Conservation status of GSI sites</p>	<p>Achievement of measures in plan to meet NPF AND RSES targets of at least 50% of all new homes be delivered within the existing built-up footprint (2032 target)</p> <p>Reduce brownfield lands within the city</p> <p>Reuse and recycle C&amp;D waste at source and encourage use of appropriate materials including from local sources, implementation of waste permit regulations</p> <p>Safeguard soil quality and quantity and to ensure that soils remain healthy and capable of supporting human activities and ecosystems</p> <p>Retain conservation status of important geological heritage sites</p>	GCC, EPA, GSI,	GCC, GSI and EPA databases, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the EPA monitoring programmes and development management process</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>

<p><b>Material Assets</b></p> <p><b>MA</b></p>	<p>Increase in sustainable transport facilities and infrastructure throughout the city</p> <p>Number of people travelling to work or school by public transport, walking or cycling</p> <p>Improvements in the public realm</p> <p>Changes in water quality as identified during water quality monitoring programmes</p> <p>Volume of waste recycled and to landfill</p> <p>Control of inappropriate development within SEVESO III site consultation zone</p> <p>SEE also PHHN and AC and BFF</p>	<p>Achievement of measures in the Plan to maintain and improve a high quality built environment</p> <p>Have an integrated, sustainable transport and land use system that eases movement to and within the city and promotes sustainable transport modes</p> <p>Meet EU, national and regional objectives for water quality and for recycling of municipal waste and its diversion from landfill</p> <p>Control inappropriate development within SEVESO III site consultation zone</p> <p>Delivery of actions in Galway Transport Strategy, Public Realm Strategy, forthcoming Greenspace Strategy</p>	<p>GCC, Irish Water, EPA, NTA,TII, Regional Waste Authority, HSA</p>	<p>GCC, CSO, NTA, TII, Irish Water and EPA databases, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate</p>	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the EPA monitoring programmes, development management process and of plans and strategies including Galway Transport Strategy</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>
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SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>  CH	<p>Implementation of Plan measures relating to protect and promote cultural, built, archaeological and linguistic heritage</p> <p>Reuse and adaption of existing built heritage</p> <p>Number of grants administered for protected structures and cultural heritage projects/activities</p> <p>Number of ACA management plans prepared, number of additions to the RPS and any additional ACAs</p> <p>Increase in use of Irish in signage and place names of new residential developments, public roads, parks</p>	<p>Increase uptake of grants available for protected structures and to promote good conservation practice</p> <p>Expand the RPS and designate additional ACAs, where appropriate</p> <p>Increase the number of uninhabited and derelict structures that are restored opposed to demolition.</p> <p>Delivery of actions identified in Everybody Matters Cultural Strategy, Galway Heritage Plan, Public Realm Strategy, Cultural Strategy and Galway City Arts Plan</p>	GCC, DHLGH, DTCAGSM, GCC Heritage Plan, Cultural Strategy and Arts Plan stakeholders	GCC, NIAH databases, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	<p>Ongoing monitoring through Heritage plan and development management process</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Landscape</b> <b>L</b>	Impacts on protected views/prospects, built heritage and G and RA zoned lands incorporated into development proposals as appropriate  Improvements to the green network and public realm	Protect and enhance built heritage, designated ACAs, protected views/prospects and G and RA zoned lands  Protect and enhance the green network and public realm in a sustainable manner  Delivery of local area plans, environmental improvement schemes, ACA management plans and urban design framework plans, actions identified under Galway Biodiversity Action Plan, Heritage Plan and Public Realm Strategy	GCC, Galway Biodiversity Action Plan and Heritage Plan stakeholders,	GCC, NIAH databases, National Biodiversity data centre, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	Ongoing monitoring through development management process  Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report

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## Abbreviations

<b>ACA</b>	Architectural Conservation Area
<b>GCDP</b>	Galway City Development Plan
<b>cSAC</b>	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
<b>EEA</b>	European Environmental Agency
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>ER</b>	Environmental Report
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information Systems
<b>GSI</b>	Geological Survey of Ireland
<b>HDA</b>	Habitats Directive Assessment
<b>LECP</b>	Local Economic and Community Plan
<b>NHA</b>	Natural Heritage Area
<b>NIAH</b>	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>P/P</b>	Plan/Programme
<b>pNHA</b>	Proposed Natural Heritage Area
<b>RMP</b>	Record of Monuments and Places
<b>RPS</b>	Record of Protected Structures
<b>S.I. No.</b>	Statutory Instrument Number
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SEO</b>	Strategic Environmental Objective
<b>SFRA</b>	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Area
<b>SuDS</b>	Sustainable Drainage Systems
<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WSIP</b>	The Water Services Investment Programme
<b>WWTP</b>	Waste Water Treatment Plant

## Glossary

<b>Adaptation (climate change)</b>	Adaptation refers to efforts to manage the risks and impacts associated with existing or anticipated impacts of climate change
<b>Alternatives (Reasonable)</b>	Alternatives should take into account the objectives and geographical scope of the Plan or project (P/P). There can be different ways of fulfilling the P/P objectives, or of dealing with environmental problems. The alternatives should be realistic, capable of implementation and should fall within the legal and geographical competence of the authority concerned.
<b>Appropriate Assessment</b>	An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites).
<b>Baseline Environment</b>	A description of the present state of the environment of the P/P area.
<b>Baseline Survey</b>	Description of the existing environment against which future changes can be measured.
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992). Flora is all of the plants found in a given area. Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.
<b>Birds Directive</b>	Council Directive of 2nd April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC).
<b>Blue Infrastructure</b>	Blue landscape elements are linked to water. They can be pools, ponds and pond systems, wadis, artificial buffer basins or water courses. These comprise blue infrastructure.
<b>Built Environment</b>	Refers to both architectural heritage and archaeological heritage.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	Effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space
<b>Data</b>	Includes environmental data, proxy data, and any other relevant statistical data.
<b>Ecology</b>	The study of relationships between living organisms and between organisms and their environment (especially animal and plant communities), their energy flows and their interactions with their surroundings.
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	Ecosystem services are the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being (TEEB DO). They support directly or indirectly our survival and quality of life.
<b>Environmental Assessment</b>	The preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision (in accordance with Articles 4 to 9 of the SEA Directive).
<b>Environmental Characteristics</b>	Environmental resources, issues and trends in the area affected by the P/P.
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	An ordered exercise designed to enable the environmental impacts of a proposed development/project to be anticipated before the project is carried out.
<b>Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</b>	A statement of results from the ordered exercise which focuses on anticipating all environmental impacts of significance of a proposed

	development, prior to implementation or construction, and which specifies those measures which should be taken to eliminate or mitigate such impacts to an acceptable level.
<b>Environmental Indicator</b>	An environmental indicator is a measure of an environmental variable over time, used to measure achievement of environmental objectives and targets.
<b>Environmental Objective</b>	Environmental objectives are broad, overarching principles which should specify a desired direction of environmental change.
<b>Environmental Problems</b>	Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse. Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.
<b>Environmental Receptors</b>	Include biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological) and landscape as listed in the SEA Directive. This list is not exhaustive, and can include other receptors which may arise for a particular P/P.
<b>Environmental Report (ER)</b>	A document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.
<b>Environmental Targets</b>	A target usually underpins an objective often having a time deadline that should be met and should be accompanied by limits or thresholds.
<b>Environmental Vectors</b>	Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings.
<b>Geographical Information System (GIS)</b>	is a computer system that collects, stores, views and analyses geographical information and commonly creates maps as an output
<b>Geology</b>	Science of the earth, including the composition, structure and origin of its rocks
<b>Green Infrastructure</b>	A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services' in both rural and urban settings (EC, 2013a).
<b>Habitat</b>	Area in which an organism or group of organisms live.
<b>Habitats Directive</b>	Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
<b>Habitats Directive Assessment</b>	An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites)
<b>Hierarchy of Plans</b>	Both higher and lower level P/P relevant to the P/P being assessed.
<b>Indirect Effect</b>	Any aspect of a P/P that may have an impact (positive or negative) on the environment, but that is not a direct result of the proposed P/P. May also be referred to as a secondary effect
<b>Interrelationships</b>	Associations or linkages, related to environmental impact of the proposed P/P usually on environmental receptors.

<b>Key Environmental Issues</b>	Those significant environmental issues, which are of particular relevance and significance within a P/P area and/or the zone of influence of that P/P. These issues should be identified during SEA Scoping process.
<b>Key environmental receptors</b>	Aspects of the environment likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed P/P.
<b>Material Assets</b>	Critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment transportation etc.
<b>Member States</b>	Those countries that belong to the European Union.
<b>Mitigate</b>	To make or become less severe or harsh
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.
<b>Monitoring</b>	A continuing assessment of environmental conditions at, and surrounding, the plan or programme. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted. The primary purpose of monitoring is to identify significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.
<b>Monitoring Programme</b>	A detailed description of the monitoring arrangements to be put in place to carry out the monitoring of the impact of the proposed P/P on the environment including; frequency of monitoring, who has responsibility for monitoring, and responses if monitoring identifies significant negative impacts.
<b>Natura 2000 Site</b>	Designated European Site. In combination Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas will constitute Natura 2000 network of protected sites for habitats and species across the EU.
<b>Natural Heritage</b>	Refers to habitats and species of flora and fauna.
<b>Nature Based Solutions</b>	Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.
<b>Natural Water Retention Measures</b>	Natural water retention measures are measures that aim to safeguard and enhance the water storage potential of landscape, soil, and aquifers, by restoring ecosystems, natural features and characteristics of water courses and using natural processes. They can also improve water quality.
<b>Non-technical summary</b>	A summary of the findings of the ER, summarized under the headings listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive that can be readily understood by decision-makers and by the general public. It should accurately reflect the findings of the ER.
<b>Plan or Programme</b>	Including those co-financed by the European Community, as well as any modifications to them:

	- which are subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions. In accordance with the SEA Directive, P/P that require SEA are those that fulfil the conditions listed in Article 2(a) and Article 3 of the SEA Directive.
<b>Post-mitigation Residual Impacts</b>	Environmental effects that remain after mitigation measures have been employed.
<b>Protected Structure</b>	Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning Act of 2000 to define a structure included by a planning authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the planning authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.
<b>Proxy Data</b>	Is a measure of activity resulting from a P/P which provides information on environmental impact without the need for a direct measure of an environmental receptor. For example, an increase in the number of vehicles (activity resulting from a P/P) can provide information on the impact on air quality and greenhouse gases without having to measure the concentration of these parameters in the receiving environmental receptor.
<b>Public</b>	One or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups.
<b>Recorded Monument</b>	A monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places that is set out County by County under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.
<b>Scoping</b>	The process of deciding the content and level of detail of an SEA, including the key environmental issues, likely significant environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be employed, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report.
<b>Screening</b>	The determination of whether implementation of a P/P would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment. The process of deciding whether a P/P requires SEA.
<b>SEA Directive</b>	Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.
<b>Secondary effect</b>	Effects that are not a direct result of the P/P, same as indirect effect.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Potential for significant change to any element in the environment that is subject to impacts.
<b>Short-term Effects</b>	These are typical of those effects that may occur during construction stage of a development, for example, the increased traffic going to and from a site during construction, or, the noise associated with construction activities.
<b>Significant Effects</b>	Effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Area under Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), designated for bird species listed in Annex I of the Directive, in particular internationally important concentrations of migratory and wetland birds. Designation is focused on habitats of these species.
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	The authority by which or on whose behalf the plan or programme is prepared.
<b>Statutory Instrument</b>	Any order, regulation, rule, scheme or bye-law made in exercise of a power conferred by statute.

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it. The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment
<b>Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)</b>	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which the environmental effects of the County Development Plan can be tested. The SEOs are used as standards against which the objectives of the County Development Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if not mitigated.
<b>Synergistic effect</b>	Effects that, when totalled, result in a greater or lesser effect than the sum of the individual effects.
<b>Threshold</b>	Magnitude of a project, which if exceeded, will trigger the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment.
<b>Urban Greening</b>	Public landscaping and urban tree projects that create mutually beneficial relationships between city dwellers and their environments. The most common forms of urban greening are installing trees, parks, and landscaped green areas in newly-built urban projects
<b>Zone of Influence</b>	The area over which a plan can impact on the environment.



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this SEA Environmental Report

Galway City Council (GCC) has prepared the *Draft Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 (GCDP)* under the Planning and Development Act 2000-2010 (as amended). The Plan has been prepared in the context of national and regional planning frameworks, namely Project Ireland National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway, which designates Galway as a Regional City that has the potential for significant population and economic growth through focused investment in a sustainable and inclusive manner. The GCDP include a written statement comprising development policies, objectives, standards and land use zoning maps.

This is the Environmental Report (ER) that has been prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the *GCDP 2023-2029*. It sets out how the SEA has been undertaken and presents the findings of the assessment of the *GCDP 2023-2029*, together with its' reasonable alternatives.

This Environmental Report complies with the requirements of the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) as implemented in Ireland through Statutory Instrument (SI) No.436 of 2004 European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

These regulations are a statutory requirement for plans or programmes which could have significant environmental effects, and the assessment process aims to identify where there are potential effects and how any negative effects might be mitigated.

## 1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

*Under Directive 2001/42/EC - Assessment of Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment*, certain plans and programmes require an environmental assessment. This is known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Article 1 of this Directive states that its objective is:

*'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.'*

## 1.3 Scale, Nature and Location of Plan Area

**Figure 1.1** shows the outline of the plan area within the wider context of Galway County.

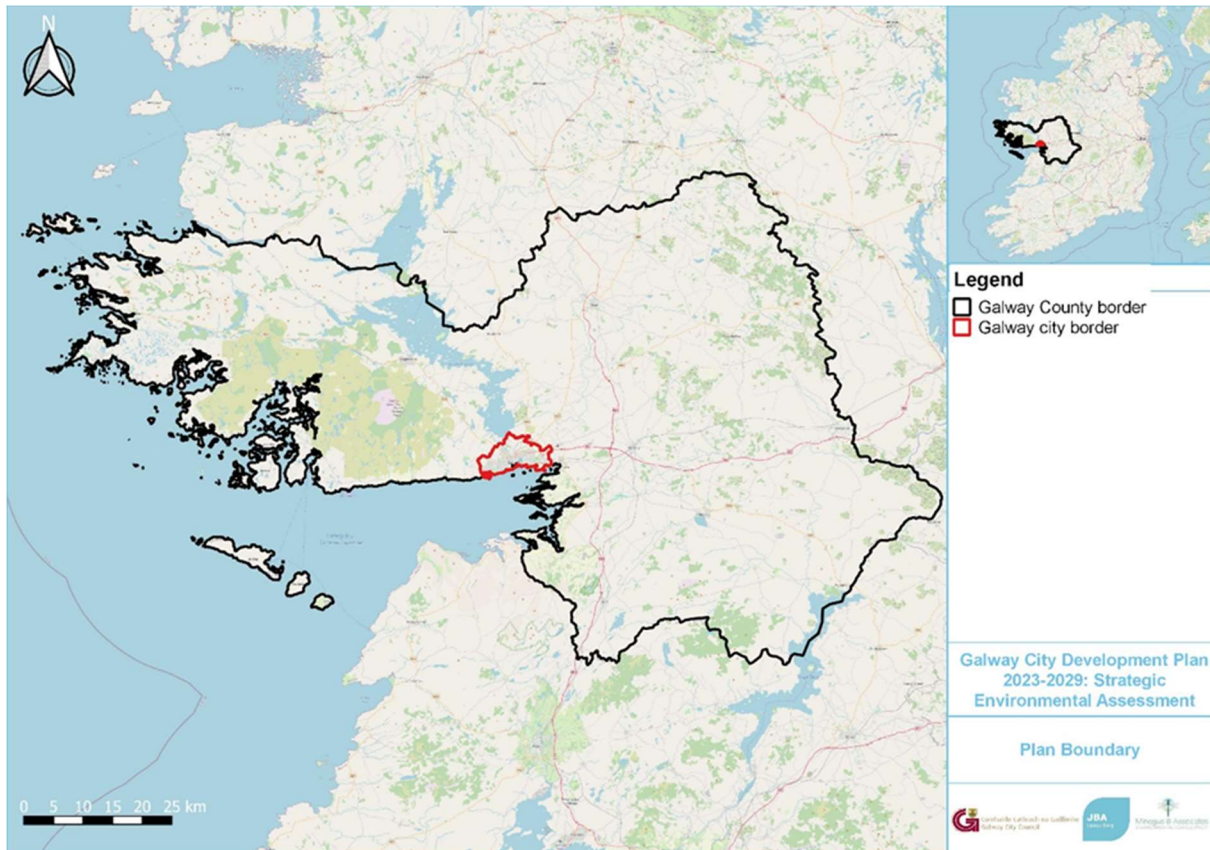
The *GCDP 2023-2029* will effectively replace the current Plan, *Galway City Council Development Plan 2017-2023* as adopted by Galway City Council in 2017. The *GCDP 2023-2029* must include objectives relating to land use zoning and protection of the environment. The Plan is being prepared in line with Ministerial Guidelines under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and relevant national and European legislation.

Under Project Ireland National Planning Framework (NPF), Galway is a designated Regional City. It recognises that the city offers a range of opportunities for social and community interaction, potential for innovation and prosperity and also gives support and opportunity to the wider western region. The aim of the NPF for Galway City is to enhance the experience of the city as a place to live and work or as a destination for visitors. Sustainable city living, strong vibrant places, enhanced quality of life and reduced carbon footprint are key elements of the NPF which will be reflected in the Plan. The NPF targets the population of the city to grow by between 40,000 - 45,000 people by 2040 which is an increase of almost 55%. It also targets half of the homes to accommodate this population increase to be located within the existing built footprint on lands which include

key regeneration/brownfield sites, infill sites and underutilised lands at locations that are well served by existing and planned public transport, amenity, social and community infrastructure.

At regional level, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) developed by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly sets out a framework for implementation of the NPF at a regional level. Included in the RSES is a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway City and surrounding settlements, which gives greater detail of how the overall objectives and policies of the NPF and RSES will be implemented at this sub regional level.

**FIGURE 1:1 GALWAY CITY PLAN AREA WITHIN COUNTY GALWAY.**



## 1.4 Structure and Preparation of this Environmental Report

Regulations contained in Schedule 2b of S.I. 436 of 2004(as amended) details the information to be contained in an Environmental Report. **Table 1.1** lists the information required and details where this information is contained in this Environmental Report.

**TABLE 1-1 STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

Schedule 2B of Statutory Instrument 436 of 2004	Addressed in this SEA ER
(a) an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans	Chapter One, Introduction and Chapter Two, Methodology outlines contents and main objectives Chapter Three, details the relationship with other relevant plans
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Chapter Four, Environmental Baseline provides this information
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Chapter Four, Environmental Baseline provides this information

<b>Schedule 2B of Statutory Instrument 436 of 2004</b>	<b>Addressed in this SEA ER</b>
(d) any issues and threats problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive	Chapter Four, Environmental Baseline provides this information
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Chapter Five, Strategic Environmental Objectives provides this information
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors	Chapter Seven, Assessment of likely Significant Effects on the Environment provides this information
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan	Chapter Eight, Mitigation Measures provides this information
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	Chapter Six, Alternatives Considered provides this information and difficulties encountered are listed at the end of Chapter Two, Methodology
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan	Chapter Nine, Monitoring provides this information
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	This is provided at the beginning of this Environmental Report

### 1.4.1 SEA Team

Minogue and Associates Environmental Consultancy has prepared this Environmental Report. The SEA Team worked with the GCC Forward Planning team and other specialists including JBA Ireland who undertook the Natura Impact Report (NIR) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the SEA methodology in detail and outlines the steps required for SEA. The methodology used to carry out the SEA of the Plan reflects the requirements of the SEA regulations and available guidance on undertaking SEA in Ireland, including:

- SEA Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland – Synthesis Report Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003;
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities - published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004;
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 of 2004);
- Planning and Development (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (S.I No 200 of 2011);
- SEA Process Checklist Consultation Draft 2008, EPA 2008;
- Circular Letter PSSP 6/2011 Further Transposition of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment European Union 2013;
- SEA Resource Manual for Local and Regional Authorities, Draft Version, 2013;
- Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland – A Guidance Note, EPA, 2015;
- Developing and assessing alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, EPA, 2015;
- SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources (2020);
- Good practice guidance on Cumulative Effects Assessment in SEA, EPA, 2020;
- Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring, EPA, 2020;
- EPA SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans -EPA Recommendations and Resources 2020;
- Recently issued Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities, DHLGH 2021.

### 2.2 Stages in the SEA Process

The steps involved in SEA are as follows:

- Screening (determining whether or not SEA is required).
- Scoping (determining the range of environmental issues to be covered by the SEA).
- The preparation of an Environmental Report
- The carrying out of consultations.
- The integration of environmental considerations into the Plan or Programme.
- The publication of information on the decision (SEA Statement).

#### 2.2.1 Screening

The SEA Regulations state that SEA is mandatory for certain plans including City/County Development Plans. Therefore, the SEA process commenced at Scoping stage outlined below.

#### 2.2.2 Scoping

The purpose of the SEA Scoping report is to identify the scope of the SEA and ensure that relevant data and environmental topics are included in the SEA. The Scoping report was issued to the statutory Environmental Authorities on 9<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for comment. **Table 2.1** summarises the main issues raised by consultees and the SEA response to same.

TABLE 2-1 SUMMARY OF SEA SCOPING SUBMISSIONS AND SEA RESPONSE TO SAME

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
SEA Section Office of Evidence and Assessment Environmental Protection Agency	<p><b>State of Environment Report Ireland’s Environment 2020 and UN Sustainable Development Goals</b></p> <p>State of Environment Report Ireland’s Environment - An Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) identifies thirteen key messages for Ireland which align with many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Delivering Ireland’s long-term sustainable development and environmental protection goals will require a concerted effort by government departments to address these key actions. The 13 actions are listed in the submission.</p> <p>Where relevant, aspects of these key actions and the SDGs should be taken into account in preparing the Plan to ensure that these align with achieving Ireland’s sustainable development and environmental protection ambitions.</p>	Noted and agreed. These are reflected in this ER and have informed the development of the SEOs in particular. As part of the SEA process a cross referencing exercise of the GCDP has taken place to ensure the 13 key actions are reflected.
	<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <p>Include commitments to protect designated habitats and protected species (and associated ecological corridors/linkages) within, and adjacent to, the Plan area. The EPA has published guidance on <i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance</i>.</p>	Chapter Four Baseline presents biodiversity, flora and fauna
	<p><b>Invasive alien species control and management</b></p> <p>Include a clear commitment to ensure that implementation of the Plan, in particular, any proposed development associated with the Plan, addresses the control and management of invasive species.</p>	Noted and agreed.
	<p><b>Critical service infrastructure</b></p> <p>In proposing and in implementing the Plan, ensure that the Plan is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	Noted and agreed.
	<p><b>Specific comments on the Plan</b></p>	
	<p><b>Climate action</b></p> <p>In preparing the Plan, align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including those set out in the Climate Action Plan 2019, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations and measures in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation and mitigation plans. Key climate-related aspects to consider in the Plan and SEA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct and indirect impacts of the Plan on greenhouse gas emissions and removals (mitigation);</li> <li>- Direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the implementation of the Plan, e.g. the resilience of critical water service infrastructure to flooding and drought (adaptation);</li> <li>- The linkages between mitigation and adaptation (inter-relationships).</li> </ul>	Noted. The Baseline Chapter of this SEA ER details the identified challenges associated with climate change for the plan area as outlined in the Galway City Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019) and supporting sectoral climate change adaptation strategies as appropriate. Impacts relating to climate change as identified by the EPA are considered in Chapter Seven, Assessment of Significant Effects.
	<p><b>Coastal zone management</b></p>	Noted and agreed.

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	<p>Include specific coastal zone management objectives and consider future climate scenarios in terms of predicted higher sea levels and periods of increased frequency of storm conditions and associated flooding. Ensure the protection of ecological buffers/marshlands/estuaries, in order that the effects of coastal squeeze on protected species/designated habitats can be managed appropriately where possible. Highlight the role which estuaries and marshes play in terms of flood alleviation.</p> <p><b>Integration of transport and land-use planning</b> Support the need for compact growth and better integration of transport and land-use planning, including walking and cycling infrastructure, public transport, park-and-ride facilities etc.</p> <p><b>Key plans and programmes and available guidance, resources</b> A list of plans and programmes and various SEA resources and guidance was provided.</p>	<p></p> <p>Noted, the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) is incorporated in the existing GCDP and draft Plan. The GTS was subject to full SEA and AA.</p> <p>Noted, the list of plans and programmes are referenced in Chapter Three. Guidance documents and resources have been used as appropriate and where relevant to the SEA and plan preparation process.</p>
<p><b>Development Application Unit, Departments of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media.</b></p>	<p><b>Detailed submission on the plan identifying useful resources, issues and opportunities relating to nature conservation and built heritage in the plan area.</b></p> <p><b>Key issues are identified for nature conservation as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal Protection and Coastal Squeeze</li> <li>Green network and zoning</li> <li>Transport and greenway projects</li> <li>Drainage and infilling of wetland sites</li> <li>Water quality and Blue spaces</li> <li>Lighting and effects on species particularly bats</li> <li>Invasive alien species</li> <li>Unauthorised development and planning conditions</li> <li>Improving and developing ecological expertise</li> <li>No net loss of biodiversity</li> <li>Ecological opportunities</li> <li>Green infrastructure and ecological corridors</li> <li>Greenways and Blueways</li> <li>Development of public buildings and Council owned lands</li> <li>Climate change and flood alleviation</li> </ul>	<p>Noted. As part of the SEA process a cross referencing exercise of the GCDP has taken place to ensure issues are reflected. This submission is reflected in the GCDP and considered in this SEA ER.</p>

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	<p><b>Environmental assessments</b> It is imperative that the integrated environmental assessments in relation to the Plan review, including SEA, AA and SFRA, apply the precautionary principal to ensure there is no further deterioration of habitats and species both within and outside designated across the county and in its zone of influence.</p>	<p>Noted. The precautionary principle is a foundational principle of environmental law and assessments and is applied in this SEA process. The SFRA and NIR have informed the drafting of the SEA.</p>
	<p><b>SEA monitoring</b> Monitoring during plan implementation should allow for corrective action and intervention if environmental damage is noted. Have a clear and specific monitoring plan included that would outline how it is proposed to record the impacts of plan implementation on biodiversity, both in terms of biodiversity loss and biodiversity enhancement during the lifetime of the plan and publish any such reports.</p>	<p>Noted, and agreed. The SEA supports recommendations and notes the issues more generally with monitoring under the SEA Directive. A tailored and focused Monitoring Programme is in Chapter Nine of this SEA ER.</p>
	<p><b>Scope of the SEA</b> The Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna section and related sections (such as water, soil etc.) of the Environmental Report should be undertaken by or in conjunction with a suitably qualified ecologist(s) and other specialists as necessary, and in conjunction with the AA process</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
	<p><b>Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)</b> Consider Directives, legislation, plans and policies in the preparation of biodiversity, flora and fauna, environmental protection objectives. SEOs should be included for all nature conservation sites (not only European sites), protected species, and ecological corridors and stepping stones, and address key threats such as the spread of invasive species</p>	<p>Noted, SEOs to reference stepping stones, local biodiversity and connectivity and international and national sites of biodiversity value.</p>
	<p><b>Elements of biodiversity, flora and fauna of potential relevance to the SEA</b> The scope of the SEA should include data gathering, analysis and assessment of the implications for each of the elements listed, paying particular attention to the likely and realistic effects of the Plan.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed where appropriate.</p>
	<p><b>Built and cultural heritage</b> A detailed submission was provided that presents an overview of EU and national policies and promotion of city centre living, architectural heritage, adaptive reuse and climate change. Policy recommendations are made in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architecture</li> <li>• Revitalisation of historic core,</li> <li>• National Inventory of Architectural Heritage,</li> <li>• NIAH Garden Survey,</li> <li>• Built vernacular architecture,</li> <li>• Housing/settlement policy,</li> <li>• Climate Change and sustainability/energy efficiency,</li> </ul>	<p>Noted. As part of the SEA process a cross referencing exercise of the GCDP has taken place to ensure this submission is reflected in the Plan and considered in this SEA ER.</p>

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism,</li> <li>• Architectural heritage/conservation, settlement/architectural conservation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Summary of key points of particular relevance to the SEA</b>  In summary there are a number of new areas of interest that the Department considers require greater attention and focus in future development plan and policies of Local Authorities including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. National Policy on Architecture</li> <li>b. Heritage Ireland 2030 (Draft)</li> <li>c. Climate Change</li> <li>d. Flood Relief works</li> <li>e. Urban revitalisation</li> <li>f. The identification, reuse and repair of early urban buildings</li> <li>g. National Inventory of Architectural Heritage</li> <li>h. The Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for the Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019) presents opportunities for the potential of built heritage to be fully considered in terms of global climate change challenges.</li> </ol>	<p>Noted, these issues will be referenced as appropriate in Chapter Four and Seven of this SEA ER. New national policies when available will be referenced as appropriate. As part of the SEA process a cross referencing exercise of the GCDP has taken place to ensure this submission is reflected in the plan and considered in this SEA ER.</p>
<b>Geological Survey of Ireland</b>	<p>An update to the Geological Heritage Audit for Galway City was completed in 2020 and is due for publication by Geological Survey Ireland. The number of sites of geological heritage importance in the current City Development Plan is noted.</p>	<p>Noted, the baseline section in Chapter 4 of this SEA ER has been amended to reflect this updates information.</p>
	<p><b>Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)</b>  The inclusion of CGSs in the draft Strategic Environmental Objectives, with the objective: “S4: Protect and conserve important geological heritage sites” is noted. Welcomes and supports the continued inclusion of these ‘Audited’ CGSs in the new Galway City SEA and GCDP with specific policy objectives. Policy recommendations provided for the GCDP relating to geological heritage sites</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. As part of the SEA process a cross referencing exercise of the GCDP has taken place to ensure this submission is reflected in the plan and considered in this SEA ER.</p>
	<p><b>Culture and tourism</b>  In trend of geology gaining traction in Irish tourism (e.g. Ireland’s three UNESCO Global Geoparks, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland’s Ancient East), encourage Galway City Council to use the geological audit and for geology to be a significant part of any tourism initiative that may be introduced.</p> <p><b>Datasets</b>  Stone Built Ireland is a 2 year research project. Other datasets recommended for use by GSI including Geological Mapping, Groundwater etc.</p>	<p>Noted. SEA ER has used GSI datasets in Chapter 4 in particular for baseline data.</p>

*See also Chief Executive Report on the Pre-draft Plan Consultation Process Report on Pre-draft Submissions*



## 2.3 Baseline Data

The baseline data assists in describing the current state of the environment, facilitating the identification, evaluation, and subsequent monitoring of the effects of the Plan. It helps identify issues and threats in and around the Plan area and in turn these can be quantified (for certain environmental parameters) or qualified. This highlights the environmental issues relevant to each SEA parameter and ensures that the Plans implementation does not exacerbate such problems. Conversely this information can also be used to promote good environmental practices and opportunities for environmental enhancement, thereby improving environmental quality where possible.

Baseline data was gathered for all parameters. Additional primary research included a walkover with SEA team on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and workshops relating to SEA scoping, climate change and alternatives with GCC. Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR) information from large projects such as the N6 Galway City Ring Road, SEA ER of the Galway Transport Strategy and the Galway Public Realm Strategy and data from Irish Water, the EPA, Met Eireann, GCC reports was used as appropriate. Footnotes throughout the document, particularly in Chapter Four present the reference and source.

The SEA has also used a Geographical Information System (GIS) in the following ways:

- To provide baseline information on a range of environmental parameters;
- To assist in assessment of alternatives;
- To help assess in-combination or cumulative impacts, and
- To provide maps to illustrate environmental parameters in the SEA Environmental Report.

## 2.4 Approach to Assessment of Significant Environmental Impacts

The principal component of the SEA involves a broad environmental assessment of the *GCDP 2023-2029*. The assessment described within this Environmental Report aims to highlight the potential conflicts, if they are present, between the *GCDP 2023-2029* with the Strategic Environmental Objectives. Furthermore, the assessment examines the potential impact arising from the Plans implementation on sensitive environmental receptors.

The SEA Directive requires that information be focused upon **relevant aspects** of the environmental characteristics of the area likely to be **significantly affected** by the plan and the likely change, both positive and negative, where applicable. A key part of the SEA process has been the integration of the *GCDP 2023-2029*, the SEA, AA and SFRA. The iterative nature of the SEA process is such that the plan is informed by environmental considerations throughout the preparation of the plan. The NIR and SFRA are separate documents to this Environmental Report all of which accompany this Plan.

## 2.5 Mitigation

Section (g) of Schedule 2B of the SEA Regulations requires information on the mitigation measures that will be put in place to minimise/eliminate any significant adverse impacts due to the implementation of the *GCDP 2023-2029*.

Chapter Eight details the mitigation measures necessary to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the plan.

## 2.6 Monitoring

Article 10 of the SEA Directive sets out the requirement that monitoring is to be carried out of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Chapter Nine presents the monitoring programme for the *GCDP 2023-2029*.

## 2.7 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) of the *GCDP 2023-2029* has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG

and OPW, 2009) as amended by Circular PL2/2014 (August 2014). The SFRA has informed and influenced the plan making process and the SEA.

## 2.8 Habitats Directive Assessment

The Habitats Directive requires, *inter alia*, that plans and programmes undergo AA screening to establish the likely or potential effects arising from implementation of the Plan. If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain then the plan must undergo Stage 2 AA. As part of the preparation of the *GCDP 2023-2029*, SEA and AA are taking place concurrently and the findings of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) have informed both the SEA and the Plan itself. The SEA has also applied the methodology for Integrated Biodiversity Assessment where relevant (EPA, 2015).

## 2.9 Data Gaps

Data gaps are present in terms of unclassified water bodies, small area statistics on human health and population. The deferred national census due to COVID 19 means population data is reliant upon the 2016 Census Data. Accessing biodiversity data whilst much improved is also in the case of the National Biodiversity Centre dependent upon voluntary submission of data frequently. More broadly, understanding the interactions between climate change, weather events, and impacts on water and biodiversity in particular are complex. Sectoral climate change adaptation plans have been referenced and used to fill these data gaps where possible. In relation to public health and green and blue space, recent EPA and HSE funded research has been used to both inform design principles and to demonstrate an evidenced based approach to public health and access to green and blue space<sup>1</sup>.

The SEA ER has used an ecosystems services modelling approach to attempt to address these data gaps particularly in terms of understanding the role and inter-relationships between environmental parameters including water resources, biodiversity and human health.

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<sup>1</sup> Research 264: Green and Blue Spaces and Health: A Health-led Approach. 2) Research 328: Eco-Health: Ecosystem Benefits of Greenspace for Health. 3) Research 348: Nature and Environment to Attain and Restore Health (NEAR Health). 4) NEAR Health Toolkit

## 3 Relationship to Relevant Plans and Programmes

### 3.1 Introduction

Under the SEA Directive, the relationship between the *GCDP 2023-2029* and other relevant plans and programmes must be taken into account. The preparation of the Plan must be considered within the context of a hierarchy of policies, plans and strategies which include international, national, regional and local level policy documents. These documents set the policy framework within which the Plan will operate. **Figure 3.1** presents the hierarchy of spatial planning in Ireland.



A list of the key relevant international, national, regional and local plans reviewed are provided below. **Table 3.1** identifies key principles to inform the SEA process and how they relate to the EPA Themes in the State of Ireland's Environment as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### 3.2 National

- National Planning Framework and National Development Plan (DHPLG)
- National CFRAMS Programme (OPW)
- National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (DHPLG)
- National Renewable Electricity Policy Framework (in preparation DCCAIE)
- Grid 25 Implementation Strategy (Eirgrid)
- Waste Action Management Plan for a Circular Economy (DCCAIE)
- Draft National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA, in preparation)
- Draft National Marine Planning Framework (DAFM)
- Seafood Operation Programme / Strategic Aquaculture Programme (DAFM)
- Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (DAFM)
- National Broadband Plan (DCCAIE)
- National Landscape Strategy (DCHG)
- National Biodiversity Plan (DCHG)
- Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme / Draft Water Resources Management Plan (Irish Water)
- Climate Action Plan (DCCAIE)
- Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Low Carbon Roadmaps
- Smarter Transport / Strategic Framework for Integrated Land Transport (DTTAS)

- Framework for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure in Transport (DTTAS)
- Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (DCCAIE)
- State of the Environment Report 2020 (EPA)
- National Mitigation Plan (DCCAIE)
- National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (DCCAIE)
- 10 Year Tourism Strategy (Fáilte Ireland)
- National Greenway Strategy (DTTAS)
- Urban Development & Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHPLG)

### 3.3 Regional and Local

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for Galway (NWRA)
- Relevant CFRAMS Flood Risk Management Plan (OPW)
- Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters (DHPLG)
- Regional Waste Management Plan (CUWR)
- National Investment Framework for Transport Investment (DTTAS)
- National River Basin Management Plans (DHPLG)
- Galway City Council Documentation:
  - Galway Transport Strategy 2016-2035
  - Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2021
  - Public Realm Strategy 2019 and associated Design, Activity and Delivery Manuals
  - Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024
  - Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024
  - Recreation and Amenity Needs Study 2008
  - Heritage Plan 2016-2020
  - Galway City Walls Conservation Management and Interpretation Plan 2013
  - Litter Management Plan 2018-2022
  - Everyone Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2023
  - Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022
  - Emerging Arts Strategy 2020-2025
  - Galway 2020 Making Waves
  - Economic Sustainability Strategy 2015-2021
  - Galway to 2025 – Draft Tourism Strategy (2016)
  - Galway as a Child Friendly City 2000
  - Age Friendly Programme 2014
  - City Noise Action Plan 2019-2023
  - Major Emergency Plan
- Galway County Council Development Plan 2015-2021, associated environmental assessments and emerging 2022-2028 Plan.

TABLE 3-1 PRINCIPLES ARISING FROM PLAN, POLICY AND PROGRAMME REVIEW AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE EPA STATE OF IRELAND'S ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GOALS			
SEA Topic	Principles for the CDP and SEA	EPA Irelands Environment 2020 Key Messages	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance biodiversity at all levels</li> <li>• Avoid and minimise effects on nationally and internationally rare and threatened species and habitats through sensitive design and consultation, recognising ecological connectivity where possible</li> <li>• Facilitate species and habitat adaption to climate change</li> <li>• Avoid and minimise habitat fragmentation and seek opportunities to improve habitat connectivity</li> <li>• Ensure careful consideration of non-native invasive and alien species issues</li> </ul>	SOE 4 Climate SOE 5 Air Quality SOE 6 Nature SEO 8 Marine SOE 11 Water Services SEO 12 Circular Economy SOE 13 Land use	SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Population, Human Health, Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide for sustainable communities with key services</li> <li>• A high quality environment to live, work and play in</li> <li>• Avoid pollution and environmental health impacts (noise and air quality) through mitigation and design</li> </ul>	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE4 Climate SOE5 Air Quality SOE 11 Water Services SOE 12 Circular Economy SOE13 Land-use	SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and improve water quality</li> <li>• Avoid and minimise effects on natural processes, particularly natural flood management and catchment processes through sensitive design and consultation</li> <li>• Adapt and improve resilience to the effects of climate change, particularly flood risks associated with extreme weather</li> </ul>	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE5 Air Quality SOE4 Climate SOE6 Nature SOE 11 Water Services SOE13 Land-use	SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for everyone SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SEA Topic	Principles for the CDP and SEA	EPA Irelands Environment 2020 Key Messages	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise water consumption</li> <li>Design SUDS to facilitate ecological improvement/ enhancement where possible</li> </ul>		
Soil and Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve soil resources where possible and avoid waste of soil resources</li> <li>Maintain productive capacity and prevent erosion of soils</li> <li>Ensure careful consideration of non-native invasive and alien species issues</li> </ul>	SOE4 Climate SOE6 Nature SOE 11 Water Services SOE 12 Water Services SOE13 Land-use	SDG12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
Air Quality and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapt and improve resilience to the effects of climate change</li> <li>Encourage reduction in greenhouse gases through transport, energy, built development</li> <li>Minimise adverse impacts associated with air and noise quality</li> </ul>	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE5 Air Quality SOE4 Climate SOE6 Nature SOE 8 Marine SOE9 Clean Energy SOE 11 Water Services SOE12 Circular Economy SOE13 Land-use	SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns SDG13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid and minimise waste generation</li> <li>Maximise re-use of material resources and use of recycled materials</li> <li>Minimise energy consumption and encourage use of renewable energy</li> <li>Promote sustainable transport patterns and modes.</li> <li>Plan and provide for sustainable water management and wastewater treatment</li> </ul>	SEO3 Health and Wellbeing SOE 5 Air Quality SOE 8 Marine SOE9 Clean Energy SOE 13 Land use SOE 11 Water Services SOE 12 Circular Economy	SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve, preserve and record architectural and archaeological heritage</li> <li>Avoid and minimise effects on historic environment features through sensitive design and consultation</li> </ul>	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE 12 Circular Economy SOE13 Land-use	SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. SDG16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for

SEA Topic	Principles for the CDP and SEA	EPA Irelands Environment 2020 Key Messages	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
			all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the character of the plan area through design</li> <li>Integrate green network considerations</li> <li>Improve landscape connectivity to surrounding area</li> </ul>	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE 4 Climate SOE 5 Air Quality SOE 6 Nature SEO 8 Marine SOE 11 Water Services SOE 12 Circular Economy SOE 13 Land-use	SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Inter-relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes</li> <li>Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement</li> </ul>	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE 4 Climate SOE5 Air Quality SOE6 Nature SOE7 Water Services SOE 8 Marine SOE9 Clean Energy SOE 11 Water Services SOE12 Circular Economy SOE13 Land-use	All SDGs

## 4 Environmental Baseline

### 4.1 Introduction

This section of the Environmental Report examines the relevant significant characteristics of the current state of the environment in relation to Biodiversity Flora and Fauna, Population Human Health and Noise, Water, Air and Climate, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage, Landscape, Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services, the interrelationship between SEA topics and the evolution of same in the absence of the *GCDP 2023-2029*. The baseline description is focussed primarily on the plan area of Galway City Council, however, given the shared boundaries with neighbouring local authorities, there is potential for transboundary environmental impacts on water quality, biodiversity etc. In line with the SEA Directive, the **potential significant** aspects of the environment likely to be affected by the *GCDP 2023-2029* have been described and compiled using available datasets and the scoping process.

#### 4.1.1 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Ireland is a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals are a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. All countries are encouraged to develop national responses to the SDGs and incorporate them into planning and policy and these will inform the plan preparation process.

FIGURE 4-1: UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



### 4.2 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Natural Capital refers to the stock of natural resources that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human wellbeing either directly (as food, medicinal extracts, and fuel), and indirectly by providing clean air and water. The true value of biodiversity and benefits derived from ecosystem services cannot be limited to a financial value, as many interdependencies between biodiversity, natural ecosystems and their benefits to human beings have not been fully understood<sup>2</sup>. The EPA Research Report<sup>3</sup> on Irish marine, coastal and estuarine ecosystem services cites a valuation exercise study of Galway Bay<sup>4</sup>, which used a combination of gross national income and cultural adjustment and demonstrated that the

<sup>2</sup> *Ecosystems Services, Mapping and Assessment* | National Parks & Wildlife Service

<sup>3</sup> Norton, Hynes, and Boyd, *Valuing Ireland's Coastal, Marine and Estuarine Ecosystem Services*

<sup>4</sup> Norton, Hynes, and Boyd



sea and the beaches were the two most valuable ecosystems at €137.6 million and €45.3 million (as of 2012). Figures 4.2 to 4.4 present key ecosystem services at plan level<sup>5</sup>.

FIGURE 4-2 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - CARBON IN SOIL

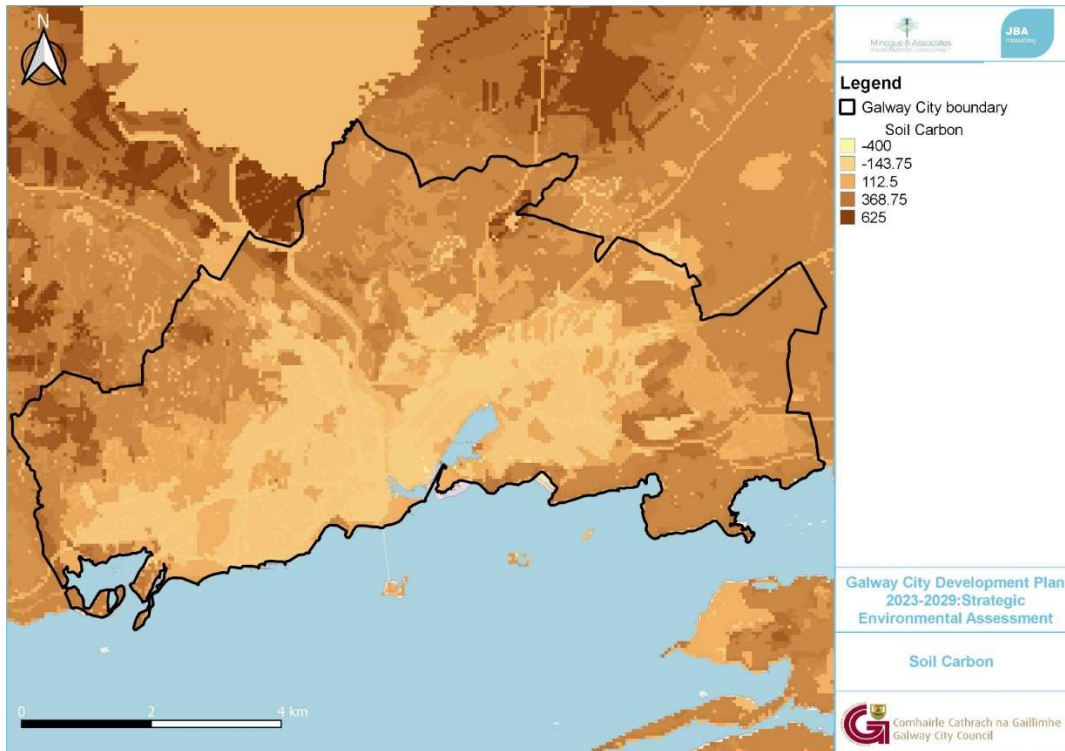
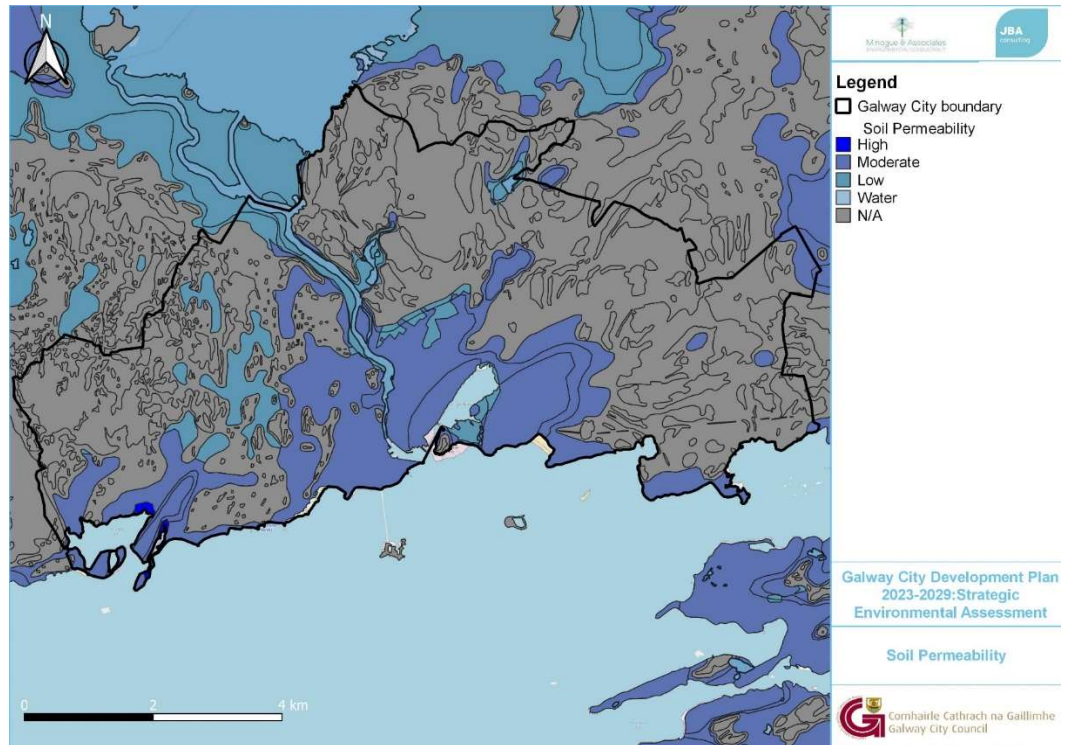
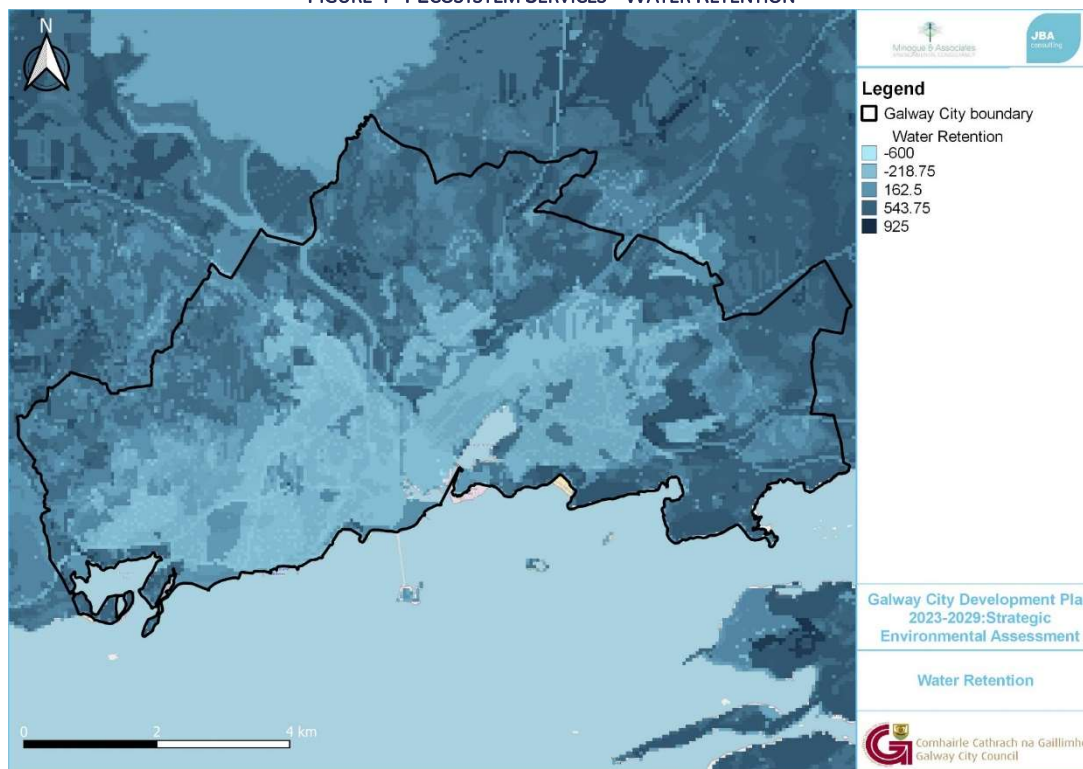


FIGURE 4-3 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - SOIL PERMEABILITY



<sup>5</sup> NPWS Pilot Ecosystem Mapping Project

FIGURE 4-4 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - WATER RETENTION



#### 4.2.1 Green Network

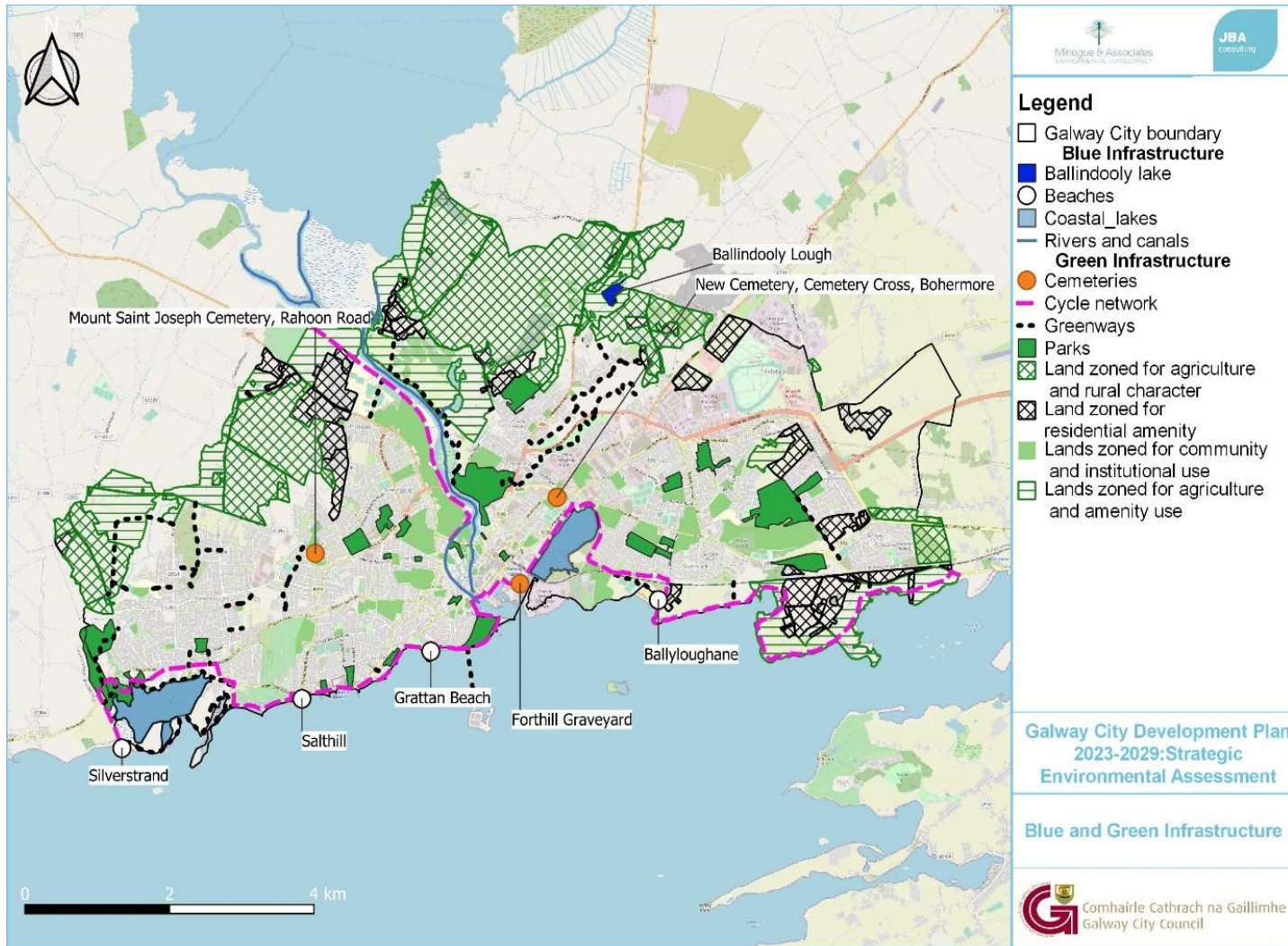
Green spaces are key in terms of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services. Green and Blue Infrastructure can also contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation with co-benefits in terms of biodiversity, water quality, recreation and human health <sup>6</sup>. There is strong policy support in the GCDP to protect and enhance recreation and amenity space, reinforced through the recognition of the importance of the same throughout the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>7</sup>. A fifth of the city's total land area is designated as protected habitats, recreational amenity, open space and agricultural land. Galway's Green Network approach aims to manage and protect the environment and meet the requirements of a number of European Directives, including the Habitats, Birds, Water Framework and Floods Directives. The Green Network (as seen in **Figure 4.5**) supports the linkage between various multifunctional spaces that include:

- Blue Spaces of the city's coastal areas, rivers, lakes and canals
- Protected Spaces of ecological and biodiversity importance
- Green Spaces of woodland parks
- Open Spaces including recreational and amenity and agricultural zoned lands
- Community Spaces, that afford direct access to nature and amenities (e.g. greenways) to the community

<sup>6</sup> Spatial Planning & Climate Action Delivering a Low Carbon & Climate Resilient Future Workshop Report Feb 2021 CARO

<sup>7</sup> "COVID-19 and Sheer Wellbeing 2020 Access to and Use of Blue/Green Spaces in Ireland during a Pandemic".

FIGURE 4-5 MAIN ELEMENTS OF GALWAY CITY'S GREEN NETWORK





## 4.3 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The plan area is rich in biodiversity, with many significant protected habitats and species including coastal habitats and terrestrial habitats supporting a range of species and flora including otters, bats, wildfowl, salmon, lamprey. Other habitats, although not protected are important for providing links between the protected habitats, allow migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild plants and mammals. Examples include scrub, hedgerows, tree lines, roadside verges, housing estate open spaces and gardens. Natural heritage in the plan area includes a wide range of natural features that make an essential contribution to the environmental quality, ecological biodiversity, climate resilience through nature-based solutions landscape character, visual amenity and recreational activities of the city. The current GCDP includes protective policy measures relating to biodiversity, flora and fauna, notably in Chapter 4, Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity. The Council also supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan which aims to help pollinators by improving biodiversity.

### 4.3.1 Protected Sites

A full assessment of the *GCDP 2023-2029* against the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the designated sites is undertaken throughout the appropriate assessment process which has been undertaken in conjunction with the Plan preparation and SEA processes and is presented in the Natura Impact Report. Under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation. The aim of the NHA network is to conserve and protect nationally important plant and animal species and their habitats. They are also designated to conserve and protect nationally important landforms, geological or geomorphological features. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive together with the Habitats Regulations 2011; place a high degree of importance on these sites as features that connect European sites. **Figures 4.7 and 5.8** presents these sites.

### 4.3.2 Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024

The Galway Biodiversity Action Plan (GBAP 2014-2024) takes into consideration the findings of the Habitats Inventory (2005) and a range of national and local policy documents and sets out actions to promote and conserve the city's natural heritage. The GBAP identifies potential wildlife corridors<sup>8</sup> with the main corridor the River Corrib, this connects the coastal habitats and the rich mosaic of habitats in the city's hinterland. Twelve Local Biodiversity Areas were identified in the current Plan and are presented below in **Table 4.1**.

**TABLE 4-1 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY AREAS IDENTIFIED IN GALWAY CITY BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2014-2024**

Name	Summary
<b>Rusheen Bay – Barna Woods – Illaunafamona</b>	This mosaic of habitats is located around the intertidal area of Rusheen Bay. The area has several types of shoreline including glacial cliffs, gravel banks, rocky shore, sandy shore, muddy sand and salt marsh. It also has several types of woodland in Barna Woods together with various semi-natural grassland types between Silverstrand and Gentian Hill. The entire area designated as either a SAC and/or SPA.
<b>Cappagh – Ballymoneen</b>	An area of blanket bog, fen, wet grassland and scrub located between Cappagh and Ballymoneen Roads.
<b>Ballagh – Barnacranny Hill</b>	Connemara peatlands, which includes blanket bog, fen, wet grassland, heath land and scrub, located east of Tonabrocky. This area is designated a NHA.
<b>Mutton Island and nearby shoreline</b>	The intertidal area around Mutton Island and the shoreline between the Grattan Road strand and Nimmo's Pier hold the highest densities of wintering birds in the immediate vicinity of the city. The habitats are a mixture of rocky shore, sandy shore and shingle banks. The entire area is covered by SPA designation.
<b>Lough Atalia and Renmore Lagoon</b>	Lough Atalia is a land-locked inlet holds tidal water at low tide and has the largest salt marsh within the city. Renmore Lagoon, an outlet of Lough Atalia, is brackish and is surrounded by wet grassland, reed swamp and shingle banks. Lough Atalia and the intertidal area at Renmore except the Renmore Lagoon is designated a SPA.

<sup>8</sup> Kindermann, G. 2004

Name	Summary
<b>River Corrib and adjoining wetlands</b>	The River Corrib and the associated wetlands at Illaunacorra, including Jordan's Island, contain an important complex of habitats such as lowland river, limestone/marl lake, reed swamp, wet grassland and wet woodland. The area also includes reed swamp and meadows on either side of the Dyke Road between Quincentenary Bridge and Salmon Weir and wet woodland at Dangan to the south of Dangan Business and Technology Park on the west bank of the river and peatland areas north of Bushypark.
<b>Menlough to Coolagh Hill</b>	Area of high value habitats centred on the Menlough area to the north of the city. The area has thin calcareous soils overlying limestone, which is exposed on the surface in many places. The area includes oak-ash-hazel woodland at Menlo Woods. It includes a mosaic of exposed limestone rock, calcareous grassland and hazel scrub. A small turlough occurs at the centre of this area.
<b>Ballindooley – Castlegar</b>	This area is centred on Ballindooley Lough and holds fen, reed swamp, wet grassland, scrub and exposed limestone rock. The Castlegar area also contains smaller areas of wet grassland, scrub and exposed limestone.
<b>Ballybrit Racecourse</b>	Large open area of species-rich calcareous grassland.
<b>Merlin Park Woods</b>	Woodlands containing mature broad-leaved trees, mixed broad-leaved conifer woodland and scrub. Located north and south of Merlin Park, Hospital and Dublin Road.
<b>Doughiska</b>	This area along the eastern boundary of the city, is centred on an area of exposed limestone rock with calcareous grassland and scrub. The grassland contains orchid species.
<b>Roscam</b>	The peninsula of Roscam lies between Oranmore Bay to the east and the townland of Murrough to the west, with the railway line dividing it from lands to the north. It contains some small but relatively undisturbed examples of saltmarsh, shingle banks, brackish lagoon, sandy shore and muddy sand shore, with calcareous grassland and scrub.

### 4.3.3 Wetlands

The value of wetlands includes their function in improving water quality, for floodwater storage whereby they can slow down the force of flood and storm waters as they travel downstream; habitat for wildlife; biodiversity support and provision of recreational and cultural heritage services. The role of wetlands is recognized as forming a vital element in addressing climate change effects by acting as carbon storage. **Figure 4.9** presents a map of the wetlands present in the plan area, based from the Wetland Survey of Ireland database<sup>9</sup>.

### 4.3.4 Habitat Mapping and Ecological Surveys

Extensive habitat and other ecological surveys have been undertaken as part of the EIAR for the N6 Galway City Ring Road project (N6 GCRR), which was recently approved with conditions and modifications by An Bord Pleanála. The surveys have provided considerable detail and information on habitats and species close to and within the plan area.

### 4.3.5 Habitats and Species outside of Designated Sites

The Terryland River is an important water corridor fringed by wetlands and the Terryland Forest Park, with the presence of turloughs to the north of the city and a large lake that occurs in the limestone area of Illaunacorra. Extensive peatland areas occur on the western edge of Galway City, and are deemed internationally rare in its presence as mosaics in the townlands of Cappagh and Ballagh. A rare plant, the slender bog cotton, occurs in the particularly wet, quaking bogs and peaty lake edges and is found within the city boundaries.

Habitats recorded at Ardaun include dry calcareous and natural grassland and exposed calcareous rock. The small white orchid (*Pseudochis alba*) is a legally protected plant (under the Flora Protection Order 1999), and six instances of the same were recorded.

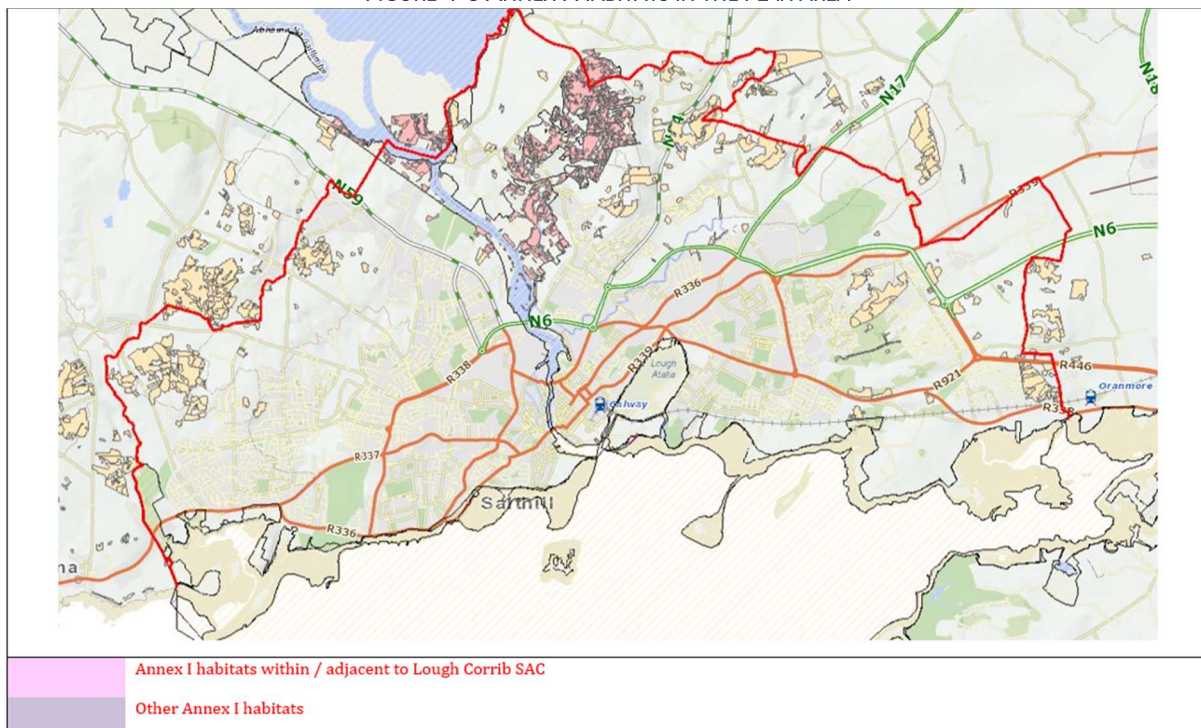
<sup>9</sup> [www.wetlandsurveyireland.com](http://www.wetlandsurveyireland.com) Foss & Crushell. Accessed 13/4/2021

The coastal zone of Galway City contains a wide range of coastal habitats, including saltmarsh, shingle and sand banks, sandy and muddy shores. Perceived to be one of the best ornithological areas in the western region, it supports a diversity of wintering wetland birds with divers, grebes, cormorants, ducks, swans, geese and waders all represented.

Areas with outcropping limestone rock occur mainly in the northern and south-eastern fringes of the city, often in association with scrub and calcareous grassland. Furthermore, predominantly urban spaces in the city are not wildlife deserts and can be observed to support a range of plants and animals, mainly in public green spaces, parks, old stone walls, hedgerows, graveyards, bridges, rivers, canals, gardens and waste ground.

**Figure 4.6** (sourced from Draft Habitat and Species Datasets recorded for N6GCRP Project) includes details of Annex I habitats outside European sites recorded in the plan area. These are protected under planning and wildlife/habitat legislation. Local Biodiversity Areas, wildlife corridors and stepping stones have indirect positive impacts on the coherence of European sites within the Natura 2000 network (See also NIR Report).

**FIGURE 4-6 ANNEX I HABITATS IN THE PLAN AREA**



### 4.3.6 Trees and Woodlands

Galway City contains various urban woodlands, significant in terms of contribution to local biodiversity and refuge areas for wildlife, as well as contributing to the wider ecological network. A summary of the principal urban woodlands is provided below:

- **Terryland Forest Park:** Twelve mammal species have been recorded at Terryland Forest Park including seven species of bats and species generally confined to rural areas, such as the Irish hare. The occurrence of the Irish hare in the urban setting is indicative of the interconnectedness of the natural areas within the city.<sup>10</sup>
- **Barna Woods:** is approximately 21ha and is of high ecological value as it connects to other habitats of high conservation importance on an international scale, including Galway Bay Complex SAC. The site also has a rich archaeological heritage. Habitats recorded at Barna Wood including oak-ash-hazel woodland, mixed alder-oak-ash woodland and dry calcareous and neutral grassland.<sup>11</sup>
- **Merlin Park Woods:** contains a range of habitats including native oak-ash-hazel woodland, mixed broadleaved woodland, conifer woodland, limestone pavement, wet grassland, scrub and a stream. There are

<sup>10</sup> Galway City's Wildlife | Galway City Biodiversity

<sup>11</sup> Codes derived from Fossitt classification codes and descriptions

records of several birds and bat species utilising the woods, as well as sightings of red squirrels. The long-eared owl *Asio otus* is known to breed within the conifer woodland at Merlin Park Woods.

Expanding and further greening the plan area is a key objective of the Galway Public Realm Strategy and the proposed Greenspace Strategy (further discussion can be found under Section 4.9 Landscape).

## 4.3.7 Fauna

### 4.3.7.1 Birds

Galway Bay is an important ornithological site with its shallow waters providing excellent habitat for species including Great Northern Divers and Red-breasted Merganser. Inner Galway Bay support species such as Black-throated Diver, Light-bellied Brent Goose, and Common Tern. Lough Atalia, supports an impressive variety of bird species including Little Grebe, Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser and common waders such as Oystercatcher. Nimmo's Pier in the Claddagh supports gulls and waders in winter and at low tide. The Claddagh basin is known for its herd of Mute Swans, as well as the migratory gulls such as Ring-billed Gull.

### 4.3.7.2 Mammals

The Harbour Seal (*Phouca vitulina*) occurring in the Galway Bay Complex SAC occupy both the aquatic and intertidal shorelines that become exposed during the tidal cycle. Inner Galway Bay supports the presence of the Common Seal and Otter, both listed under the Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Otter, Lesser Horseshoe Bat and Irish Hare have been recorded in the Lough Corrib SAC. Moycullen Bogs support the Irish Red Data Book species, Red Grouse, and several other faunal species, including the Irish Hare, Fox and amphibian species.

### 4.3.7.3 Aquatic Species

Atlantic Salmon use River Corrib and Lough Corrib as spawning grounds. Populations of Freshwater Pearl Mussel and White-clawed Crayfish occur throughout Lough Corrib. Other species that are listed under Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive are sea lamprey and brook lamprey.

### 4.3.7.4 Invasive and Alien Species

The spread of invasive species, particularly Zebra Mussels into the Corrib system and the abundance of Japanese Knotweed, has been devastating to native biodiversity and poses a serious threat to the natural ecosystems<sup>12</sup>. Other invasive species present in the plan area include Himalayan Balsam, Giant Rhubarb, and Giant Hogweed.

## 4.3.8 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Issues

### Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Issues

The key issues for consideration for biodiversity, flora and fauna in Galway City are as follows:

- Protect the natural environment in the city, strengthen the green network and enhance biodiversity, recognising the declaration of government of a biodiversity emergency.
- Potential impacts to European and Nationally designated sites, loss of habitats (e.g. trees) and disturbance to species.
- Recognise the role of nature based solutions to climate change and prioritise the management of blue and green spaces, by establishing a balance between recreational use and protection.
- The effects of climate change on ecological resources.
- Enhancing tree cover throughout the city would contribute to climate resilience.
- Minimising soil sealing and the sustainable use of water and soil resources.
- Managing and controlling alien invasive plant species. The Zebra Mussels poses a significant pressure on the aquatic ecosystems of the River Corrib. Rise in seawater temperatures have also been linked with increased interactions between recreational users of the ocean and undesirable species such as jellyfish and stinger larvae.

<sup>12</sup> Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024.



FIGURE 4-7 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN 15KM OF THE PLAN AREA

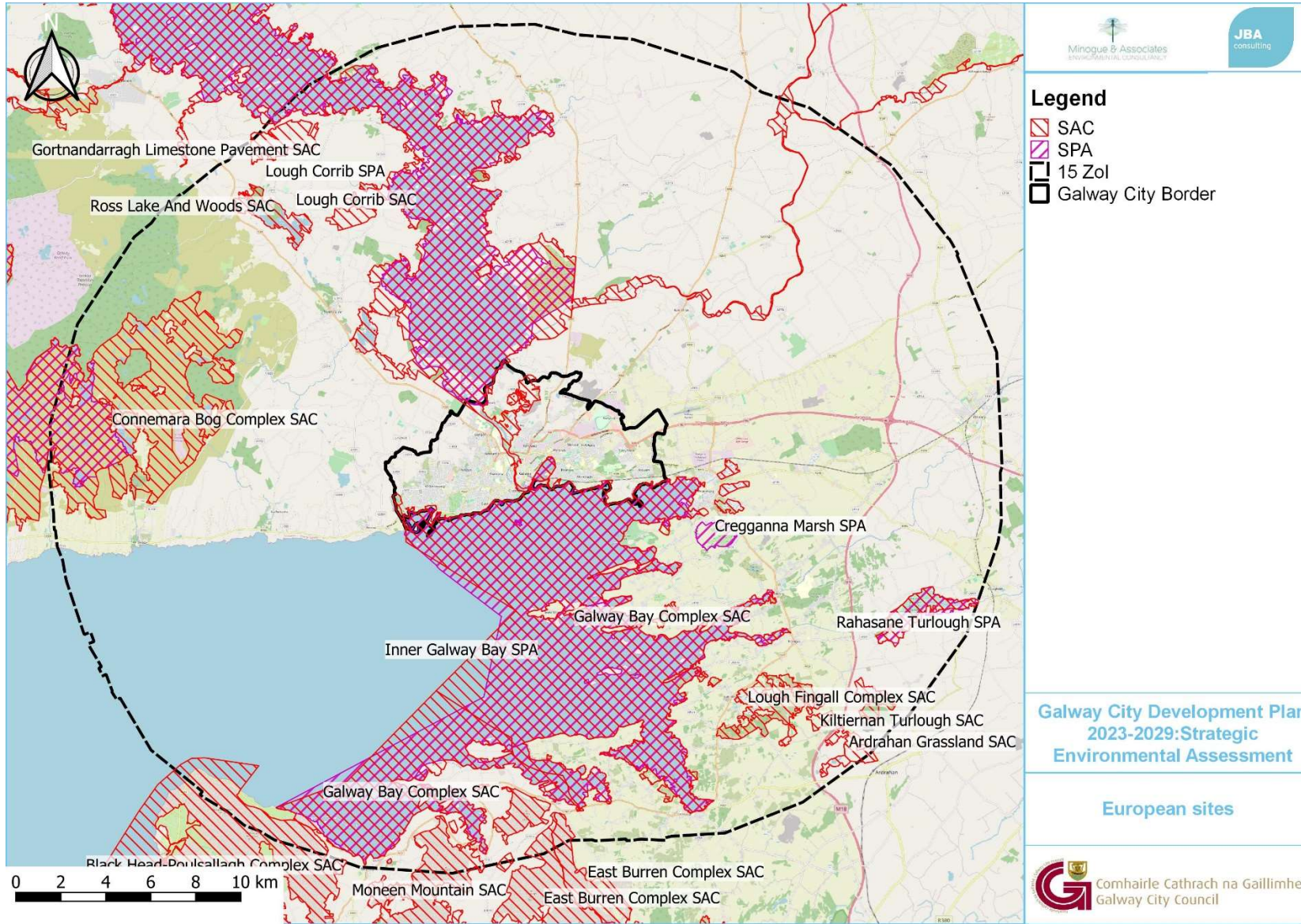




FIGURE 4-8 NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS AND (PROPOSED) NATURAL AREAS IN THE PLAN AREA

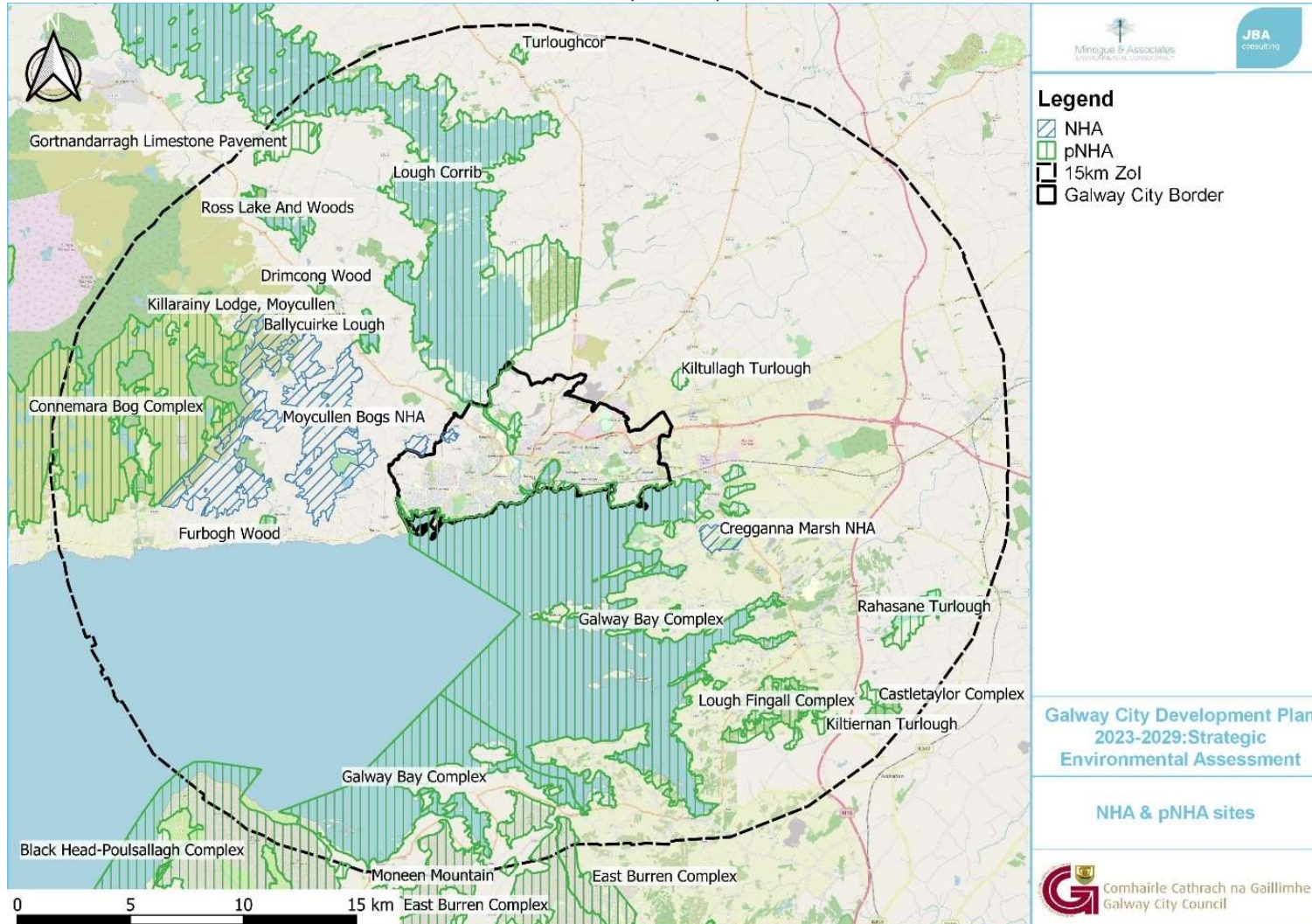
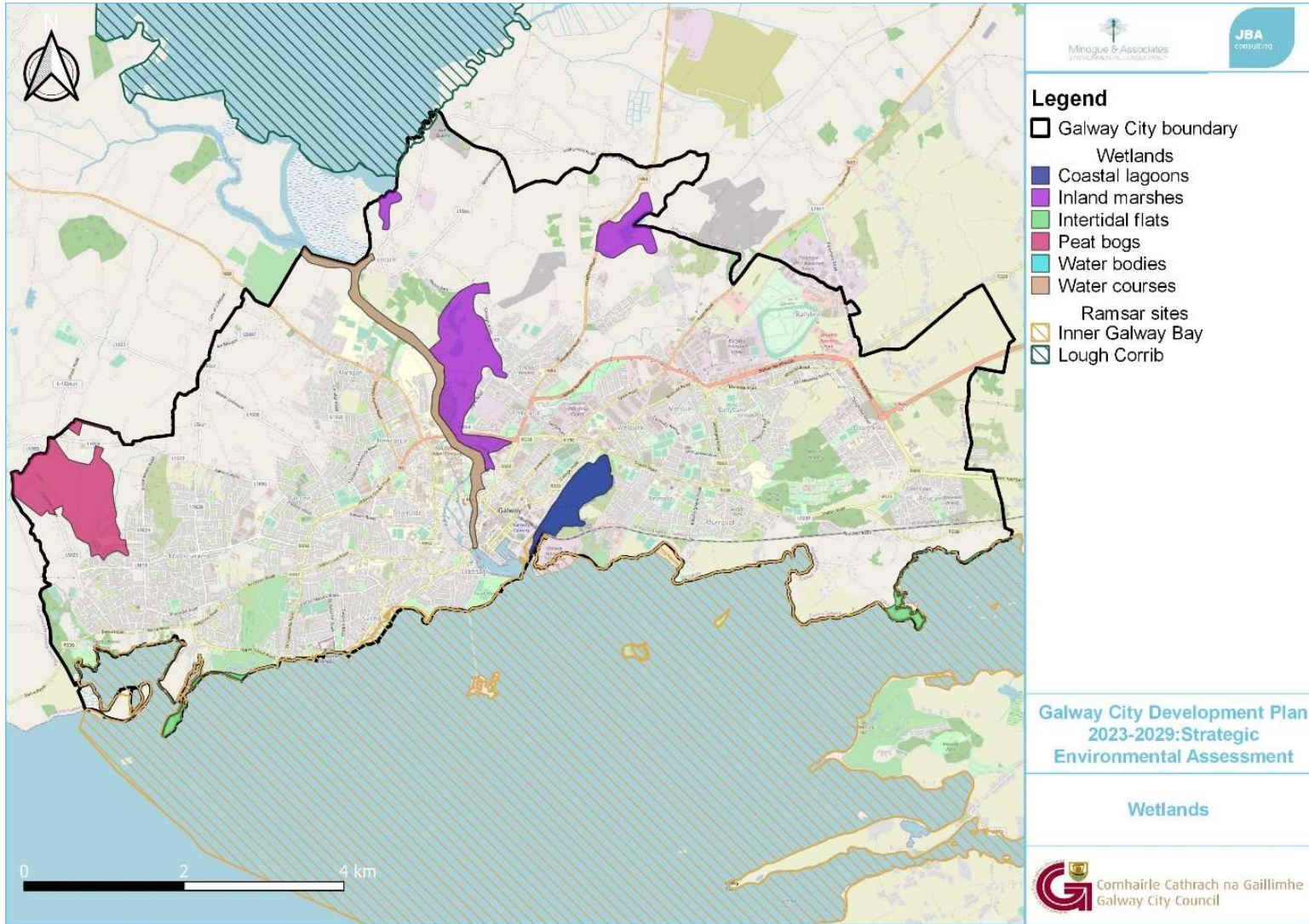


FIGURE 4-9 WETLANDS IN THE PLAN AREA





## 4.4 Population, Human Health and Noise

### 4.4.1 Population and Demographics

Having previously held the title of the fastest growing city in Europe, Galway’s population growth is evidenced by the census figures of 47,000 in 1986 to nearly 78,000 in 2016. The growth is indicative of a national and international trend of increased urbanisation, but even more so of the attractiveness of Galway as an economic, educational, and cultural hub. A key challenge for the city is providing sufficient housing options across all tenures in sustainable neighbourhoods, affordability and social inclusion (in support of people with disabilities, the Traveller community and other ethnic minorities) to surmount barriers such as poverty that prevent people from engaging in education, culture and community activities that enhance quality of life.

Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (NPF) targets the population of Galway City to grow by 40,000 to 45,000 people by 2040 which is an increase of approximately 55%. It also targets half of the homes to accommodate this population increase to be located within the existing built footprints on lands which include key regeneration/brownfield sites, infill sites and underutilised lands at locations that are well served by existing and planned public transport, amenity, social and community infrastructure.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES) for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly area provides a high-level development framework to support the implementation of the NPF and includes a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway. The MASP identifies key infrastructure, services and facilities that will be required to support sustainable city growth and regeneration. It sets out how the NPF population targets can be met in accordance with the principles of sustainable development with the aim to deliver compact growth. For the city and suburbs, the population targets set out in the MASP are to accommodate 23,000 persons to 2026 and a further 12,000 persons to 2031, to be substantially delivered within the existing built-up footprint. In December 2020 following independent research into structural housing demand in Ireland to 2040, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) provided updated figures which are a robust, up-to-date and independently developed housing demand projection, to inform policy and investment with regard to housing at national and local levels. The updated figures for Galway City are set out below. Using these figures, there is housing demand of 754 households annually from 2020-2031 giving a total to 2031 of 9,042 households. Using a household size of 2.5 this would equate to 22,605 population to 2031.

**FIGURE 4-10: PROJECT HOUSING DEMAND BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA<sup>13</sup>**

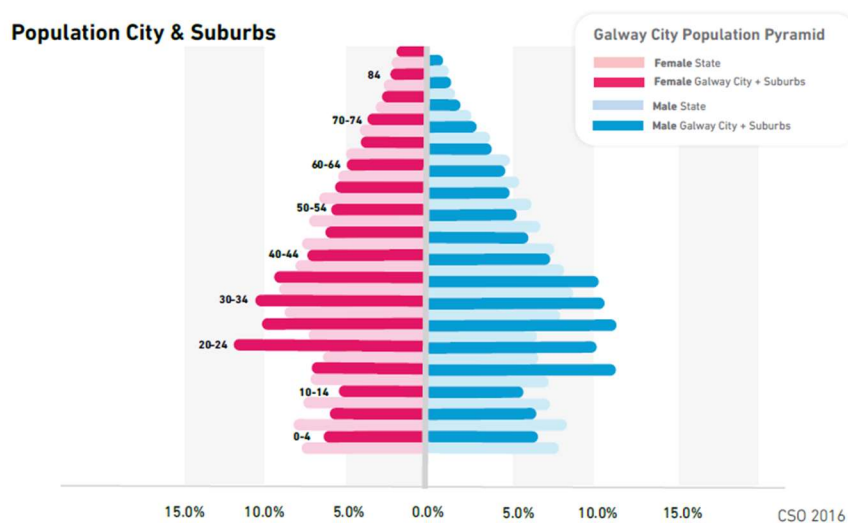
Table 23: Galway City Council		Annual Average	Total Households
A	ESRI NPF scenario projected new household demand 2017 to 2031	619	9,289
B	Actual new housing supply 2017-19	180	540
C	Homeless households, and estimated unmet demand as at Census 2016	N/A	293
D	<b>Housing Demand 2020-31 = Total (A+B+C)/12</b>	754	9,042

The Core Strategy of the current GCDP supports an integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy. It has a focus on the growth of designated regeneration areas at Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and lands in the Headford Road area, it also includes for the direction of development to a sustainable urban extension on the east side of the city at Ardaun, which is a nationally designated Major Urban Housing Delivery Site. A proposed masterplan for the regeneration of lands at Nuns Island is also identified in the plan. The balance of development is for consolidation of the existing suburbs, including Knocknacarra, Ragoon and Castlegar.

The population of Galway city can be depicted in a constrictive pyramid (See **Figure 4.11**). Population density varies across the plan area as shown in **Figure 4.12**. This shows highest density in the city centre and Salthill with lower densities associated with the suburban and rural fringe.

<sup>13</sup> Projected Housing Demand by Local Authority Area 2020-2031 ESRI NPF Scenario Housing Supply Target

FIGURE 4-11. GALWAY CITY POPULATION PYRAMID<sup>14</sup>



The Galway Gaeltacht region has a higher proportion of Irish-speaking inhabitants (75.2%) than all other Gaeltacht areas in the country combined (69.5%). Over the last ten years, the city has seen a growth in the number of resident Irish speakers, driven by the development of the communications industry (as led by TG4, the national Irish language television station), Irish language cultural activities and Irish language schools<sup>15</sup>. The Gaeltacht Area (Galway County and City) in the plan area amounts to a total of 1248sq km, see **Figure 4.13**.

#### 4.4.2 Economic Activities

44,376 jobs were recorded for Galway City (2016), accounting for 18.3% of all jobs in the Western Region. The city’s commuter population of 22,716 suggests an extensive catchment area to support the region’s economy. Galway West was recorded to have the highest rate of employment (53%), followed by Galway East (51%) and Galway Central (45%). 24% of the population aged 15 and over in Galway Central are students, 17% in Galway East and 15% in Galway West<sup>16</sup>. An overview of the number of persons engaged across various industries in Galway City can be viewed in **Table 4.2**. The proportion at work in the various sectors of employment reflects those nationally but it is notable that education and health/social work, much of which is in the state sector, are particularly important to the city’s economy. Some of the largest employers in the plan area include medical device production companies and software firms, including Boston Scientific, Medtronic, and HP. Tourism is a major economic activity within the local economy.

TABLE 4-2 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN GALWAY CITY (2016)<sup>17</sup>

Industry	Persons
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	181
Building and construction	988
Manufacturing industries	5,192
Commerce and trade	7,284
Transport and communications	2,959
Public administration	1,288
Professional services	9,278
Other	8,375
Total	35,545

<sup>14</sup> Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029: Issues Paper

<sup>15</sup> Everybody Matters: A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway (2016-2025)

<sup>16</sup> Economic Baseline Summary Overview: Galway City

<sup>17</sup> Census 2016 Sapmap Area: Settlements Galway City And Suburbs

FIGURE 4-12 POPULATION DENSITY GALWAY CITY

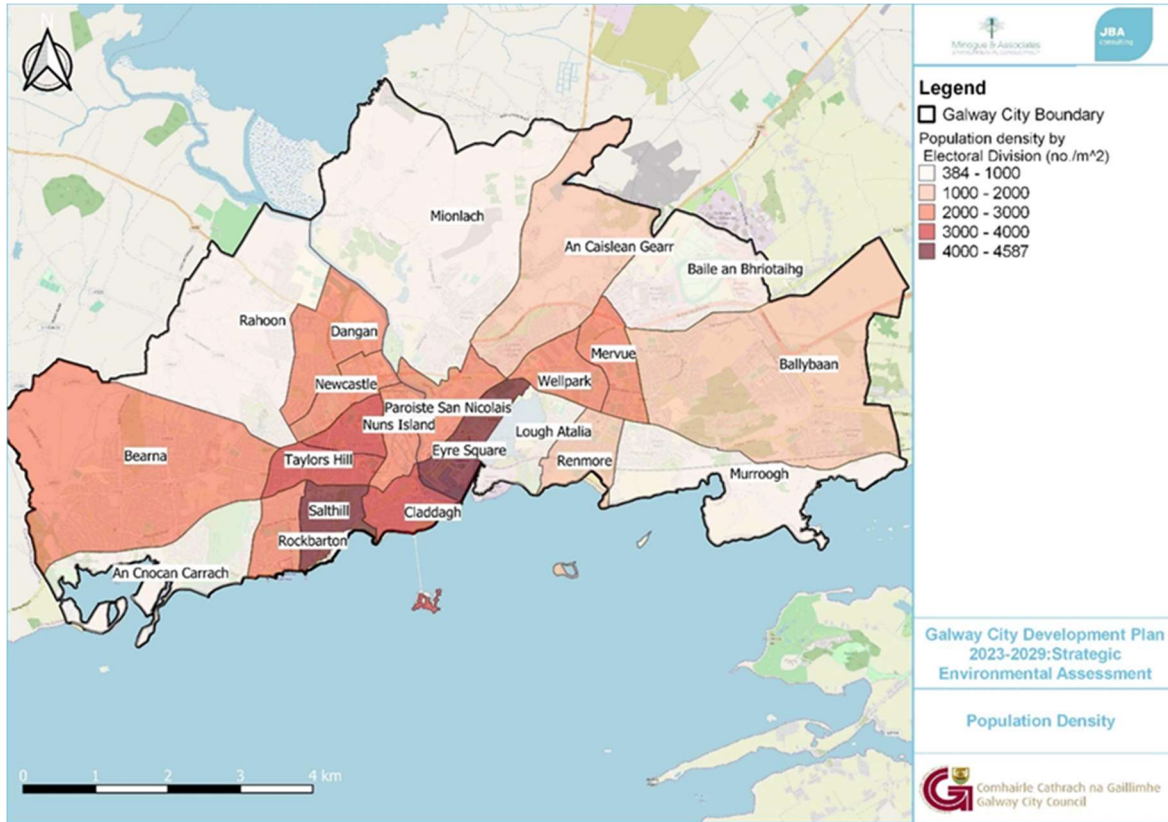
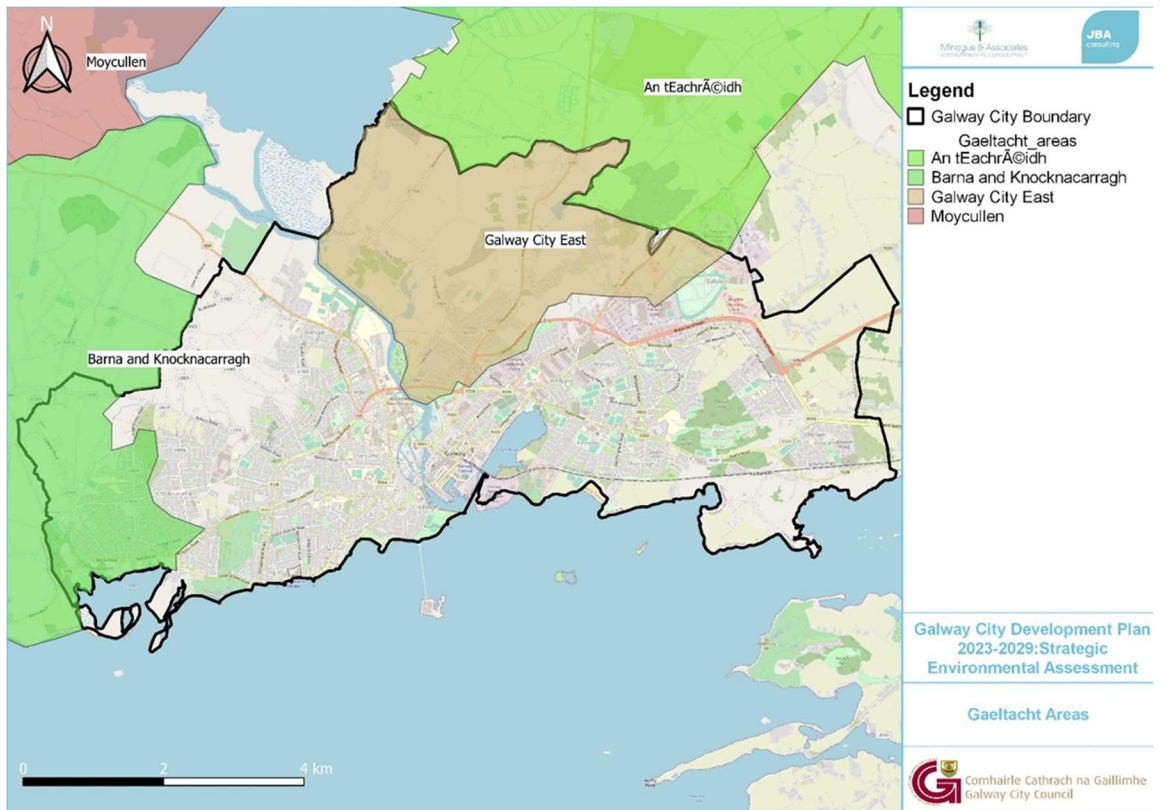


FIGURE 4-13 GAELTACHT AREA IN GALWAY CITY



### 4.4.3 Human Health and Quality of Life

Galway City is a member of the National Network of Health Cities and Counties of Ireland Network, part of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network. The objective is to improve health, well-being and quality of life by implementing the Healthy Ireland Strategy at a local level, through the Healthy Galway City Strategy. Healthy Galway City is a partnership of local stakeholders working collaboratively to address the social determinants of health.

Galway City is a signatory to the Barcelona Declaration which aims to create a more inclusive environment for people with disabilities and is also committed to creating a Child-Friendly and Age-Friendly City. The aim of the Child-Friendly City is to promote safe streets and play areas, good quality clean environment and encourage the participation of children in the social and cultural life of the city. The Age-Friendly City initiative aims to address the environmental, social and economic factors that influences the health and well-being of older adults.

### 4.4.4 Health and Land-use Considerations

Impacts can arise on people's health and quality of life from a range of environmental factors, often through a combination of environmental impacts such as land-use, water quality, air quality, noise and transport patterns. Many of these may be exacerbated from climate change effects and impacts, mostly from the high concentrations of population, infrastructure and economic activities located in these areas, the exacerbation of climate impacts by urban-scale phenomena and dependency on surrounding regions for service provision. The Institute of Public Health Ireland "COVID-19 and Physical Activity" notes that with the introduction of COVID-19 measures, there was a noticeable shift in the exercise habits in citizens of Ireland. Older age groups, notably those aged 70+ reported that their frequency of exercise had decreased, putting them at risk of chronic health conditions associated with sedentary lifestyles. However, younger people (aged 35-44 and 45-54) reported to exercising more with the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions. Spatial planning will need to account for the more vulnerable in their use of public space under unprecedented circumstances such as pandemics and climate change-related effects.

Human health can be determined by social, environmental, and economic factors, among others. Human health may be impacted upon in a variety of ways and through various environmental receptors such as water, biodiversity, climate, flooding, air and major accidents, etc. Disadvantaged people are more likely to live in poor quality-built environments and have limited access to transport and local amenities supporting healthy choices. This has further implications in regard to climate change and adaptation and mitigation to climate change including transport options, green infrastructure, energy provision and efficiencies and air quality emissions.

#### 4.4.4.1 Human Health and Access to Green and Blue Space

Research is now demonstrating the connections between Green and Blue space and human health with key effects identified as follows<sup>18</sup>:

- **Ecosystem services and physical health.** There is a growing body of evidence indicating that the ecosystem services provided by high-quality green space have a significant influence on physical health. Such ecosystem services are particularly beneficial when they are easily accessible and exist in proximity to residential areas.
- **Ecosystem services and mental health and well-being.** Green spaces have been shown to deliver measurable mental health benefits and contribute to general psychological well-being.
- **Ecosystem services and mitigating other forms of environmental risk to health.** Green spaces and their associated vegetation can positively influence health through contributing to improved air and water quality.

The LECP for Galway City (2015-2021) aims for the provision, maintenance and enhancement of infrastructure that supports the economic, cultural, health, environmental and community development. The current GCDP notes that the significant progress was made in the areas of recreation and amenity in the city including at Terryland and Westside Parks, community gardens at Corrib Park and allotments at Shantalla.

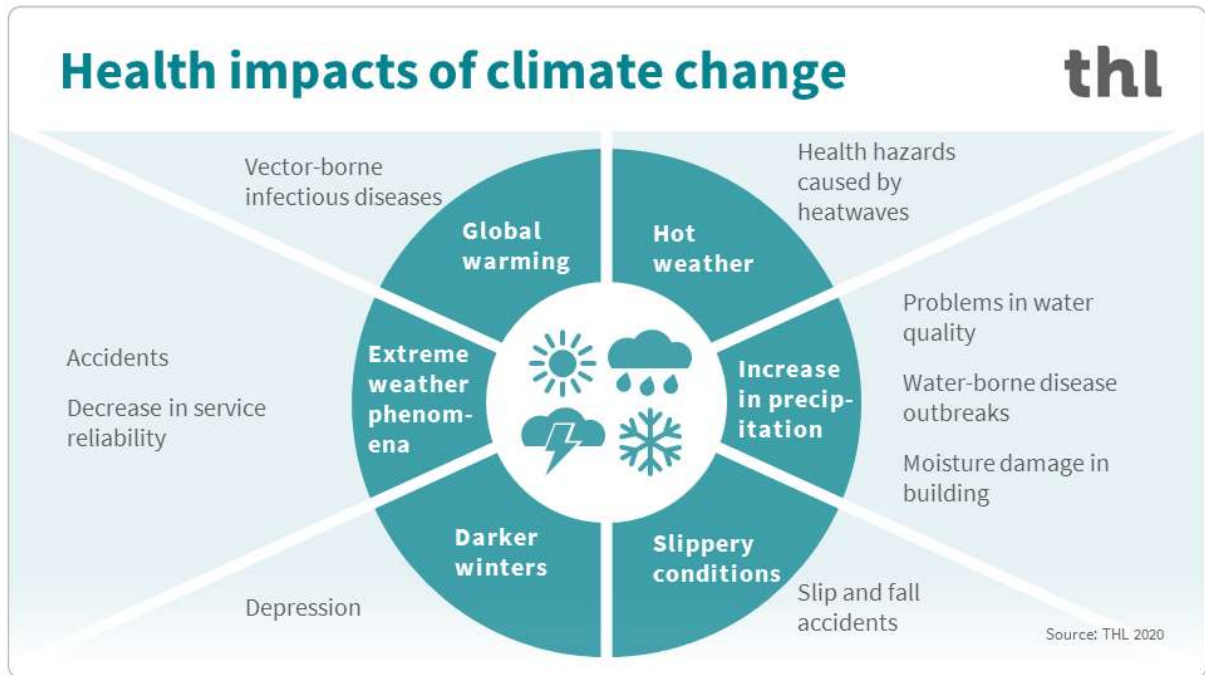
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<sup>18</sup> This text is from page 4 of *Eco-Health: Ecosystem Benefits of Greenspace for Health*; Authors: Mark Scott, Mick Lennon, Owen Douglas and Craig Bullock. EPA No 238 2020

#### 4.4.5 Human Health and Climate Change<sup>19</sup>

The effects of climate change on human health are identified in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019-2024. Identified effects range from increased ultraviolet radiation that may give rise to higher levels of skin cancer amongst citizens with fairer skin, air pollution with accompany effects on respiratory conditions, and effects of flooding and extreme precipitation in terms of damage to infrastructure such as wastewater and water supply. **Figure 4.14** presents a graph highlighting key health impacts of climate change.

FIGURE 4-14 HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE<sup>20</sup>



#### 4.4.6 Human Health and Noise

Noise Action Plans are required under the Environmental Noise Directive (EU 2002/49/EC) transposed into Irish law by SI 140 of 2006. Galway City Council prepared a Noise Action Plan in 2019 (2019-2023) to address environmental noise from major roads with more than three million vehicles per annum. The action planning areas identified in the functional area of Galway City are:

- National Roads: N6, N59, N83, N84
- Regional Roads: R336, R337, R338, R339, R446, R863, R864, R865, R866, R921
- Local Roads: L1002, L1010, L1011, L1012, L1013, L5048, L5147

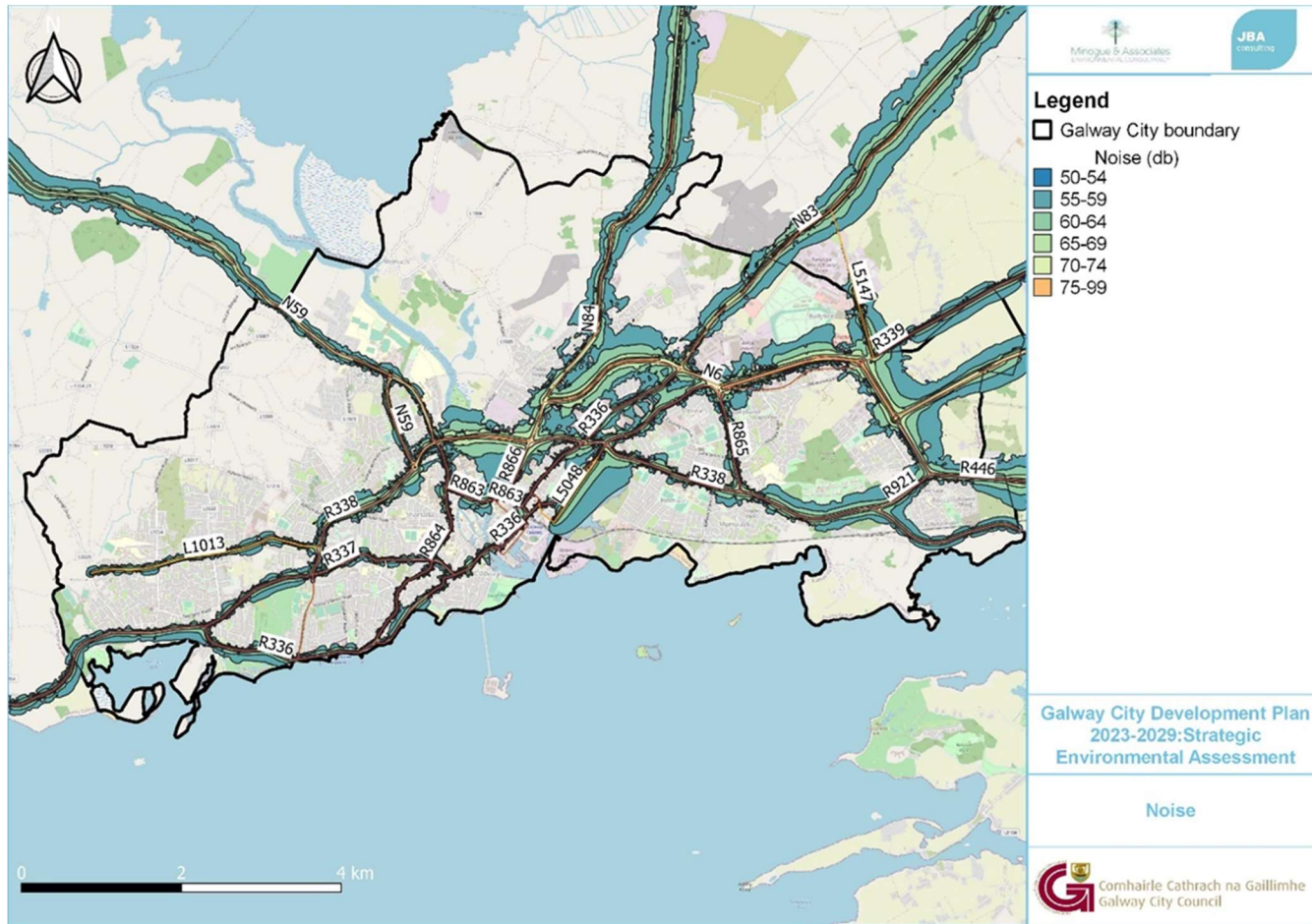
The current GCDP includes measures to minimise noise levels in their development design to reduce the emission and intrusion of noise or vibration which might adversely impact on residential amenities. An overview of noise levels can be viewed in **Figure 4.15**.

<sup>19</sup> Health: Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019-2024

<sup>20</sup> Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare 2020



FIGURE 4-15 NOISE MAP FOR PLAN AREA



#### 4.4.7 Human Health and Air Quality

The Air Framework Directive 96/62/EC (CEC, 1996) details how ambient air quality should be monitored assessed and managed. The Air Quality Index of health<sup>21</sup> is based on hourly monitoring data from sites around Ireland and is based on measurements of five air pollutants all of which can harm health. The five pollutants are:

- Ozone gas
- Nitrogen dioxide gas
- Sulphur dioxide gas
- PM2.5 particles and PM 10 particles.

The two key sectors that predominantly impact negatively on air quality are residential heating and transport<sup>22</sup>. Poor air quality is a major health risk, causing lung diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer. Children, the elderly and citizens suffering from asthma and respiratory conditions are most affected. As well as negative effects on health, air pollution has considerable economic impacts: cutting short lives, increasing medical costs, and reducing productivity through lost working days.

The EPA has two air quality monitoring stations in Galway City at Mace Head and in Ragoon, with the most centrally located station being the Ragoon one, approximately 4km northwest of Galway Ceannt railway station. The most recent air quality recorded at Ragoon<sup>23</sup> (15-09-2020) showed PM<sub>10</sub> levels of approximately 30µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is below the 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> limit value as set by the EU. Galway City Council and NUI Galway undertook a

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>

<sup>22</sup> *Air Quality in Ireland 2016 EPA*

<sup>23</sup> Agency (EPA), *Particulate Matter Results*



collaborative study to understand the long-term air pollution trends in Galway and concluded that the trends show a slow, yet steady improvement<sup>24</sup>.

#### 4.4.8 Seveso Sites

European Union Directive 2012/18/EU applies to industrial establishments where dangerous substances are held in quantities above specified threshold limits. The aim of the directive is the prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances and the limitation of the consequences for humans and the environment if such accidents occur. There is currently one Seveso III Site-in the functional area of Galway City, namely the Circle K Terminal at Galway Harbour Enterprise Park, New Docks, Galway.

#### 4.4.9 Population, Human Health and Noise Issues

Population and Human Health Issues
<p>The regional role of Galway City under the NPF, RSES and MASP along with the growth targets are key requirements of the GCDP, in combination with quality, mixed housing types, sustainable settlement patterns along including compact growth and environmental quality. With that consideration, the following key issues have been highlighted for Population, Human Health and Noise for Galway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate change and reducing our carbon footprint to achieve the national target of zero emissions by 2050 and a reduction target of 7% per annum between 2021 and 2030.</li><li>• Enabling and empowering the city to fulfil its role as a Regional City through the provision of balanced and sustainable economic opportunities.</li><li>• Enabling the city to accommodate NPF growth targets, supporting sustainable city living and achieving a high quality of life for everyone.</li><li>• Providing sufficient housing options across all tenures in sustainable neighbourhoods and providing affordability.</li><li>• Addressing air quality issues and facilitating a shift towards more efficient and less polluting fuels.</li><li>• Providing social and physical infrastructure to support an equitable city where everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential.</li><li>• Strengthening the Green Network and enhancing biodiversity.</li><li>• Responding to the impact of COVID-19 on our communities and our livelihoods. This is to be addressed as part of enhancing the health infrastructure in general to enhance the resilience of the city and enhance health and wellbeing.</li><li>• Building a more inclusive city that improves the facilities for younger and older people.</li><li>• Strengthening community facilities.</li><li>• Including support for economic activities throughout Galway City, including retail, tourism, night-time economy, creative industries and the role of the Galway Port.</li></ul>

### 4.5 Air and Climate

#### 4.5.1 Climate Change

Over the last few years, Galway City has experienced extreme weather events, including coastal flooding, strong winds, wave overtopping and extreme rainfall. Storms such as Desmond (2015), Ophelia (2017), Eleanor (2018) and Elsa (2019) have shown that the city is vulnerable to such events. The GDCP can explore the opportunities that climate-related changes will present, such as transitioning to more sustainable forms of energy instead of reliance on fossil fuels. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 sets out the national objective of transitioning to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy in the period up to 2050. The recent Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Bill<sup>25</sup> 2021 provides for a statutory a “National Climate Objective” that commits to pursue and achieve the transition to a climate-resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate-neutral economy. Climate is a key indicator with influences on all other indicators. Galway City Council and the Climate Action Regional Offices play a lead role in addressing and responding to climate change the Local Authority Climate Action Charter (2019) acknowledged

<sup>24</sup> Ceburnis, *Galway Air Quality: Evidence Based Solutions*.

<sup>25</sup> *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021*

the need for action through mitigation and adaptation efforts and within this local Authorities are well placed to provide Leadership. In April 2021, the Local Authority Sector published its strategy for delivering on the Climate Action Charter and Climate Action Plan - Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030. This provides the sectoral vision and mission that will help to build on the existing expertise and experience within Local Authorities and coordinate future work to maximise the leadership role and impact on climate action locally, regionally and nationally. The Plan supports the concept of de-carbonisation zones in the plan area. Shantalla/Westside area has been chosen as a pilot decarbonisation zone (see **Figure 4.16** for selected area).

**FIGURE 4-16 PILOT DECARBONISATION ZONE**



The Galway City Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019- 2024 “*Climate Resilient Galway City*” was adopted in 2019. It sets out Galway City Council’s short and medium-term objectives for the adaptation of Galway City Council in response to climate risks. The Strategy is based on four main themes: Critical Infrastructure and Buildings, Natural and Cultural Capital, Water Resource, Flood Risk Management. **Table 4.3** below summarises key predicted effects of climate change for the island of Ireland.

**TABLE 4-3 NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS**

Impact	Description
Sea Level Rise	Sea levels are expected to increase for all Irish coastal areas. Projected changes in sea level will magnify the impacts of changing storm surge and wave patterns in coastal areas. Decrease in mean and extreme wave heights by the end of the century. Increase in magnitude and intensity of storm wave heights.
Wind	An increase in the intensity of extreme windstorms is expected. Decrease in wind speeds for summer and increases for winter rainfall events is likely.
Phenology	An increase in the duration of the growing season is likely with spring occurring earlier. Projections indicate that bud burst will continue to advance until at least 2100.
Precipitation	An increase in seasonality in precipitation can be expected with significant decreases projected for spring and summer and increases for winter. An increase in the occurrence of extreme rainfall events is likely.
Surface Air Temperature	Average surface air temperatures are expected to increase everywhere and across all seasons. An increase in the intensity and duration of heatwaves is expected.

	Increasing seasonality in hydrological regimes can be expected with decreased summer and increased winter flows likely. Flood risk will increase due to a combination of higher river-flows and increases in extreme precipitation events.
Hydrology	Increasing seasonality in hydrological regimes can be expected with decreased summer and increased winter flows likely. Flood risk will increase due to a combination of higher river-flows and increases in extreme precipitation events.

## 4.5.2 Air Quality

The quality of air is a crucial factor in determining the health of an ecosystem. Polluted air impacts the natural environment, affecting the quality of fresh water, soil and ecosystems, as well as damage to the built environment. In addition to this, some air pollutants behave like greenhouse gases that exacerbate the warming of the environment and cause climate change. (Further discussion on air quality and human health can be found under Section 4.4.7 Human Health and Air Quality.)

## 4.5.3 Air and Climate - Issues

Air and Climate Issues
<p>The following issues for air and climate have been considered in relation to Galway City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling the city to becoming resilient to the impacts of climate change and reduce our carbon footprint to help achieve the national target of zero emissions by 2050 and a target of 7% per annum between 2021 and 2030.</li> <li>• Exploring the combination of mitigation measures with adaptation measures to develop a more climate-resilient city.</li> <li>• Planning for and integrating climate change impacts into the overall GCDP.</li> <li>• Reducing greenhouse gases.</li> <li>• Improving energy efficiency across sectors including built environment and transport. This will include enhancement and improvement of the green network, delivering more sustainable transport options and patterns, retrofitting housing for energy and financial costs savings.</li> <li>• Considering where nature-based solutions may provide suitable adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects whilst providing co-benefits to other environmental issues. An increase in the tree cover throughout the city with stronger policy support for retention and integration of existing trees can be an effective approach, considering a balance between native and non-native species.</li> <li>• Soil management is another avenue for enhancing carbon sequestration. Furthermore, conserving and ameliorating the current status of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems can assist in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.</li> <li>• Transitioning to low carbon and circular economies.</li> </ul>

## 4.6 Water

### 4.6.1 Water Framework Directive (WFD)

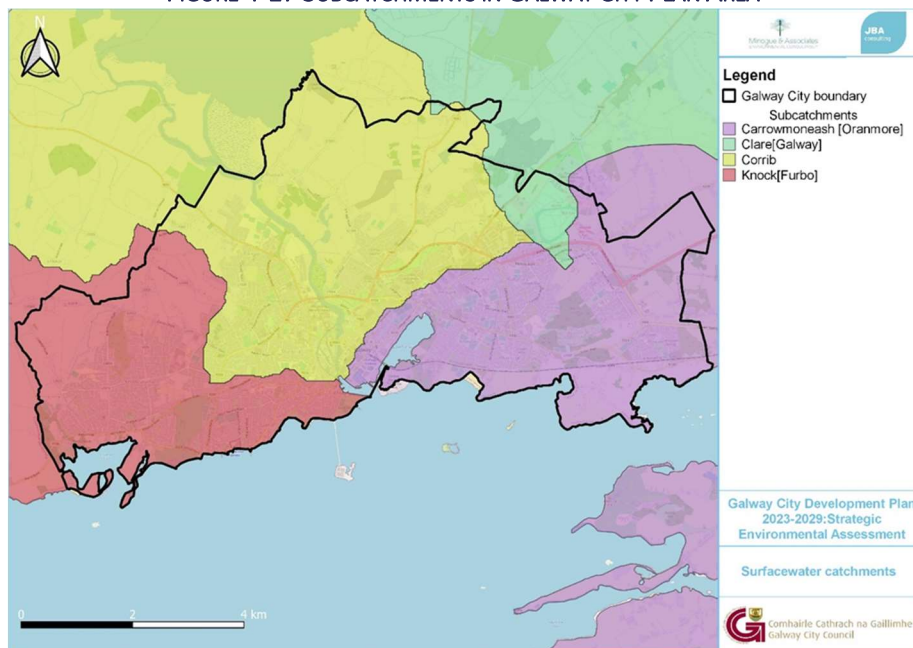
Ireland is required to produce a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) under the Water Framework Directive and the current RBMP is from 2018-2021. The plan sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. The main catchment in the plan area is the Corrib Catchment (Code: 30), covering approximately 3113.28sq km. This includes the area drained by the River Corrib and all streams entering tidal water between Renmore Point and Nimmo's Pier (Galway). The total population of the catchment is approximately 116,866 with a population density of 38 people per km<sup>2</sup>. This catchment is characterised by a wide, flat, limestone plain occupying the eastern two-thirds of the catchment which terminates in the large lakes of Corrib and Mask that abut against the igneous granites of Galway and the metamorphic uplands of southwest Mayo. The entire area of this catchment east of the large lakes is karstified and groundwater and surface water are highly interconnected in this region. **Figure 4.17** depicts the sub-catchments contained in the plan area that are derived from the Corrib Catchment. **Table 4.4** provides a short profile of the sub-catchments and their WFD risk.

TABLE 4-4. SUB-CATCHMENTS IN PLAN AREA

Subcatchment	Code	Water Body Category	WFD Risk	Ecological Status or Potential (2013-2018)
Corrib_SC_010	30_18			
Corrib Lower	IE_WE_30_666a	Lake	Moderate	
Corrib Upper	IE_WE_30_666b	Lake	Good	
CORRIB_010	IE_WE_30C020300	River	Unassigned	
CORRIB_020	IE_WE_30C020600	River	Good	
Menlough	IE_WE_30_290	Lake	Unassigned	
TERRYLAND_010	IE_WE_30T010500	River	Poor*	
Carrowmoneash (Oranmore)_SC010	29_6	River	At Risk	Unassigned
Knock (Furbo) Subcatchment	IE_WE_31K010200	River	Not at risk	Good

\*Recent monitoring indicates that there have be slight improvement to water quality and the water body is now classified as "Moderate Status".

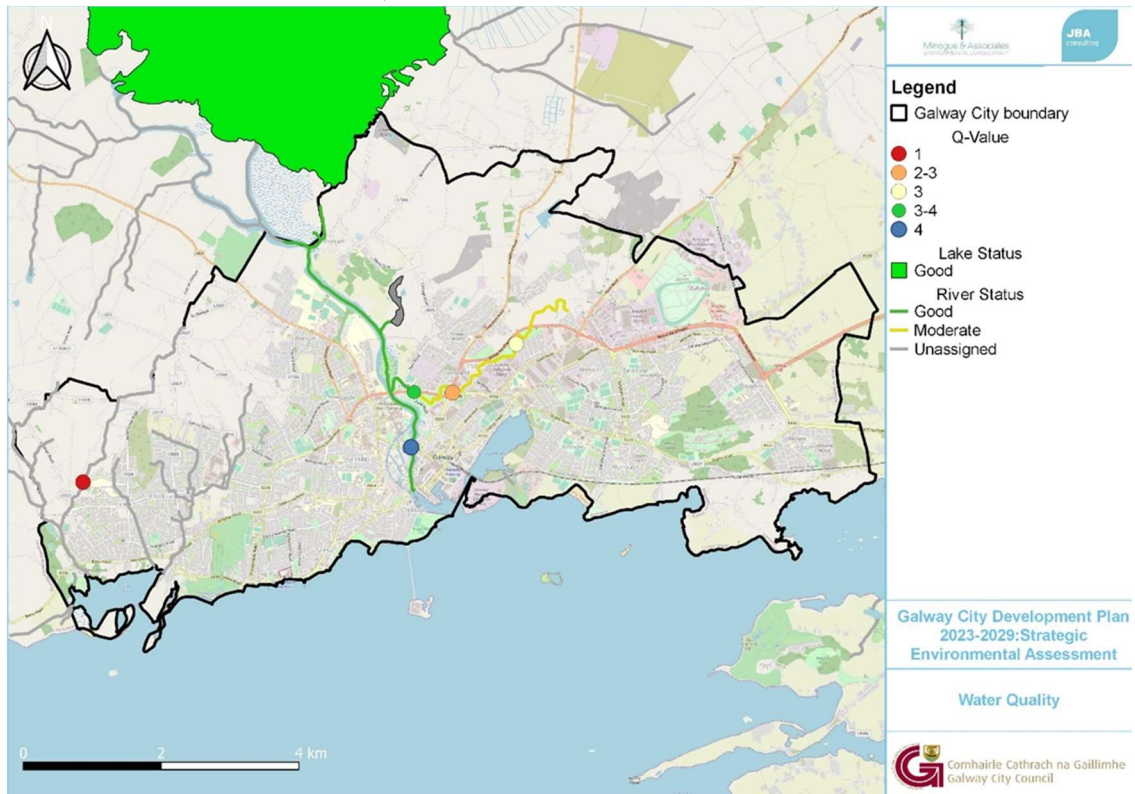
FIGURE 4-17 SUBCATCHMENTS IN GALWAY CITY PLAN AREA



## 4.6.2 Surface Water Bodies

The plan area contains five surface water bodies, out of which one (Terryland\_010) is classified as “At Risk” under the WFD. **Figure 4.18** presents information on the quality of surface water (Q values) in the plan area.

**FIGURE 4-18 Q VALUES OF SURFACE WATER BODIES IN GALWAY CITY**



## 4.6.3 Groundwater

The quality of our drinking water supply, fisheries and terrestrial based habitats is intrinsically linked with groundwater quality. The quality of groundwater in the plan area, is assigned a status – good or poor – following a reliable assessment in accordance with Annex V of the WFD. In addition to this Directive and associated transposed regulations to protect and restore, wherever necessary, groundwater, additional legal instruments are also in existence which strengthen and support the WFD ultimate goal with respect to groundwater. The WFD Groundwater status for 2013-2018 inside the plan area is classified as ‘good’. The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates aquifers according to their vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. **Figure 4.19** highlights areas of extreme to low vulnerability. The classification of extreme or high vulnerability means that the groundwater in these areas is very vulnerable to contamination due to hydrogeological and soil factors. The diverse geology of the plan area, results in considerable parts of the plan area being classified as high or extreme vulnerability.

## 4.6.4 WFD Register of Protected Areas

The WFD requires that Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs) be compiled for water bodies that require additional quality controls such as waters taken for public for private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas or areas that are designated for the protection of habitats or species, e.g. Salmonid Areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Conservation Areas (SPAs). Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the plan area include:

- WFD Surface Water in Nutrient Sensitive Areas
- WFD Groundwater in Nutrient Sensitive Areas
- WFD Drinking Water Surface Water Bodies
- WFD Bathing Water Areas



#### 4.6.5 Bathing Waters

There are four locations identified as Bathing Water Areas in Galway City under the Bathing Water Regulations as presented below in **Table 4.5**.

**TABLE 4-5 BATHING WATERS**

Name	Summary
Silverstrand Beach (IEWEBWC170_0000_0100)	Located on the outskirts of Galway City between Salthill and Barna, and on Galway Bay, SAC. To the east of the site lies the village of Barna and the access to the beach is via the R336, the Barna Road <sup>26</sup> . The beach is used year round for swimming and windsurfing and can receive up to 600 visitors during a day during high season. Bathing water quality monitored since 2003 has indicated consistently good quality. Samples obtained as of September 2020 were of “Excellent Quality” <sup>27</sup> .
Salthill Beach (IEWEBWC170_0000_0200)	Located in Galway City and on Galway Bay, SAC. It is a traditional seaside resort and a major tourist attraction for Galway City. It extends from Dalysfort Road to Blackrock, over a distance of approximately 1km <sup>28</sup> . The beach is within walking distance from the city centre and is accessed from the Salthill Promenade, R336, and facilitated by frequent public transport to and from the City. Swimming and bathing are popular activities on this beach. Sampling conducted in September 2020 showed an “Excellent Quality” <sup>29</sup> .
Grattan Road Beach (IEWEBWT170_0700_0100)	Located to the west of Galway City, close to Salthill. It is a popular neighbourhood bathing area in the city and is the closest beach to the city centre. The beach faces directly out to Galway Bay and can be accessed from the Grattan Road <sup>30</sup> . Grattan Beach has been rated “Sufficient Quality” since 2018, having deteriorated from “Good Quality” in 2017 <sup>31</sup> .
Ballyloughane Beach (IEWEBWT170_0700_0200)	Situated to the east of Galway City in the residential neighbourhood of Renmore. It is particularly popular among the residents of Renmore and east side of the city and is accessible from the Ballyloughane Road off the R338. The beach was formerly not designated a bathing area under the old bathing water regulations <sup>32</sup> . The beach has fluctuated between “Poor quality” and “Sufficient Quality” on alternating years. The most recent sample collected in September 2020 was “Sufficient Quality” <sup>33</sup> .

#### 4.6.6 Salmon Waters and Shellfish Waters

The River Corrib is protected under the Salmonid River Registration (S.I.293), which extends protection to freshwater fish species. The European Union Shellfish Waters Directive is designed to protect the aquatic habitats of bivalve and gastropod molluscs, including oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams. Shellfish areas can be found in Clarinbridge/Kinvara Bay and Outer Galway Bay Indreabhán.

#### 4.6.7 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DoEHLG 2009) provides a methodology to incorporate flood risk identification and management into land use strategies. It also requires the alignment and integration of flood risk into the SEA process. Potential flood issues in the plan area are an important consideration in the preparation of the *GCDP 2023-2029*. Therefore, the plan has been guided by the information on flood risk currently available including Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) studies. The SFRA has

<sup>26</sup> *Bathing Water Profile: Silverstrand Beach*

<sup>27</sup> *Bathing Water Profile: Silverstrand Beach*

<sup>28</sup> *Bathing Water Profile: Salthill Beach*

<sup>29</sup> *Bathing Water Profile: Salthill Beach*

<sup>30</sup> *Bathing Water Profile: Grattan Beach*

<sup>31</sup> *Bathing Water Profile: Grattan Beach*

<sup>32</sup> *Bathing Water Profile: Ballyloughane Beach*

<sup>33</sup> *Bathing Water Profile: Ballyloughane Beach*

reviewed flood risk from fluvial, tidal, pluvial and groundwater sources. It also considers flooding from drainage systems, reservoirs and canals and other artificial or man-made systems. Galway City has a coastline of approximately 13.5km that stretches from Silverstrand in the west to Roscam Point to the east. The key areas of flood risk within the city are properties along the Claddagh Basin and Nimmo's Pier, harbour and along the Salthill Promenade. The area around the Claddagh Basin and the Docklands are also influenced by the River Corrib which discharges to Galway Bay. Significant, and relatively frequent, flooding occurs at Spanish Arch and Flood Street. The properties that encompass Lough Atalia are also an area of possible risk. There is proportionally less risk from fluvial flooding than from tidal, but it is still important that river side development is fully considered in the context of flood management, particularly for sites which are currently defended. The main fluvial flood risk arises from the Corrib and the various canals that arise from it, including Friar's Cut and the Eglington Canal. There are also two smaller watercourses to the west of the city, both of which are independent of the River Corrib (See also SFRA Report).

There are a number of flood relief schemes in Galway, including the dyke, which protects the Headford Road area from the Corrib, a retaining wall on the right bank of the River Corrib downstream of the Salmon Weir and the quay walls which provide some protection against tidal inundation. There are also a number of walls and other structures which, whilst not designed to act as flood defences, provide a level of protection against flood water. Since recent winter flooding events, Galway City Council has carried out small scale works in the Salthill area with the aim of providing a higher level of protection to Leisureland and a flood gate has been installed to provide protection to the Galway Business School. Three sets of demountable defences have also been purchased to protect Spanish Arch and the surrounding area when extreme tides are forecast. Galway City Council and the OPW have also recently appointed consultants to begin work on Coirib go Cósta - the Galway City Flood Relief Scheme, which will review the potential for a scheme for the whole City and take this through to construction. The flood relief scheme is a significant project for the city and will provide for protection and management of the SAC and SPA area. The timeframe for completion of the scheme is likely to be outside the lifespan of the Plan.

#### 4.6.8 Water - Issues

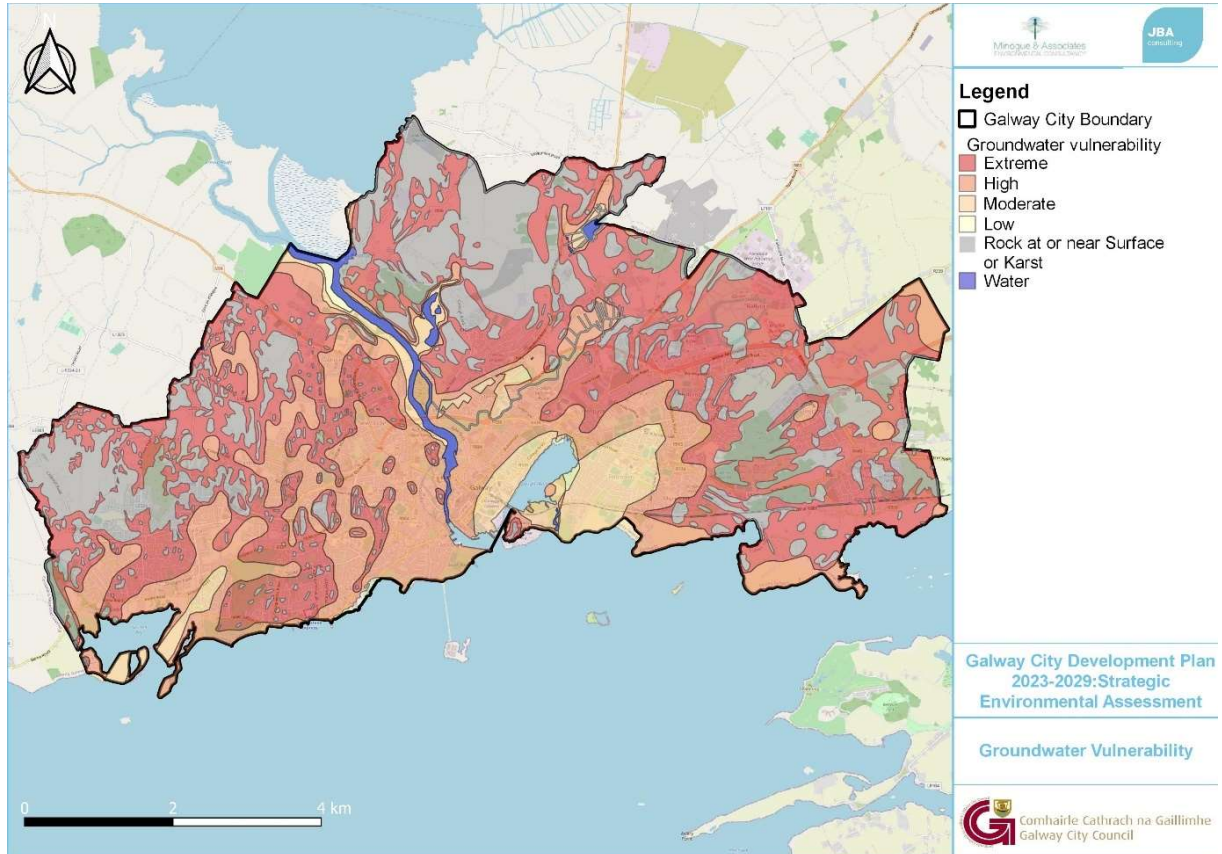
##### Water Issues

Water quality and flow are very significant and have a cross cutting influence across all SEA parameters. The key issues identified for water in Galway City are as follows:

- Enabling the city to becoming resilient to the impacts of climate change and reduce our carbon footprint to help achieve the national target of zero emissions by 2050 and a target of 7% per annum between 2021 and 2030. Climate change affects water sources and water quality management through extreme weather events<sup>34</sup>.
- Flood risk management and appropriate measures. Flooding can also contaminate freshwater bodies with sea water and vice-versa, therefore potentially impacting potable water supplies.
- Responding and adapting to increasing extreme weather effects and potential effects on water resources.
- Nature based solutions, green and blue network to support water management, flood risk and provide co-benefits to other environmental receptions. The protection of existing waterbodies and water-dependant habitats such as wetlands should be prioritised.
- Soil sealing and increased surface run-off. This can lead to loss of permeable surfaces, coastal squeeze and effects of flood risk from coastal, pluvial and fluvial sources.
- Control/avoid the introduction of alien and invasive species.
- Water quality management to eliminate serious pollution associated with point sources, to tackle diffuse pollution and to use the full range of legislative measures in an integrated way to achieve better water quality.

<sup>34</sup> Summarised from Water Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019

FIGURE 4-19 GROUNDWATER VULNERABILITY IN PLAN AREA



## 4.7 Soil and Geology

Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. It is an extremely complex, variable and living medium and performs many vital functions including: food and other biomass production, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon, and nitrogen. Under the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the European Commission has launched online public consultations on the development of a new EU Soil Strategy. The aim of this strategy will be to address soil and land-related issues in a comprehensive way and work towards land-degradation neutrality by 2030, one of the key targets under the 2030 Agenda<sup>35</sup>.

The majority of the soils for Galway City and suburbs are classified as “Made”, which have been distributed, transported or manipulated by urban activities. There are patches of Alluvial soils dispersed across the eastern side of the city. Vulnerable soils within the plan area are found primarily along the River Corrib. Lands to the west with granitic rocks are divided by the N59 from lands to the east with limestone. As granitic rocks are acidic and poorly drained, whilst limestone rocks are alkaline, the potential for contamination of water resources is higher<sup>36</sup>. Given the urban character and historical land-use activities particularly in the city centre and harbour area, soil contamination may have occurred in brownfield lands.

The promotion of brownfield sites for development is a key target for the Plan and designated regeneration sites including at Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and Headford Road. Soil sealing is an issue to consider in particular for historic brownfield sites. Soil management in general, especially during construction is a key aid to carbon sequestration. Although the challenge of reducing the carbon footprint in concurrence with accommodating the target population growth remains, each Local Authority were responsible for identifying a potential area suitable for decarbonising zone (Further discussion on decarbonising zones can be found under Section 4.5 Air and Climate. There are also some active farms within the city boundary.

<sup>35</sup> Commission Consults on New EU Soil Strategy

<sup>36</sup> Natura Impact Report of Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023



### 4.7.1 Geological Heritage

The Geological Heritage Audit for Galway City recently carried out by Geological Survey Ireland includes 12 County Geological Sites (CGSs) in the plan area as follows:

- Doughiska N6 Road Cut
- Fairlands Park
- Menlough Mushroom Rocks
- Menlough Quarry
- Merlin Park Cave
- Merlin Park Quarry
- Rusheen Bay Drumlins
- Salthill Promenade
- Shantalla Sliding Rock
- St. Augustines Well
- Terryland River
- Westside Sports Grounds

Figures 4.20 and 4.21 present the soil map and the bedrock maps for the plan area and environs respectively.

### 4.7.2 Quarrying

Within the city, two quarries were qualified to submit to An Bord Pleanála for ‘substitute consent’ in accordance with Section 261(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2010 relating to the control of quarries.

### 4.7.3 Soil and Geology -Issues

#### Soil and Geology Issues

The key issues for consideration pertaining to soil and geology are as follows:

- The majority of the plan area comprises an urban environment. Significant changes to soil conditions can be brought about by impacts of climate change, such as changes in air temperature, precipitation and extreme weather events. The changing weather patterns and increase in extreme weather events can result in soil moisture deficit, increase in soil temperatures, soil erosion and increased siltation. This calls for soil and land-use management from a climate change perspective to preserve and enhance soil quality and organic content to prevent losses.
- Reusing existing buildings and brownfield land development. Compact growth, brownfield land development and adaptive reuse of buildings reduces the need for new greenfield land development, as well as reducing the need for new aggregates from quarrying.
- Addressing greenfield site pressures and demands.
- Supporting and maintaining carbon storage associated with soil. The recognition of ecosystem services function of soil and soil carbon processes and the retention, enhancement and creation of additional areas of open space, community gardens/allotments, green infrastructure, permeability and biodiversity enhancement within the Green Network facilitates the maintenance of soil in the plan area.
- Investigating potential soil contamination associated with historic land use activities and preventing any such future incidents. The potential of historical contaminated lands in brownfield lands may be investigated more appropriately at project level.
- Reducing soil sealing, increased surface run-off and variable permeability of lands in the plan area. In alignment to the former, acknowledging the complex geology of the plan area and recognising the function of the bedrock and its recharge role for groundwater is necessary, as well as the land-use activities on soil and geology.

FIGURE 4-20 SOIL MAP FOR PLAN AREA

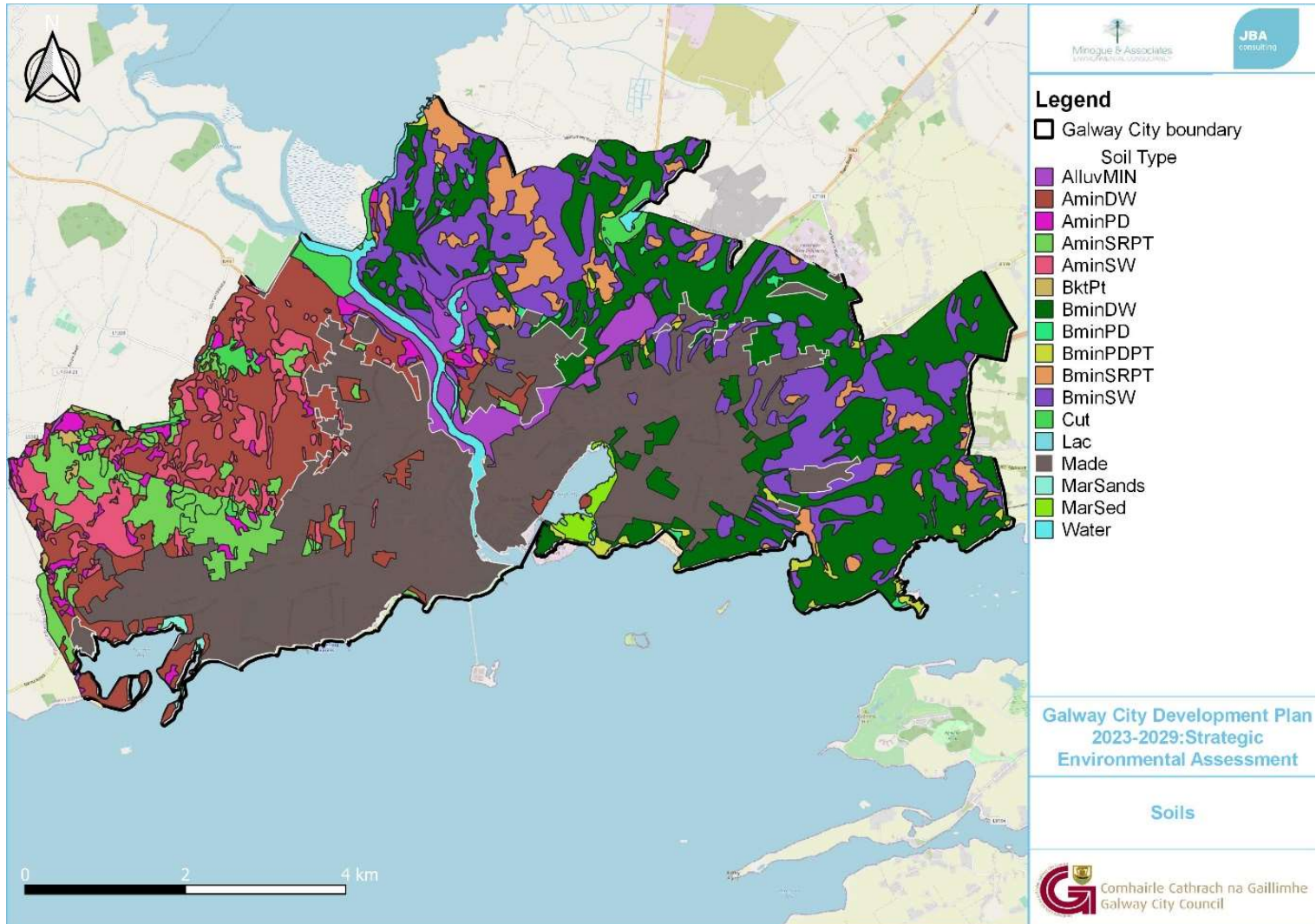
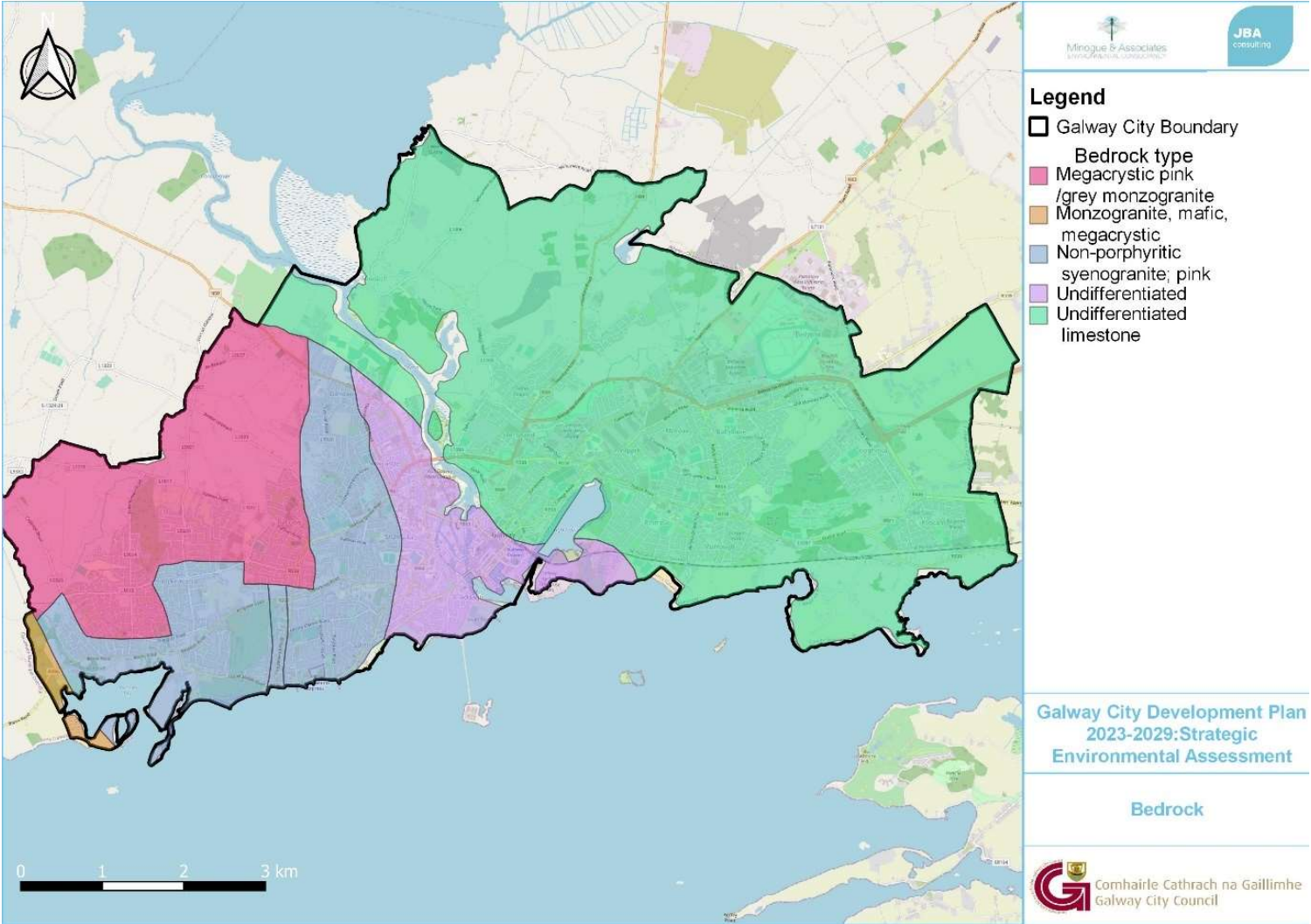


FIGURE 4-21 BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF PLAN AREA



## 4.8 Material Assets

Material assets are defined as the critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society. This section presents the baseline as it relates to transport, waste management, water services infrastructure and energy.

### 4.8.1 Transport and Sustainable Mobility

Galway City has a compact, walkable core, and its suburbs have developed as a succession of lower density residential and employment areas, leading to the predominance of private car usage as a means of travel. The geography of Galway City is impacted by the River Corrib and Lough Atalia, as well as being bounded to the south by Galway Bay and to the north by Lough Corrib. This has resulted in the limitations to free movement and developments of the road network. There are currently four bridges crossing the River Corrib, three of which are near the city centre, which results in traffic congestion during peak hours with heavy cross-city and city-bound travel. Galway City Council and Galway County Council in conjunction with the National Transport Authority prepared the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) which sets out infrastructural, operational and policy measures to provide Galway City and its surrounding areas with a clear transport implementation over a period of twenty years<sup>37</sup>. The GTS proposes an approach to transport across the city which places walking, cycling and public transport at the forefront. The GTS underpins the objectives of the current GCDP and the new Plan will continue to promote the achievement of a sustainable integrated transportation system, facilitate a modal shift away from the private car and promote measures to reduce traffic congestion in the city. The road network caters for a range of users and a variety of journeys within the city. The approach of the GTS to traffic management is to prioritise the movement of public transport and to divert or remove non-essential traffic from the city centre core. The proposed N6 Galway City Ring Road remains a crucial part of the overall transport strategy and has been approved with conditions and modifications by An Bord Pleanála. The GTS supports the EPA targets of reducing carbon emissions, the integration of land-use and transport and a shift to sustainable transport. National climate policy aims to transform from petrol and diesel to electric vehicles in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has a target to have 840,000 passenger electric vehicles by 2030. This compares with just 2,718 electric vehicles in 2017. This is an ambitious target which will require a significant expansion of the charging network within the city.

### 4.8.2 Public Transport

An efficient and reliable bus transport service is critical to providing access to employment, education, services and amenities. It also facilitates a modal shift away from the private car. In 2016, 17.8% of the people used public transport to travel to work, school or college. A number of regional bus service providers operate to and from the city. The principal bus station is located with the Ceannt Railway Station, with other destinations including Fairgreen Coach Station, Eyre Square/Merchants Road and Galway Cathedral. National coach services are well-connected from the east and the south by the M6, and to the north-east by the M17/M18. The bus network is perceived to be discontinuous, with priority measures provided only along sections of key corridors. However, there have been improvements in the organisation of the routes and schedules, addition of newer fleet and the popularity of the Leap Card, which have contributed to an increase in bus patronage of over 30% from the 2012-2015 period<sup>38</sup>. The existing main bus corridors are to be upgraded to 'high frequency' public transport routes which form a 'fixed' spine of future public transport in Galway. The proposed Bus Connects Cross City Link, currently being advanced, has been identified in the GTS as a major project for the city. The proposed public transport corridor aims to link the eastern and western suburbs in Galway City through the city centre to improve the connectivity between places of residence and places of work, education, retail and recreation. The proposed BusConnects Dublin Road corridor, a four-kilometre scheme from the Martin roundabout to Moneenageisha Junction will provide a high-quality pedestrian, cycle and public-transport corridor serving the entirety of the Dublin Road.

### 4.8.3 Active Travel

The city's topography is conducive to cycling, but the current mode share (2016) for cycling was low at 5%. The infrastructure for cycling is currently limited and discontinuous, with the volume of the city's vehicular traffic decreasing the appeal and safety for cycling. The GTS proposes a cycle plan which builds on the existing network and has been developed on the basis of three levels of network which support each other and reinforces

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<sup>37</sup> This was subject to full SEA, AA and SFRA and subject to full implementation of mitigation and enhancement measures the SEA of the GTS concluded that the strategy was acceptable and represents a balanced and fair approach to the development of a sustainable transport system for Galway City and its environs.

<sup>38</sup> *Galway Transport Strategy (2016-2036)*



connections across the city. The proposed networks are classified as ‘primary’, ‘secondary’ and ‘feeder’ routes, indicating the desired function and character of the cycle route. Measures have been introduced to improve facilities for pedestrian and cyclists including additional cycle parking and the expansion of the Public Bike Scheme. The addition of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Corrib, adjacent to the Salmon Weir Bridge, will ease the current conflicts between vehicles (buses, trucks and cars) and cyclists and pedestrians on the existing bridge. Other transport projects include a national Galway to Dublin cycleway, the Galway to Clifden Greenway and the Galway to Bearna Greenway. Within the city centre, there are pedestrian-only streets that are key to the local economy, particularly for tourism and shopping around Shop Street and Quay Street. Other pedestrian facilities of note include the city canal network and the promenade at Salthill. Due to its walking-friendly, compact city core, Galway has a high walking mode share of 23% as of 2016. The Galway Public Realm Strategy 2019 (GPRS) sets out a vision of place, a set of spatial interventions and design guidance tailored to the different types of spaces in the city centre. A core theme of the strategy is to make Galway inclusive and accessible and adhere to the principles of Universal Design (Further discussion can be found under Section 4.9 Landscape).

#### 4.8.4 Rail

The plan area is served by the existing single-track heavy line from the east, terminating in the city centre at the Ceannt Station. The main Galway to Dublin railway line currently operates eight trains daily while the Galway to Limerick train currently operates three direct journeys daily. The GCDP contains proposals for a transport interchange at Ceannt Station to cater for the long-term projected transport needs of Galway City and the region.

#### 4.8.5 Port

The plan area contains Galway Port, an important transport facility. The new Plan will continue to give policy support for expansion and development of port facilities. From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, the shareholding of the port company has transferred to Galway City Council.

#### 4.8.6 Waste

The waste sector was responsible for 1.5% of Ireland's Greenhouse Gas emissions in 2018. The National Waste Prevention Programme works with others to drive Ireland's Circular Economy. It supports behavioural change and sustainable choices through targeted funding programmes and sharing best practices across six priority areas: Food Waste; Construction and Demolition; Plastics; Agriculture; Resources and Raw Materials; and Local Waste Prevention. Galway City Council is part of the Connacht-Ulster Waste Region and the current Connacht Ulster Region Waste Plan 2015-2021 is still in force and focuses on waste prevention and minimisation measures. The City Councils Recycling Centre (Civic Amenity Site) is at Liosbán Industrial Estate, Tuam Road. This allows for the disposal for categories of household waste that cannot be accommodated in household wheellie bins, waste electrical and electronic equipment, as well as acts as a Bring Bank. The facility accepts non-hazardous waste in accordance with its existing EPA Licence, and operates in compliance with the Connacht/Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan and the ‘Polluter Pays Principle’. There are twelve other Bring Bank facilities in Galway City. The City Council's Litter Management Plan focuses on securing more collaboration with business and the public in preventing litter and keeping the city clean. This augments effective local litter prevention, awareness and education initiatives including Green Business, Pride of Place Awards and other City Council initiatives listed below.

#### 4.8.7 Galway City Council Initiatives

The Galway City Council supports multiple initiatives in relation to greening the community, particularly schools, businesses and festivals. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Galway City Council involved citizens in an annual Spring Clean Initiative. Funding is available under Amenity Grants Scheme<sup>39</sup> and Community Environment Action Fund<sup>40</sup> for individuals and organisations wishing to undertake environmental initiatives for the better of the local environment. The Green Schools programme currently covers thirty primary schools and ten secondary schools in environmental initiatives and projects, ranging on topics such as waste, energy, and biodiversity. Data show that 8,303 students and 532 teachers have become actively involved in sustainability, diverting 125 tonnes of waste from the landfill and reducing water and energy usage by 1.4 million kW and 8 million litres respectively, thereby resulting in the collective cost savings of over €200,000 per annum<sup>41</sup>. Green Your Festival<sup>42</sup> initiative aims to reduce

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<sup>39</sup> *GalwayCity - Amenity Grants Scheme*

<sup>40</sup> *GalwayCity - Community Environment Action Fund*

<sup>41</sup> *GalwayCity - Green Schools*

<sup>42</sup> *GalwayCity - Green Festivals and Events*

the environmental impact of festivals and events. ‘School Streets Pilot at Scoil Iognáid’ was launched in November 2020<sup>43</sup>, which involves the temporary restriction of motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times to create a safer and calmer space for children, caretakers and residents to walk or cycle. Galway City Council in conjunction with the NTA have also put in place School Zone measures at a number of locations in Galway City.

#### 4.8.8 Water Services Infrastructure

Irish Water published its National Water Resources Plan (NWRP), a 25-year strategic plan for Ireland’s water supplies to ensure a reliable and sustainable drinking water supply. It focuses on six key themes as follows:

- Customer service
- Clean safe drinking water
- Effective management of wastewater
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Supporting social and economic growth
- Investing in our future.

Irish Water has completed the water services infrastructure at national level and identified priority projects for inclusion in the Capital Investment Plan, which involves the following for Galway City<sup>44</sup>:

- Galway City Water Conservation (Drinking Water)
- Galway City Wastewater Network (Wastewater).

#### 4.8.9 Water Supply:

Irish Water is responsible for the city water supply<sup>45</sup>. The Galway City Water Supply Scheme covers the Terryland Water Treatment Plant (Phase 3)<sup>46</sup>, which supplies water for the city from the Terryland River (linked to the River Corrib). Recent improvements to the existing water infrastructure has resulted in the replacement and upgradation of 19.8km of old pipeline in Galway (see ongoing Irish Water projects below).

#### 4.8.10 Ongoing Irish Water Projects include:

1. Irish Water, in partnership with the Galway City Council, has commenced a project to replace 19.8km of ageing pipeline in Galway City, which involves backyard water main rehabilitation works and the replacement of water mains and water service connections to properties currently served by water mains located in backyards and private properties.
2. Galway West Water Supply Scheme: Terryland Water Treatment Plant Intake Works and Clifton Hill Rising Main have received planning consent to augment the supply of clean and safe drinking water to citizens of Galway City area<sup>47</sup>. This will involve the construction of a new raw water intake on the River Corrib south of the Quincentenary Bridge in Galway City, and an associated transfer main to serve the existing Terryland Water Treatment Plant.
3. Leakage Reduction Programme: In 2019, leakage reduction continued to be a key focus for both Irish Water and Galway City Council. Greater emphasis was placed on seeing leakage savings being realised back at Terryland Water Treatment Plant and therefore having a positive impact on Distribution Inflow (DI) levels. The Leakage Management System (LMS) for Galway City Council was rolled out in 2019. This allows for national level system to calculate leakage figures across all Local Authorities using the most up-to-date information. In 2019, Galway City Council exceed its leakage reduction levels by 3.6MLD and its distribution inflow by 0.7MLD<sup>48</sup>

#### 4.8.11 Wastewater Treatment:

The city’s wastewater collection system consists of approximately 395km of foul, surface water and combined sewer pipe network and 11 foul pumping stations. The wastewater collection system feeds into the Mutton Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which is designed to meet the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and serves the city and its environs. Irish Water’s 2019 wastewater treatment capacity register for Galway City outlines the capacity available at Mutton Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Assuming a

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<sup>43</sup> Roads Traffic Transport News, “Scoil Iognáid Take to the School-Streets!”

<sup>44</sup> *Investment Plan 2017-2021*

<sup>45</sup> From [www.water.ie/ourprojects](http://www.water.ie/ourprojects)

<sup>46</sup> *Irish Water Capital Investment 2014-2016*

<sup>47</sup> *Galway West Water Supply Scheme*

<sup>48</sup> *Galway City Council Annual Report 2019*

population increase of 2,300 persons per annum in the city and suburbs (based on an increase of 35,000 from 2016 to 2031 as outlined in the RSES), it is anticipated that the WWTP has capacity to accommodate the projected growth over the plan period 2023-2029. Furthermore, a Drainage Area Plan (DAP) is underway for the city which will assess the wastewater network in detail to identify issues and needs.

#### 4.8.12 Energy

The SEAI Annual Report on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance 2018 notes that Galway City has achieved energy efficiency improvements of 30% between 2009 and 2017.<sup>49</sup> 13% of public lights are LED in the city, and the City Council will continue to follow suit with upgradation of the remaining public lighting infrastructure. Improving existing energy efficiency in housing stock will contribute to lower GHG emissions from carbon sources, as well as reduce fuel poverty and improve air quality. Building Energy Ratings (BER) in the plan area can be viewed in **Figure 4.22**. In a clear spatial pattern, it can be observed that the city core and older suburbs are more intensive in energy consumption, with BER – E Ratings. This is often suggestive of poor heating systems and/or poor insulation. Ratings tend to improve with increasing distance from the city centre, with a median of BER–D, BER–C and some BER–B.

#### 4.8.13 Material Assets – Issues

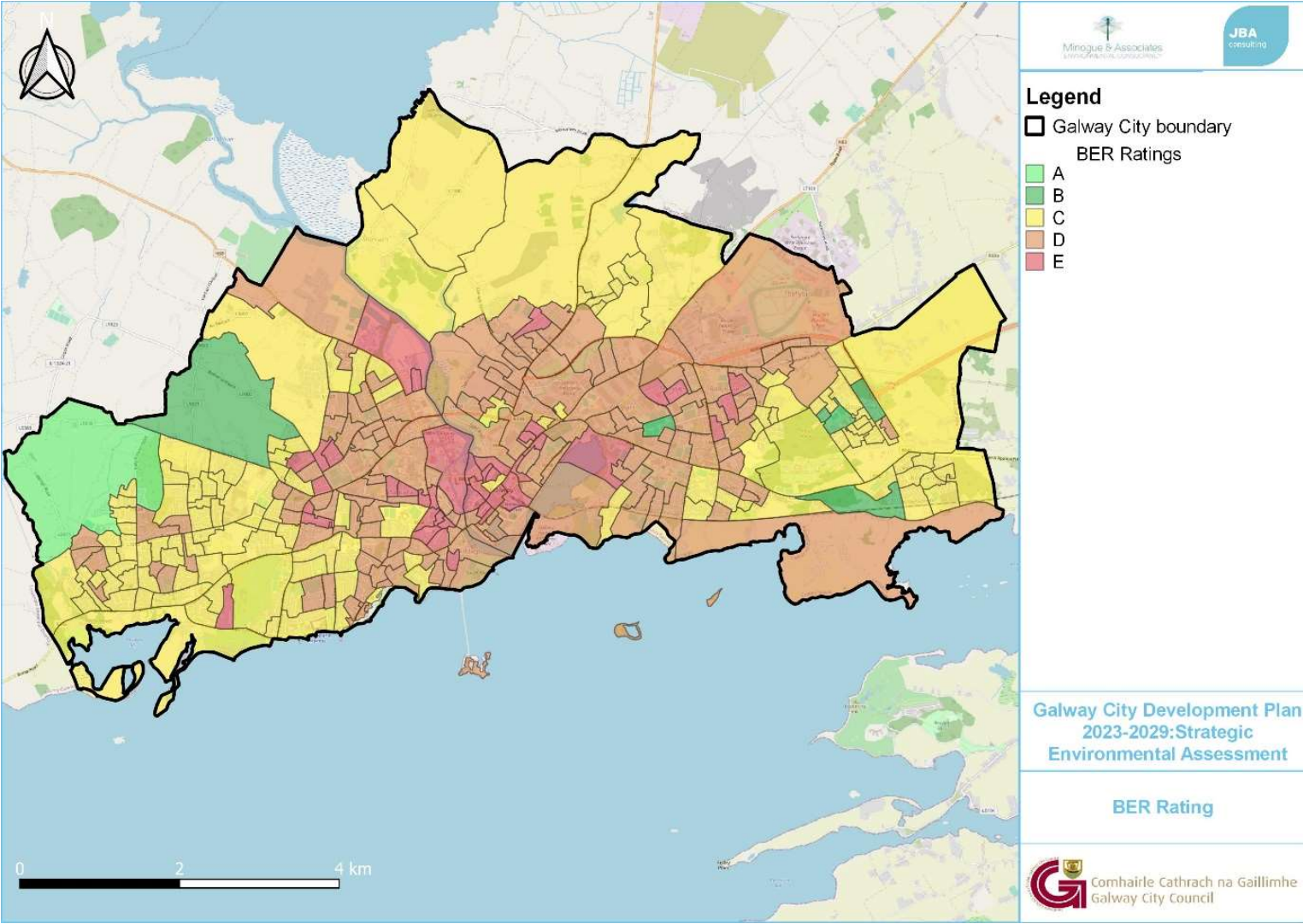
##### Material Assets Issues

In relation to material assets for Galway City, the following issues have been identified:

- Climate change and reducing our carbon footprint to help achieve the national target of zero emissions by 2050 and a target of 7% per annum between 2021 and 2030.
- Providing a permeable pedestrian and cycling network, within the plan area which links residential areas, city centre, schools, community facilities, green network and public transport facilities.
- The implementation and delivery of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) is a key issue in relation to transport with cross cutting effects on indicators including Population Human Health and Noise, Air and Climate. Advancing GTS projects include improving the cycling and pedestrian network, N6 GCR, alternatives to private transport including the Bus Connects Cross City Link, as well as general improvements to traffic control, footpath upgrades, and traffic calming.
- Securing a high-quality, clean and healthy environment while facilitating the sustainable development of the city, through the continued improvement and expansion of infrastructure services.
- Environmental protection is integral, with the avoidance of potential pollution at source and reduction of environmental risks of the city.
- Planning and ensuring sufficient water services and capacity for the GCDP area.
- Encouraging sustainable use of resources, including the promotion of energy efficiency across material assets sectors – transport, buildings, energy production and micro-renewable energy generation.
- Focusing on energy efficiency across material assets and infrastructure.
- Investing in water services and infrastructure, for instance, incorporating the use of SUDs can reduce the existing pressure on systems.

<sup>49</sup> *Climate Adaptation Strategy*

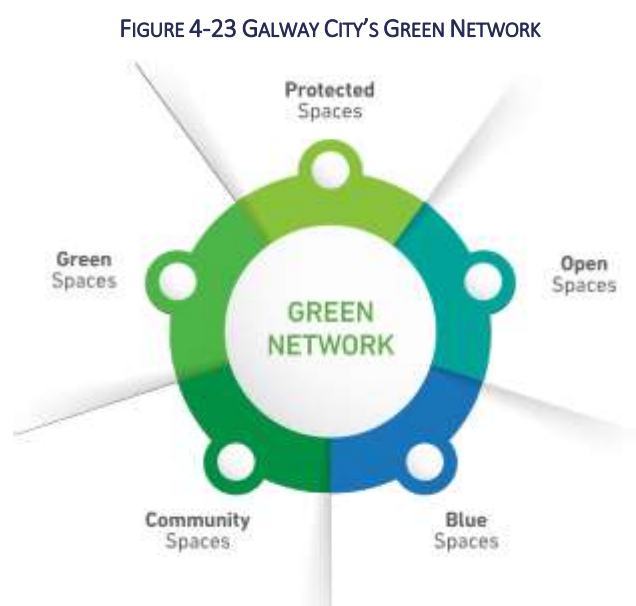
FIGURE 4-22 BER RATINGS (MEDIAN) FOR PLAN AREA





## 4.9 Landscape

The plan area encompasses the urban, built environment as well as open space, river, canal system and coastline. Other important elements of the city's landscape include views and prospects of amenity value, trees and the historic built environment<sup>50</sup>. Inland waterways are a feature of the city, including the River Corrib, Eglington Canal, the Terryland River, lesser waterways of the Cathedral River, the West River and other headraces, tailraces and minor canals<sup>51</sup>. The River Corrib is flanked by inland marshes along Dyke Road. Lough Atalia is classified as a coastal lagoon. Fringes of the plan area turning inland are a mix of pastures, green urban areas and land principally occupied by agriculture. See **Figure 4.25** for land-use in the plan area. The current GCDP sets out the framework for an extensive Green Network in the city, by protecting natural heritage areas and designating areas for recreation and amenity. The Plan includes a wide range of policies for open spaces, parks, woodlands, greenways and community spaces, public rights of ways, protected views, coastal areas and waterways. These spaces are also important for addressing climate action accommodating measures to support nature, biodiversity, pollinators, carbon sequestration and SUDs. The elements comprising the Green Network for the city are shown below in **Figure 4.23**.



Galway City's historical cityscape and distinctive landscape setting provides a good quality of life for its residents and the economy. As the city's heritage and sites covered by ecological designations form important components of the city's landscape and cultural identity, the Galway City Recreation and Amenity Needs Study 2008 and the current GCDP advocates for the sustainable use and management of natural heritage areas and recreational and amenity spaces in the city. The City Council is now commencing the process of preparing a Greenspace Strategy. The City Council is also working with the community on the Healthy Green Space initiative, which is about improving the quality of the city's green spaces to be welcoming and inviting for people, to deliver on needs to reverse biodiversity loss, support pollinators, make positive impacts against or to cope with climate change and reduce waste and reliance on carbon-based fuels.

The Galway City Public Realm Strategy (2019), accompanied by its design, activity and delivery manuals is an important document that appraises the existing urban form including urban design, characterization, spaces and landmarks. The basis of the Strategy is formed by the uniqueness of Galway City, and it aims to making Galway more inclusive, accessible, and create greener, more quality public spaces. The Strategy includes the typology of streets and public spaces and project proposals to improve the quality of Galway's city centre, streets, and public spaces. This is an important baseline description of the plan area and informs the public realm and masterplanning proposals and opportunities in the future. The promotion of compact growth equally relies upon good urban design and an attractive public realm.

<sup>50</sup> *Strategic Environmental Assessment: Galway Public Realm Strategy 2019*

<sup>51</sup> *Galway City Development Plan (2017-2023) Strategic Environmental Assessment*

Views of scenic amenity value and interest define the character of the city, engender a strong sense of place and significantly enhance local amenities. Important views in the city include panoramic views which allow expansive views over landscape for example Galway Bay and over the cityscape and linear views which are views towards a particular landscape, observed from a particular point. The enjoyment of protected views by the community and visitors is a key part of the experience of the city. It is acknowledged that views are not static and some changes in a view can be absorbed without visually depreciating the integrity of the view and in some cases make a positive contribution to the characteristics and composition of protected views, while other changes can have a negative impact reducing the experience of that view irreparably. **Figure 4. 24** presents these panoramic and linear views in the current *GCDP 2017-2023*.

#### 4.9.1 Seascape Character Area

The Regional Seascape Character Assessment for Ireland (Marine Institute 2020) undertook an assessment to characterise and map the seascape character of the country at regional scale. The plan area is included within SCA 6 (Atlantic Galway Bay and Islands) and the summary description is provided below in **Box 4.1**.

##### Box 4-1

A large limestone bay (Galway Bay) is framed by two distinctive and very different coastlines, north (Connemara) and South (Burren); this SCA extends to encompass the Aran Islands. East of Inverin this coastline becomes more regular and no bays are present until closer to Galway; though numerous quays occur. At this stage Galway City and Docks influence the coastal seascape and can be seen across the bay on the Clare coast. Settlements have taken advantage of sheltered bays where possible, including Galway City. The presence and influence of the sea on the landscape is largely consistent within this SCA; the network of minor roads and connectivity to islands, the frequently long coastal views allows for almost constant views to the sea and across Galway Bay. Closer to Galway City the visual aspect of the seascape character becomes less expansive.

FIGURE 4-24 VIEWS PANORAMAS AND LINEAR VIEWS IN CURRENT GCDP

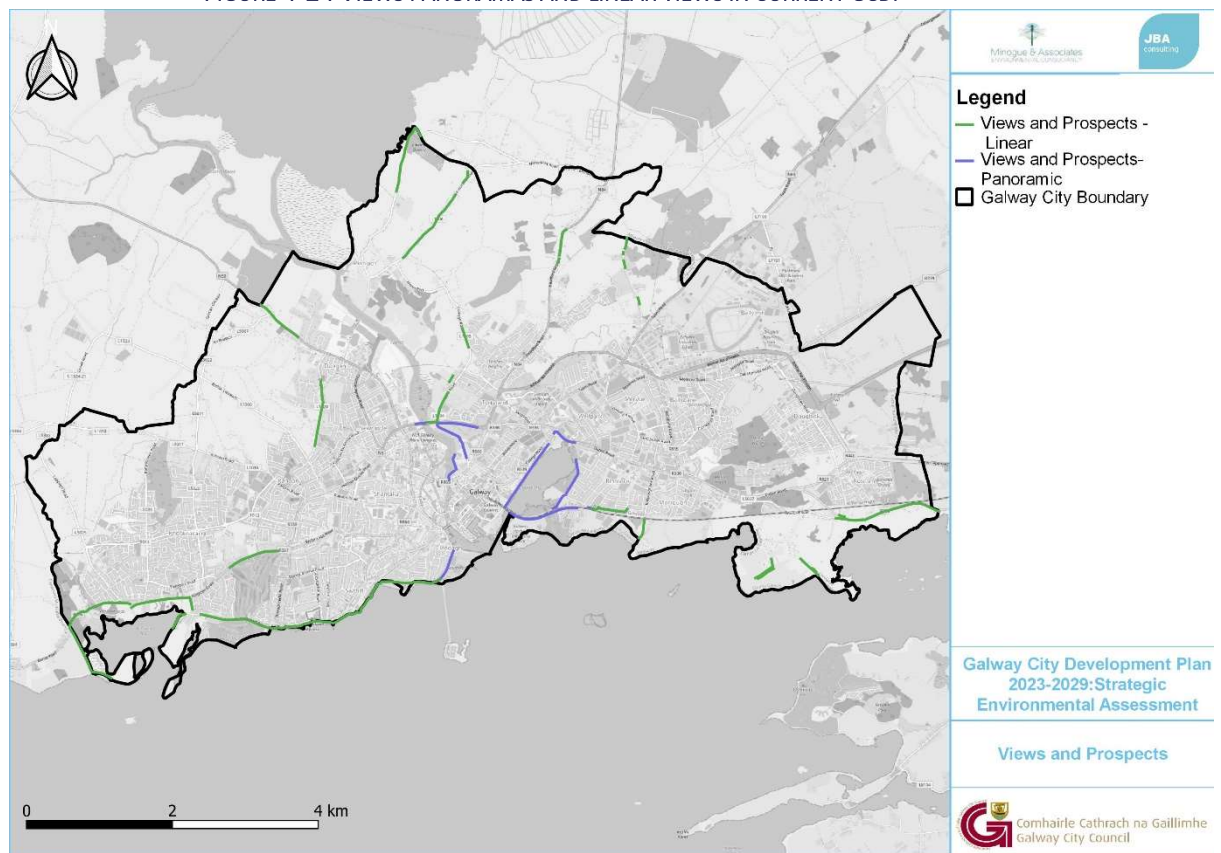
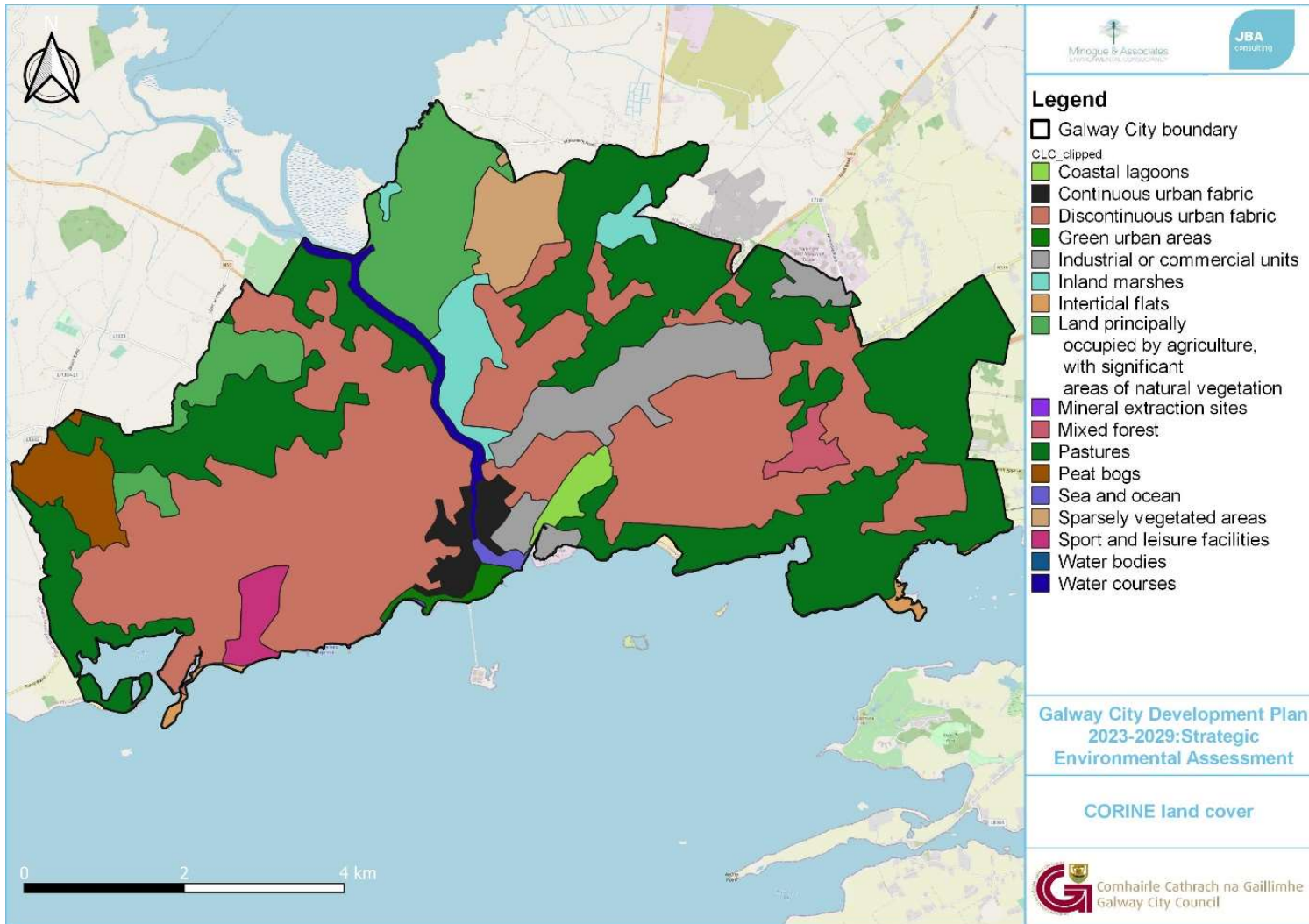


FIGURE 4-25 LAND-USE IN PLAN AREA



## 4.9.2 Landscape – Issues

### Landscape Issues

Landscape interacts with a number of SEA indicators including Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Population, Human Health and Noise, Cultural Heritage and Air and Climate. The issues pertinent to Galway City's landscape are as follows:

- Promoting development that respects the city's existing landscapes and incorporates the principles of good urban design that facilitates the functioning of successful places.
- Protecting key views and vistas. A potential threat to the landscape of the city is climate change and its consequent effects. Being on the coastline, Galway City is at the risk of flooding, which alters the landscape and cityscape on both a short and long-term basis.
- Conservation and enhancement of Galway's built environment. The consideration of potential impacts can be addressed through the development management process.
- Enhancing community and greenscape.
- Amenities and services including open space and play areas.
- Greening the existing grey infrastructure.
- Enhancing existing landscape features and elements that contribute to local character.
- Integrating green and blue infrastructure considerations where possible.
- The development of the Green Network and public realm has to be balanced with the conservation of areas with heritage value, while also enhancing the built amenities of the city.
- Enhancing the public realm and connectivity around the plan area. Development should be of good design and seek to contribute to local character and sense of place, and also consider Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology and Biodiversity Flora and Fauna SEA topic issues.

## 4.10 Cultural Heritage

The city's name is derived from *Gallimh*, meaning 'stony river', known today as the River Corrib. Medieval Galway was ruled by fourteen merchant families ("The Tribes of Galway"), and the city largely thrived on international trade due to its status as the principal Irish port for trade with France and Spain. Galway City is rich in cultural heritage and has retained its medieval fabric and scale, and presents a walkable city with a coherent core. Galway City is a leading tourism destination along the Wild Atlantic Way. The Galway City Museum has high foot traffic, with over 170,000 visitors annually. The current GCDP supports the implementation of *Everyone Matters: A Cultural Sustainability Strategy for Galway 2016-2023*. The new Plan will continue to focus on policy measures to support the development of culture, arts and creative industry in the city and support the provision of arts, culture and community infrastructure. It will be informed by the City Arts Plan for Galway City Council.

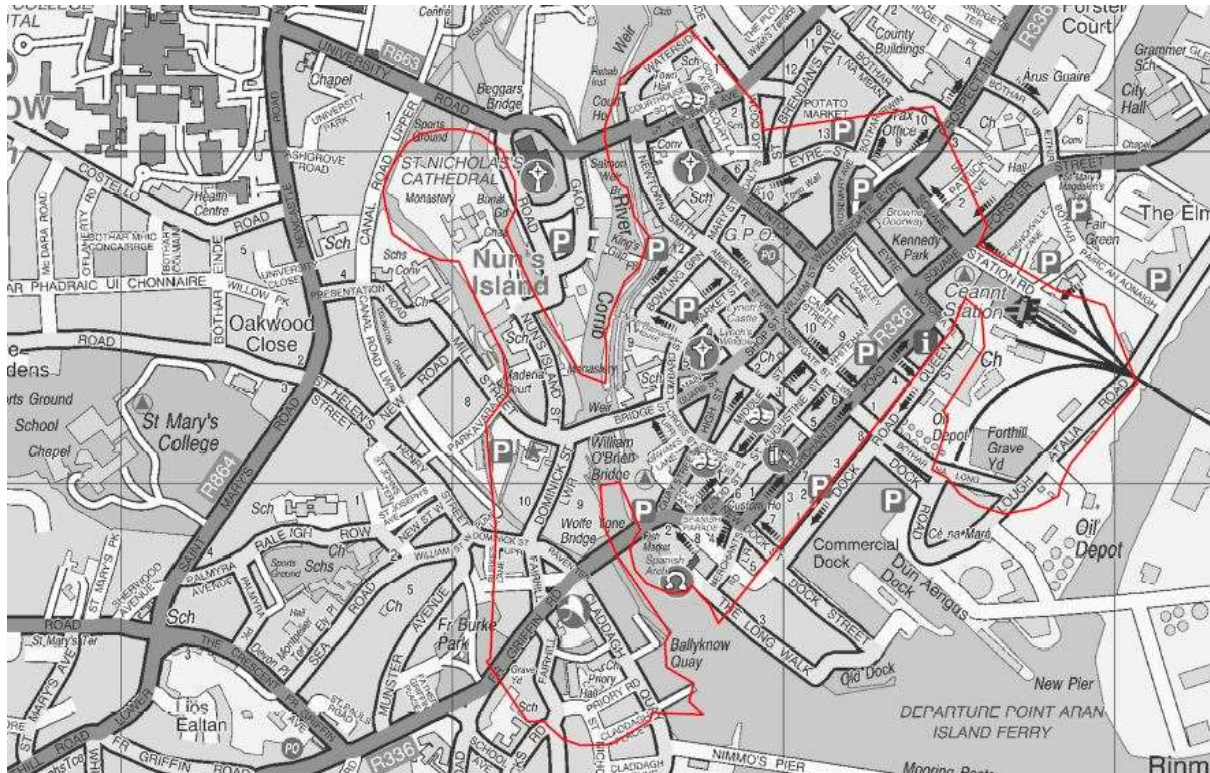
### 4.10.1 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage is defined as including structures, places, caves, sites, features or other objects, whether on land, underwater or in inter-tidal zones. It also includes any archaeological sites that may not have been recorded yet, as well as archaeology beneath the ground surface, or underwater as well as the context of any such site discovered. Given its historic character, Galway City centre is identified as a Zone of Archaeological Notification, and there are many archaeological sites throughout the plan area, notably clustered around the historic core, as **Figures 4.26 and 4.27** show. The Galway City Heritage Plan 2015-2021<sup>52</sup> aims to promote best practice in heritage conservation and management, and collection and dissemination of the same, while boosting the economic and tourism value of Galway City.

<sup>52</sup> "Galway Heritage Plan 2015/2021."



FIGURE 4-26 ZONE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTIFICATION IN THE PLAN AREA



A report assessing the impacts of cable routing on Underwater Archaeological and Cultural Heritage documented the marine archaeological and historical background of Galway Bay<sup>53</sup>. This noted that evidence for Mesolithic activity in Galway is scarce; Neolithic archaeology is more evident due to the presence of a number of known megalithic monuments<sup>54</sup>. In 2014, an investigation headed by Ireland’s Underwater Archaeology Unit unearthed a series of sunken dug-out canoes in Lough Corrib<sup>55</sup>, which also contained a miniature armory of weapons of Viking origin. INFOMAR is a DECC-funded joint programme between the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Marine Institute, surveying Irish unmapped marine territory. The programme has so far mapped roughly 400 shipwrecks throughout the Irish coast. **Figure 4.28** depicts locations of shipwrecks off-coast of the plan area.

#### 4.10.2. Built Heritage

There are approximately 600 structures in the Record of Protected Structures in the plan area, examples of which include St. Nicholas’ Church, the lighthouse at Mutton Island, the timber sculpture at the Salmon Weir Bridge and the King George V post box at Courthouse Square<sup>56</sup>. Under the Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or cityscape that is of special, architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, contributes to the appreciate of protected structures, Galway City<sup>57</sup> contains eleven designated ACAs, presented below in **Table 4.6** (See **Figure 4.29**)

<sup>53</sup> *Underwater Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: Cable Route Selection Survey*

<sup>54</sup> *Shipwrecks | Infomar*

<sup>55</sup> *The Logboats in the Lake*

<sup>56</sup> *GalwayCity - Heritage & Architectural Conservation*

<sup>57</sup> *Galway City Council Development Plan (2017-2023)*

TABLE 4-6 LIST OF ACAs ACROSS PLAN AREA

ACA	Description
The City Core	The medieval core of Galway is a mix of streetscapes and buildings of any periods. The layout and scale of some of the streets reflect the medieval street pattern and is the most important area of built heritage in Galway. Its designation is beneficial in ensuring the area's character is enhanced and protected
Lower Dominick Street	Lower Dominick Street contains some of the best 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century buildings, facades, shop fronts and original features to survive in long uninterrupted stretches in the city. It is an area of distinct urban form and streetscape, and has a unique setting bounded by the River Corrib and Eglinton Canal.
The Crescent/Sea Road	The Crescent is a very pleasant sweep of late Georgian style houses with gardens to the front and with further gardens and ancillary buildings and mews buildings to the rear. Most of the houses on Sea Road date from the mid and late 19 <sup>th</sup> century. This is an area of distinctive urban form and visual richness.
The Long Walk	The Long Walk has a particularly attractive setting, with views towards the sea and the Claddagh. The area characterises a distinct urban form, which reflects Galway's historic relationship with the sea and is a landmark area for the city.
St. Nicholas Street	St. Nicholas Street is a terrace of 19 <sup>th</sup> century artisan's dwellings and is one of the few such grounds of this extent and completeness, which survive in the city, and therefore merits preservation from a social and architectural interest.
St. Mary's Terrace	St. Mary's Terrace consists of two 19 <sup>th</sup> century uniform terraces of attractive, well-maintained, rendered, tudor-style houses flanking St. Mary's Avenue. This group of buildings is of architectural interest retaining many original decorative features including red brick detailing and bay windows at ground floor level and front gardens.
Number 1-6 Dock Road	Number 1-6 Dock Road consists of a terrace of Victorian building on a prominent position overlooking the commercial dock and forms part of a terrace of the few remaining 19 <sup>th</sup> century buildings on the street. Number 1 Dock Road has historical significance as it was the birth place of Pádraic Ó Conaire.
Eyre Square	Eyre Square is a significant historical civic space within the city, the green area (Kennedy Park) itself dates back to the mid-17 <sup>th</sup> Century. The square comprises both historic and modern buildings with varying styles, ranging from late Georgian to Victorian and modern. While significant intervention has taken place, it still retains the original form with a unified streetscape.
Number 11-18 University Road	Number 11-18 University Road comprises a mid-to-late 19 <sup>th</sup> century terrace of attractive rendered facades with front gardens, boundary walls and railings. This distinctive terrace was built by the Catholic Church, primarily to house academic staff of NUI Galway. This ACA is of social and architectural interest and is a strong and defining element of the streetscape.
Number 7-14 Presentation Road	Number 7-14 Presentation Road are a group of eight semi-detached dwellings. They date to the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century and were constructed by local builders (McDonaghs) to house staff of the company. The dwellings are attractive, modestly scaled houses which provide a pleasant setting opposite St. Joseph's Church, which dates from 1886. The intact, unified character of these buildings gives distinction to the streetscape.
Number 34-38 St. Mary's Road	Number 34-38 St. Mary's Road comprises a terrace of three dwellings and two detached dwellings dating to the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century. This group of houses retain their historic fabric, with rendered facades, decorative quoins, and panelled front boundary walls. They have a set back address and are elevated above St. Mary's Road, giving an intact, unified character to the streetscape.



FIGURE 4-27 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

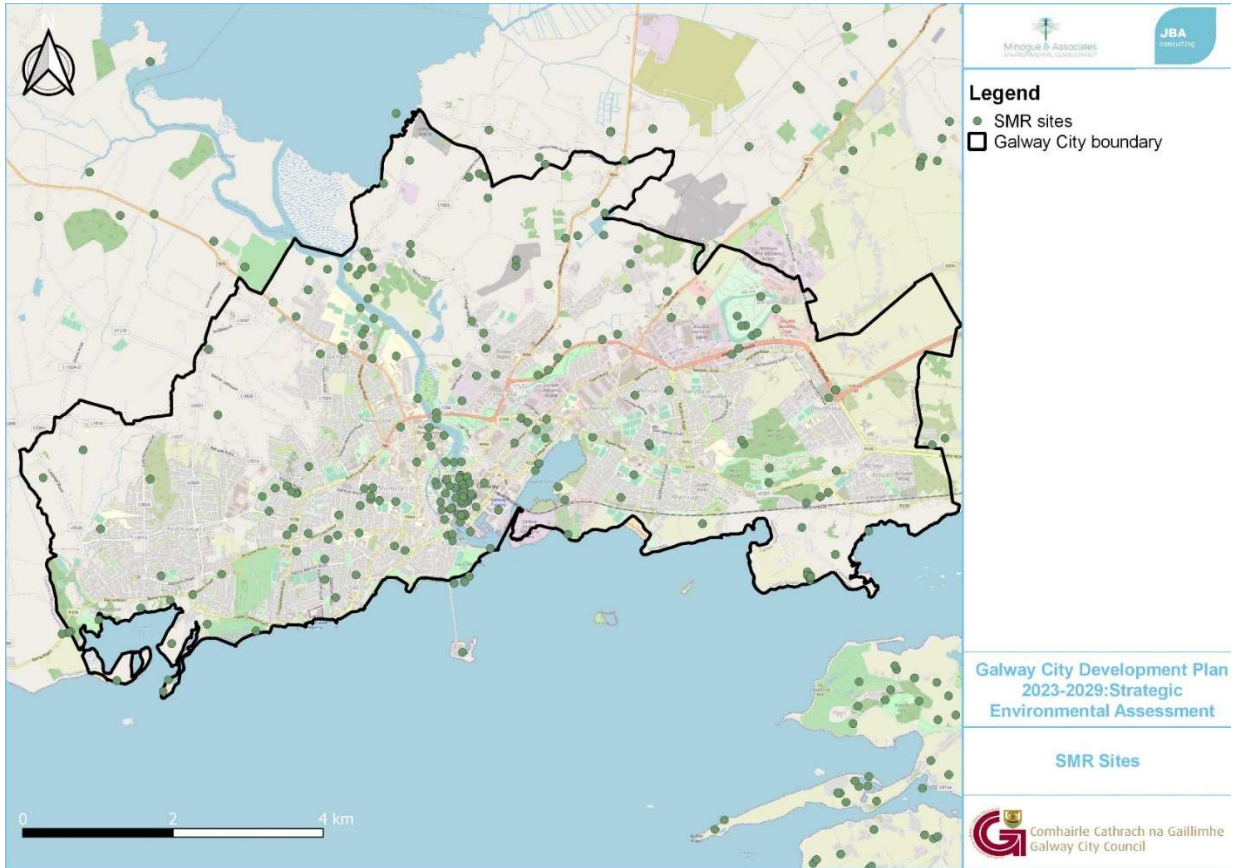


FIGURE 4-28 LOCATIONS OF SHIPWRECKS OFF THE PLAN AREA

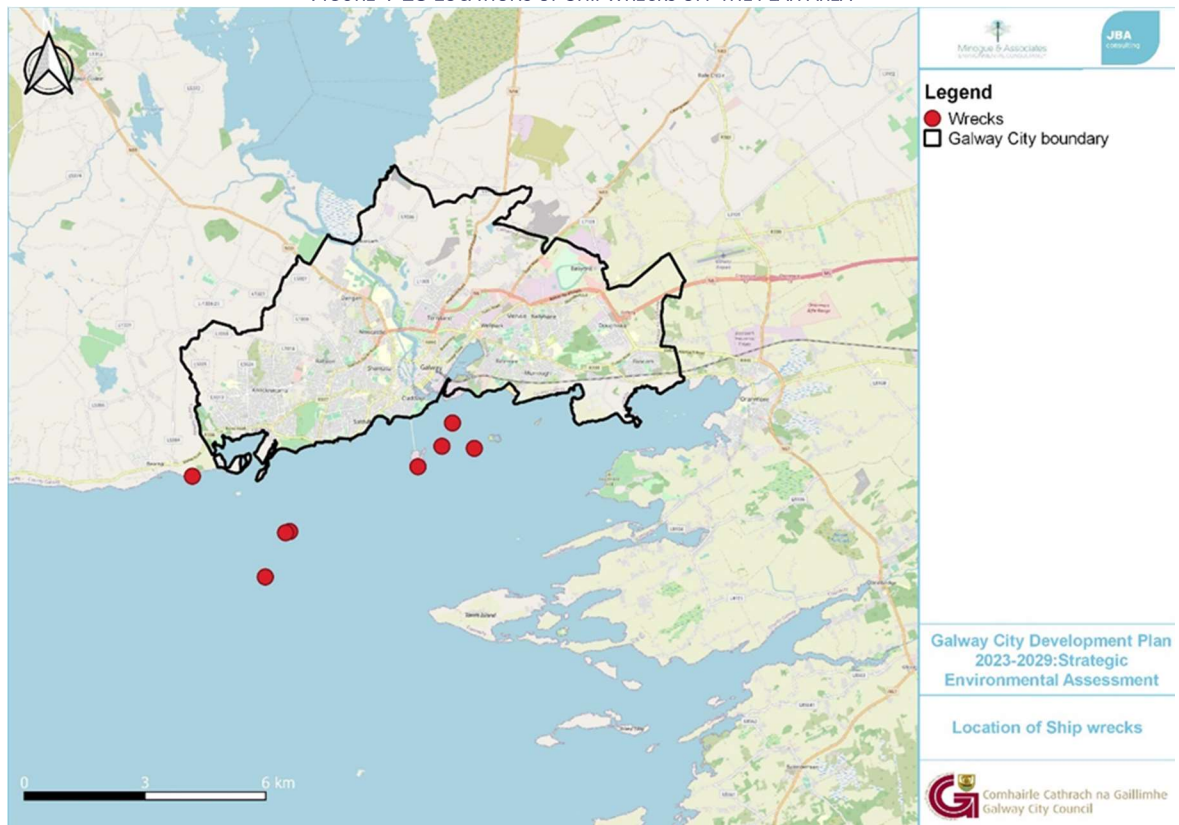
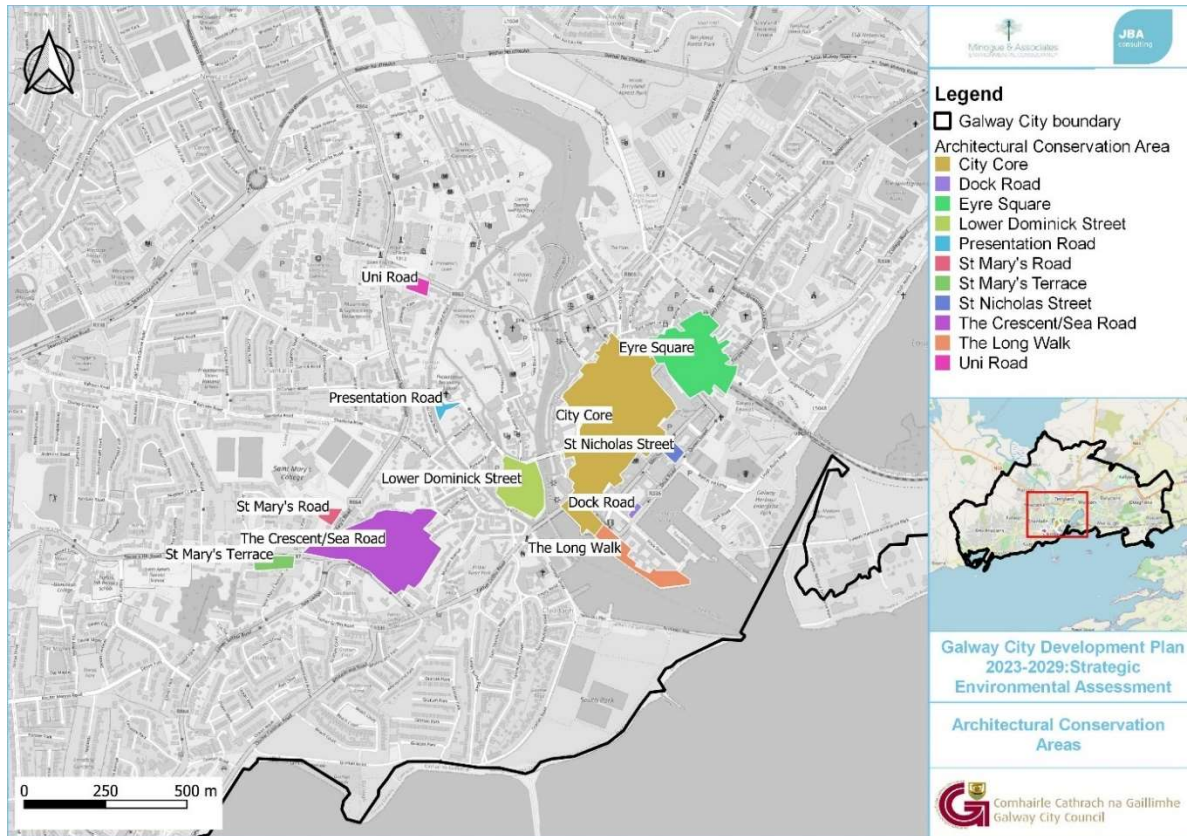




FIGURE 4-29 ACAS IN GALWAY CITY.



### 4.10.3 Intangible Cultural Heritage

Ireland ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Intangible cultural heritage refers to

*‘the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, groups, and in some cases, individuals, recognized as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity’.*

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. Galway was the fifth city in the world to be awarded the permanent status of UNESCO City of Film in 2014. The Irish language and linguistic heritage is an intrinsic part of the cultural experience and life in the city, which is enhanced by the efforts of the Galway City Council that include initiatives to boost Galway’s ambition to become a bilingual city. Known as the Culture Capital of Ireland and the European Capital of Culture for 2020, the Galway International Arts Festival, the Galway Film Fleadh, Cuirt International Festival of Literature, Baboro International Arts Festival for Children are a few examples of the annual events that take place. The Claddagh is located on the western side of Galway City and is one of the oldest areas of Galway City. Once an ancient fishing village, today the area contains St. Mary’s Dominican Church, a national school and a community centre.

### 4.10.4 Cultural Heritage – Issues

#### Cultural Heritage Issues

The key issues for consideration pertaining to cultural heritage for Galway City are:

- Enhancing cultural and linguistic heritage.
- Protection and enhancement of built heritage. Potential climate change effects (including changing weather patterns) on built heritage as well on cultural landscapes and amenities within the Green Network pose a threat.

- Designing successful new architecture and public realm in regeneration areas as well as enhancing the quality of built heritage within the wider plan area can contribute to enhancing the cultural heritage of the city.
- The reuse of buildings, increasing living in the city centre and enhancing architectural heritage can contribute to place making and identity within the residents.
- Promotion of heritage features.
- Potential for additional undiscovered archaeological sites.
- Preserving and strengthening the Irish language.
- Recognition of intangible cultural heritage and practices.

## 4.11 Inter-Relationships

Environmental sensitivity mapping was prepared to inform the overall assessment of the *GCDP 2023 -2029* and to aggregate different environmental themes to help identify areas of greater and lesser environmental sensitivity. The key datasets used to inform this sensitivity mapping were as follows.

- Ecological Designations (SAC, SPAs, NHAs and pNHAs)
- Annex 1 habitats
- Surface Water quality and
- Architectural Conservation Areas.

The environmental sensitivities map shows the level of overlap of environmental sensitivities and the range of physical environmental factors. It is important to note that the environmental factors not reflected on this map, e.g., those that are point specific, like protected structures, were not included as it was considered by their inclusion; it would potentially give a visual misrepresentation of sensitivity when considering potential areas for future growth. Also, important to note is that the physical extent of the environmental sensitivity can extend beyond the defined area on the map, as the potential impact can be generated at a location remote from the mapped area. For example, a development outside of a designated site boundary does not mean that it cannot impact on it. The mapping also highlights the interaction of key environmental parameters, whilst all environmental parameters interact with each other to an extent, key interactions as shown below relate to water, biodiversity and climate change. All the parameters interact with Population, Human Health and Noise. The ranking of the environmental parameters used in this mapping exercise were as follows:

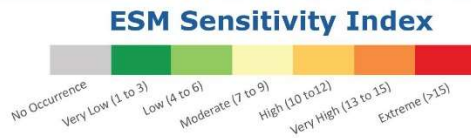
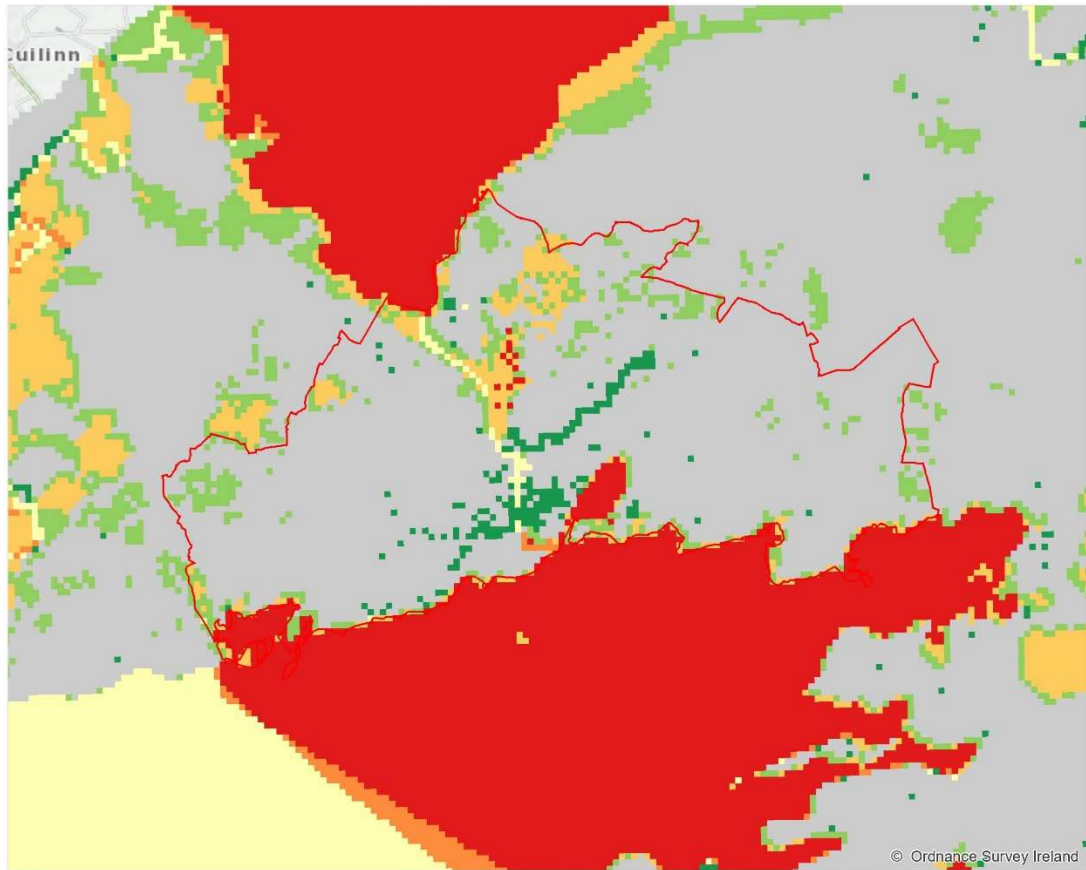
Annex 1 habitats, SACs and SPAs – 2

Surface water status -1

This was combined with other variable datasets, please see legend below **Figure 4.30**.

FIGURE 4-30 ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY MAPPING FOR GALWAY

### ESM Results



Date: 11/5/2021 Time: 9:04:41 AM Author: JBA Consulting

\*This map is an aggregate result based on the variables and user defined weights listed below.  
Warning: Please note that weights are only to be used to emphasize the relative significance of an environmental aspect - applying weights to more than two themes would magnify, and possibly overstate, the overall sensitivity.

Air & Climactic Weight: Variables:

Biodiversity, flora and fauna Weight: 2 Variables: Annex I Habitats, Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas

Cultural Heritage Weight: 1 Variables: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

Population and Human Health Weight: Variables:

Soils and Geology Weight: Variables:

Water Weight: 1 Variables: WFD Coastal and Transitional Water Bodies Status, WFD Lake Status, WFD River Status

## 4.12 Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the GCDP 2023-2029

SEA legislation requires that consideration be given to the likely evolution of the current baseline where implementation of the Plan does not take place. **Table 4.7** presents the likely evolution of the environment in the absence of the Plan.

**TABLE 4-7 EVOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PLAN**

SEA Topic	Evolution of same
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>There would be no overarching city level framework to inform and guide where development and land-use activities can take place whilst facilitating the objectives of the NPF and the RSES. Applications would be on a case-by-case basis with no overall strategic focus or vision. Depending on the location, scale, size and type of developments this could potentially result in significant adverse in combination and indirect effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna due to further erosion of ecological connectivity, declining water quality and climate change effects.</p> <p>The opportunity to embed climate change adaptation, mitigation measures and enhance blue and green network would be lost. The opportunity to embed proactive and positive measures in the GCDP relating to blue and green infrastructure and ecological connectivity would not be realised; nor the opportunity to promote co benefits around public realm measures and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan of which GCC is a signatory.</p> <p>The chance to incorporate the requirements and measures in the AA, SFRA and SEA environmental assessments would be missed and the means to plan for appropriate development and avoid more environmentally sensitive areas would result in overall much weaker protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.</p>
Population, Human Health, Noise	<p>In the absence of the Plan, the development including around regeneration areas, compact growth, public realm, urban greening and blue/green infrastructure and most critically adaptation to climate change would take place in an uncoordinated manner. Tailored policy responses and spatially targeted measures would not be promoted in the absence of the Plan. The accompanying co benefits in relation to enhanced permeability, improvements to the public and urban realm and opportunity for the environmental enhancement for the plan area and its citizens may subsequently not be realised.</p> <p>There would not be a localised framework within which to regulate, aid and/or control development whether economic, social or environmental. A lack of controlled development could lead to pressure on adequate service provisions and infrastructural facilities, thus affecting the natural environment in which the population lives leading to human health and quality of life issues. In the absence of an agreed target population and appropriate zoning of land, all environmental parameters would be adversely affected to varying degrees.</p> <p>In the absence of the Plan, Core Strategy and population targets; infrastructure, including services and housing provision would not be catered for accurately.</p>
Air and Climate	<p>Climate change is predicted to increase problems of flooding and potential increase in periodic droughts due to changes in rainfall patterns. Provision needs to be incorporated into the Plan for mitigation and adaptation measures to provide for the Plan area to become resilient to meeting the challenges of climate change.</p> <p>GCC is well placed through the plan process to lead and advance climate change adaptation and mitigation through spatial planning. If the Plan were not to be implemented adverse climate change effects may impact on vulnerable lands, habitats, and species. In addition, a proactive approach through the plan process may be lost in terms of protecting and supporting critical service infrastructure. The roll out and delivery of the GTS may be slower in the absence of the plan and measures in the GTS provide for significant public transport and modal shift patterns for the plan area.</p> <p>In the absence of the <i>GCDP 2023-2029</i>, existing provisions in relation to climate change and air quality will apply but the strong commitment and vision to respond and adapt to Climate</p>

SEA Topic	Evolution of same
	Change may be reduced. The opportunity to embed co benefits across climate change adaption may not be maximised.
Water	<p>Whilst there is a significant amount of European and national legislation for the protection and enhancement of water resources and quality, the primary issues affecting water quality and flood control such as population increase, loss of floodplains, coastal squeeze, surface and groundwater pollution, capacity of water supply, and wastewater and increased run-off which can be controlled locally through the Plan process will not be adequately addressed. The process for assessing the issues which affect the surface water and groundwater resources of the plan area may not be comprehensively addressed from land-use planning, resulting in a general deterioration in this aspect of the environment.</p> <p>The application of the SEA, AA and SFRA environmental assessment processes would also be missed and the accompanying influence of these processes on both policy/objectives and land-use would be missed.</p>
Soil and Geology	<p>Soil quality and function may be enhanced through measures associated with flood resilience and nature-based solutions. The regeneration of brownfield and city centre sites through the GCDP reduces requirements for additional geological resources and greenfield development. This policy is well reflected in both the NPF and RSES, and with no plan this would be not maximised and planned for.</p> <p>There would be no framework for future development and therefore protection of the soil resources. A key objective to rehabilitate brownfield and derelict sites opposed to developing greenfield sites may not be achieved which will result in potential subsequent impacts not only on soil quality, but on biodiversity, groundwater quality and water supply and consequently potential impact on public health.</p>
Material Assets	<p>Existing objectives that relate to this parameter would apply. Many of the measures in the GCDP are identified with a view to minimising adverse effects of climate change on material assets and responding and facilitating behavioural and modal change in energy use and transport. An integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy may not be advanced in such a holistic manner in the absence of the Plan.</p> <p>The current legislation which provides for the protection and enhancement of the water resources and quality at European, National, Regional and County level will protect and maintain existing water bodies in the plan area. However, there would not be a planning framework to regulate aid and control development in accordance with specific local issues in relation to potable water, wastewater treatment, flooding and development. This could result in significant impacts across a range of environmental parameters including biodiversity, water, human health, landscape and soil and geology.</p> <p>As the Galway Transport Strategy may not be embedded in the absence of the Plan, the achievement of modal shifts and sustainable transport patterns may not be fully realised.</p>
Landscape	<p>There would be no framework within which to regulate, aid and/or manage future economic, social or environmental development. A lack of development objectives would lead to uncontrolled development with no framework for directing development to appropriate locations. Certain areas could continue to experience development pressures, for example, along the inner Galway coastline with accompanying adverse landscape and seascape effects.</p> <p>The implementation of the Galway Public Realm Strategy and landscape enhancement measures through green network improvements may not be fully or appropriately realised. The Plan will include objectives that provide for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the landscape as part of an integrated sustainable planned approach to future development within the plan area. Therefore, the absence of the Plan would remove such protection and enhancement measures for the landscape, potentially leading to its fragmentation, loss and deterioration in local and city landscape, townscape and seascape character.</p>
Cultural Heritage	The identification and detailed consideration of city centre and public realm issues may not be fully advanced or promoted. The relationship between the public realm, townscape and

SEA Topic	Evolution of same
	<p>cultural heritage features and intangible cultural heritage would not be considered in the same level of detail in the absence of the Plan.</p> <p>The opportunity to promote, support and reuse existing buildings and improve energy efficiencies in older buildings and plan for climate change effects on structures may not be maximised.</p> <p>Galway City has a significant assembly of cultural heritage with extensive and effective legislation and guidance from International to national level affording both the architectural and archaeological heritage a high level of protection. There may not be a framework within which to regulate, aid and/or control development whether economic, social or environmental. This may lead to uncontrolled development resulting in losses and/or deterioration in the cultural heritage of the plan area.</p> <p>Under the above circumstances, the cultural heritage within the administrative/ settlement boundary, in the absence of the Plan would suffer. Ultimately, the potential for fragmentation, loss, and/or deterioration of cultural heritage would occur of this irreplaceable resource.</p>
Inter-relationships	<p>In combination effects arising due to the absence of the Plan would be potentially significant: Evolution of the environment in the absence of the plan could generate effects in terms of loss of ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. Disturbance to biodiversity, flora and fauna through unregulated development and poor design such as increasing light levels, emissions from transport, energy.</p> <p>Flood events particularly around coastal and fluvial flooding with potential interactions across all SEA parameters.</p> <p>Effects of climate change on critical infrastructure, combined with loss of opportunity to adapt and embed nature based solutions and strengthening the green and blue network.</p> <p>Risk of not meeting/contributing to reduction in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Potential adverse effects on water quality for estuarine, freshwater and groundwater with accompanying interactions across all SEA parameters.</p> <p>Increased greenfield development with release of carbon in soil as well as other ecosystem services that soil provides.</p> <p>Aligned to this would be the risk of not achieving compact growth and not meeting the NPF and RSES targets in this regard.</p>



## 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

### 5.1 Introduction

The purpose of the SEA is to ensure that the assessment process is transparent and robust and that the *GCDP 2023-2029* considers and addresses potential significant environmental effects. Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are derived from the principles identified through the plan, policy and programme review in Chapter Three of this report. These SEOS formed part of the SEA Scoping report issued to statutory Environmental Authorities and their submissions have further refined and tailored the SEOs. **Table 5.1** presents the SEOs.

**TABLE 5.1. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES**

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna</b>	B1: Protect, conserve and promote the enhancement of habitats, species and their sustaining resources in international and national designated sites and prevent adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect) from development within or adjacent to these sites.
	B2: Protect and conserve rare and threatened habitats and species, including those listed in the Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Acts.
	B3: Protect and conserve the marine environment and promote the appropriate sustainable management of the coastal zone taking cognisance of potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on European sites.
	B4: Support measures to control and manage alien/invasive species.
	B5: Protect areas of local biodiversity value and stepping stones which provide connectivity for species and prevent wildlife habitat fragmentation.
	B6: Promote ecological awareness and biodiversity.
<b>Population, Human Health, Noise</b>	PHH1: Promote good quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns, land uses, including potential adverse noise quality impacts.
	PHH2: Promote social inclusion and wellbeing/healthy living in the city.
	PHH3 Minimise noise, vibration and emissions from traffic and minimise impact on residential amenities.
<b>Air and Climate</b>	C1: Promote climate adaption and mitigation measures in line with the Galway City Climate Change Adaption Strategy and any future plans.
	C2: Enable sustainable development by encouraging new and existing development to reduce carbon emissions and build climate resilience.
	C3: Improve air quality within the city.
	C4: Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2009).
<b>Water</b>	W1: Maintain and improve, where possible, the quality of surface water, rivers, lakes and groundwater to meet the requirements of the National River Basin Management Plan.
	W2: Maintain and improve, where possible, the quality of transitional and coastal waters, and to prevent the contamination of bathing water.
	W3: Support the maintenance and improvement of drinking water supplies.
	W4: Support the promotion of water conservation.
	W5: Progressively reduce discharges of polluting substances to waters.
<b>Soil and Geology</b>	S1: Maintain the quality of soils.
	S2: Maximise the sustainable re- use of brownfield lands, and the existing built environment.
	S3: Minimise the consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.
	S4: Protect and conserve important and audited geological heritage sites.
<b>Material Assets</b>	M1: Maximise use of the built environment in a sustainable and efficient manner.
	M2: Maximise and support sustainable modes of transport.
	M3: Ensure water and wastewater are planned for and provided as critical services infrastructure
	M4: Facilitate measures to reduce all forms of air pollution.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH1: Promote the protection and conservation of the city's cultural, built archaeological and linguistic heritage, and where appropriate enhance character.
<b>Landscape</b>	L1: Conserve and enhance the built heritage and landscape features of the city.
<b>Interrelationships</b>	IR1: Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes
	IR2: Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement.



## 6 Consideration of Alternatives

### 6.1 Introduction

One of the critical roles of the SEA is to facilitate an evaluation of the likely environmental consequences of a range of alternative development scenarios, in this case the *GCDP 2023-2029*. These alternative development scenarios should meet the following considerations:

- Take into account the geographical scope, hierarchy and objectives of the plan – **be realistic**
- Be based on socio-economic and environmental evidence – **be reasonable**
- Be capable of being delivered within the plan timeframe and resources – **be implementable**
- Be technically and institutionally feasible – **be viable**.

This chapter presents the approach to considering and assessing the alternatives for the Plan.

- Section 6.2 summarises how the alternative scenarios were developed;
- Section 6.3 discusses the role of climate change and how climate change effects, adaptation and mitigation influenced the alternatives;
- Section 6.4 explains how the assessment of alternatives was undertaken
- Section 6.5 presents the alternative scenarios.
- Section 6.6 presents the evaluation of the alternatives for potential environmental effects.

### 6.2 Development of Alternative Scenarios

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan. The alternatives available for the Plan are framed and guided by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the North and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as land use zoning, core strategy, targets for development on brownfield sites and other key environmental and spatial planning considerations. The following sustainability considerations are of particular importance:

- Flood risk;
- Energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change;
- Seeking a meaningful reduction in the growth in demand for private transport;
- Ensuring that land use and transportation planning are integrated;
- Protection of the built and cultural heritage of the area;
- Protection of the environment by minimising waste and pollution;
- Promote the involvement of the local community in decision making and encourage social inclusion.

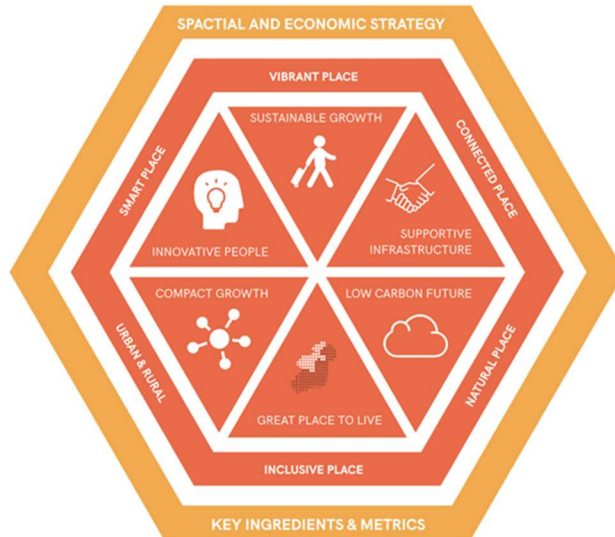
The NPF targets the population of the city to grow by between 40,000 - 45,000 people by 2040 which is an increase of almost 55%. It also targets half of the homes to accommodate this population increase to be located within the existing built footprint on lands which include key regeneration/brownfield sites, infill sites and underutilised lands at locations that are well served by existing and planned public transport, amenity, social and community infrastructure.

The RSES and MASP supports the redevelopment of key regeneration/brownfield sites in the city and that these sites would support 40% of those homes within the city development envelope.

Key objectives and principles of the RSES are presented in **Figure 6.1** and are the overall framework under which alternatives can be developed and explored.

FIGURE 6:1 KEY OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE RSES

People and Place (Principles)	Compact growth will be pursued to ensure sustainable growth of more compact urban and rural settlements, supported by jobs, houses, services and amenities, rather than continued sprawl and unplanned, uneconomic growth.
Vibrant Ambition	The NWRA believes that strong economic growth, which creates permanent, sustainable jobs, is best achieved by building a competitive and productive economy. Focusing policies on scale, investing in connectivity and our people whilst aggressively pursuing a low carbon approach to enhance our differentiation.
Natural Ambition	It has been identified that more strategic actions are required to prepare the region for what is to come and highlights the need to create a combined long term vision for the future of both energy supply and our ability to use renewable energy. To address our energy requirements our RSES emphasises the need for coordination, new thinking, investment and skills to implement change. All considerations need to be cognisant of our natural resources, landscape and heritage (natural, social and cultural).
Connected Ambition	Accessibility and mobility within the region have a direct effect on the region's economic competitiveness. It also has an effect on the attractiveness of the region as a favourable living and visiting environment. The RSES will support further investment in sustainable transport measures. In addition, to achieve our Vision for the region we need to strengthen our digital network and enable new technologies to work by ensuring that policies and systems are in place that can help people transition to a world much more digitally connected.
Inclusive Ambition	One of the strongest foundations and emerging propositions this region has to build on is its 'livability'. The Region aspires to be one of the most livable places in Europe with a commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth
Infrastructure Ambition	Provision and maintenance of economic infrastructure, such as energy, water, and wastewater, are key to delivering compact growth and a connected, vibrant, inclusive, resilient and smart region.



### 6.3 Role of Climate Change in Considering Alternatives

Climate change is impacting ecosystems through changes in mean conditions and in climate variability, coupled with other associated changes such as increased ocean acidification and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. It also interacts with other pressures on ecosystems, including degradation, defaunation and fragmentation. At the same time, ecosystems can also assist in the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. **Table 6.2** below presents effects and impacts of climate change on Galway City as identified in the

Galway City Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. The EPA in their submission on the preparation of the draft plan and SEA recommended the following to be considered in relation to climate change:

- Direct and indirect impacts of the Plan on greenhouse gas emissions and removals (Mitigation);
- Direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the implementation of the Plan, e.g. the resilience of critical water service infrastructure to flooding and drought (Adaptation);
- The linkages between mitigation and adaptation (inter-relationships).

Considering how to respond to the above impacts and build in appropriate adaptation measures have informed the consideration of alternatives and are a key factor in assessment of alternatives for *GCDP 2023-2029*.

**TABLE 6-2 CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS FOR GALWAY CITY (CLIMATE ADAPTION STRATEGY 2019-2024)**

<b>Spatial Planning and Land-use</b>	<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Water Quality</b>	<b>Drainage and Flood Management</b>	<b>Community</b>
<p>Critical infrastructure vulnerable to coastal and fluvial flooding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Road R336</li> <li>- Roads infrastructure including public lighting and traffic management</li> <li>- Wolfe Tone Bridge</li> <li>- William O'Brien Bridge</li> <li>- Fire Station (Fr. Griffin Rd)</li> <li>- Surface water disposal and pumping infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>Changes in precipitation and temperature trends – stressor for less mobile biodiversity with reduced adaptation capacity, risking extinction</p>	<p>Increased occurrence of river flooding over the winter months, with direct impacts on the water quality of rivers, lake and coast</p>	<p>Inundation of stormwater infrastructure from high precipitation events and storm surges.</p>	<p>Pressure on drinking water supplies during heatwaves and cold weather events – particularly relevant as tourism is a big consumer of resources</p>
<p>Loss of beach and landscape surface area via coastal erosion</p>	<p>Temperature and precipitation trend changes might favour the flourishing of invasive species over native ones E.g. the spread of Zebra Mussels in inland waterways</p>	<p>Changes in species distribution and phenology of river systems</p>	<p>Increased vulnerability in businesses operating in high-risk areas</p>	<p>Increased costs of maintaining built heritage and archaeological sites around the city</p>
<p>Designing and developing spaces to support increased tourism will place increased pressures on resources, amenities and services.</p>	<p>Species affected by phenological mismatch (changes in the timing of seasonal timings) will face food supply disruptions and have larger implications in the whole ecosystem</p>	<p>Higher water temperatures will lower oxygen saturation and create favourable conditions for algae, pathogens and other pollutants</p>	<p>Impacted power supplies for pumping and treatment during storm events</p>	<p>Contaminants to waterways and drinking water supplies – rainfall (flooding), sea level rise and storm surge</p>

Increased frequency of the Urban Heat Island effect in certain parts of the city over summers	Erosion of coastal habitats on Galway Bay (from extreme weather events and sea-level rise) that currently support wintering wetland birds (divers, grebes, cormorants, ducks, swans, geese and waders)	Contamination of freshwater bodies with sea-water and vice versa from flooding, with the migration of species such as shellfish and Microcystis bloom that can impact swimming and beach activities	Urban areas that are dependent on surface water collection will be affected by more frequent flooding events	Increased pressure on emergency services, such as law-enforcement, medical and para-medical services and increased exposure personnel to risks (personal injury, infections from contaminated waters)
	Alterations in sea temperatures and chemistry can lead of algal blooms that degrade marine life conditions by inhibiting sunlight and oxygen saturation	Flood events increase the likelihood of the introduction of untreated material directly into waterways	Water treatment facilities risk contamination, while wastewater treatment plants risk overloading with increased precipitation	Higher insurance premiums and difficulty to obtain insurance cover for properties around high-risk areas
	Freshwater wetlands around coastal areas can be affected by storm surges and flooding, and be converted to saltwater marshes, affecting the inhabiting freshwater species	Rise in sea water temperatures will see increased interactions between undesirable marine species (jellyfish and stinger larvae) and swimmers		Prolonged exposure to higher concentrations of ground level ozone during summer and eventual warmer winters
	Conservation efforts for the peatlands occurring on the Western Edge of Galway will be complicated by climate change, and will have implications on the ecosystem services provided by these habitats (e.g. carbon storage)			

## 6.4 How Assessment of Alternatives was Undertaken

Having identified the Strategic Environmental Objectives against which the consideration of alternatives will be assessed for their potential environmental impacts, the compatibility criteria to be used in the assessments are presented in **Table 6.3** below.

**TABLE 6-3 CRITERIA USED IN ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES**

<b>+</b>	Reflects a potential positive effect	<b>-</b>	Reflects a potential negative effect
<b>0</b>	Reflects a neutral or uncertain effect	<b>+/-</b>	Reflects that positive and negative effects are likely or that in the absence of further detail the effects is unclear

In accordance with SEA guidelines, ‘impact’ is defined in terms of the quality (positive, negative or neutral), ‘significance’ i.e. in terms of the scale/type of development envisaged by the plan and the ‘sensitivity’ and/or importance of the receiving environment, and duration (short, medium, long term, permanent or temporary).

**Table 6.4** summarises both environmental and planning considerations taken into account in the assessment of alternatives.

## 6.5 Alternatives Considered

### **Alternative 1: Continue Density Strategy (A1)**

This scenario supports an integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy and applies existing densities allowed under the current Galway City Development Plan 2017-2022 and the Ardaun Local Area Plan 2018-2024.

### **Alternative 2: Increase Density Strategy (A2)**

This scenario supports an integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy. It has a focus on the growth of regeneration areas at Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and lands in the Headford Road area and includes for the direction of development to a urban extension on the east side of the city at Ardaun. It aims to achieve further compact growth and consolidation of neighbourhood areas by **primarily focusing on increasing residential densities within areas that are highly accessible to existing /planned frequent public transport services.**

### **Alternative 3: Sustainable Neighbourhoods (A3)**

This scenario supports an integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy. It has a focus on the growth of regeneration areas at Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and lands in the Headford Road area and includes for the direction of development to a urban extension on the east side of the city at Ardaun. It aims to achieve further growth by promoting **increased residential densities** at appropriate locations including additional strategic regeneration and opportunity sites that have spatial advantages such as in close proximity to the city core, a location along an existing /planned high frequency bus route, good proximity and access to employment, services and amenities. This scenario also aims to **strengthen neighbourhoods** around the city and to support the development of new communities. It focuses on ensuring that new development takes into account of a wide range of relevant issues including the context of the site and the character of the surrounding area and the need for good **quality urban and building design to support successful place making and liveability.** The development of sustainable neighbourhoods through guidelines, standards and through the implementation of local area plans, masterplans / frameworks / area plans is also promoted.

TABLE 6-4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED FOR DRAFT GALWAY CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023- 2029

Alternative Considered	0	+	-	+/-
<i>Continue Density Strategy (A1)</i>		Population, Human Health and Noise Material Assets	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Water Soil and Geology Material Assets Landscape Interrelationships	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Air and Climate Water Soil and Geology Landscape Cultural Heritage Interrelationships
<p><b>Comment:</b>                      This approach will follow in the footsteps of the existing <i>GCDP 2017-2023</i> and the <i>Ardaun LAP 2018-2024</i> and supports an integrated land-use and transportation strategy by applying the existing densities allowed under the current GCDP and Ardaun LAP.                      Given the anticipated population growth for Galway City, this alternative could potentially forego the potential of brownfield sites. This would be a missed opportunity for delivering on housing needs to meet the projected population growth of Galway City. This scenario can potentially place pressure on commuter towns bordering Galway City. There is also a risk of loss of greenfield sites with the expansion of developments and relative isolation from amenities which may reinforce reliance on private car and result in cumulative negative impacts on air quality and climatic factors. These outcomes are not compatible with SEOs for Air and Climate (C1, C2, C3), or for Population, Human Health and Noise (PHH1, PHH2, PHH3). This approach will additionally alter the existing landscape of the city periphery, which may result in the loss of green spaces and access to quality blue and green space (L1, S4, IR1, IR2). This also holds the potential to encroach on locally important biodiversity sites that may serve as ecological corridors for designated and undesignated species, resulting in reduction in quality of these habitats or total loss (B6). Prolonged construction across previously undisturbed ecosystems also runs the risk of introducing or spreading invasive species (B4).                      Cumulative effects may arise by the interaction of loss of greenfield land, increased surface runoff, potential coastal squeeze and less climate resilience which would combine to give rise to a range of potential significant adverse effects across a number of SEOS namely Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (B4, B6), Water (W1, W2, W5), Population Human Health and Noise (PHH1, PHH2, PHH3), Air and Climate (C1, C2, C3), Soil and Geology (S1, S2) and Material Assets (M1, M2). Another long-term impact would potentially be on Landscape (L1), wherein landscape features of the city will be at risk of degradation from urban sprawl.                      Given the anticipated population growth for Galway City, this approach may potentially have negative impacts for the successful delivery of compact, vibrant and climate resilient neighbourhoods.</p>				



Alternative Considered	0	+	-	+/-
<b>Increase Density Strategy (A2)</b>		Population, Human Health and Noise Water Soil and Geology Material Assets	Population, Human Health and Noise Air and Climate Soil and Geology	Population, Human Health and Noise Air and Climate Water Soil and Geology Material Assets Cultural Heritage Landscape Interrelationships
<p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>This scenario integrates the existing approach of the current <i>GCDP 2017-2022</i> and <i>Ardaun LAP 2018-2024</i> and reconciles it with a focus on the growth of regeneration areas at Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and lands in the Headford Road area, as well as including a direction of development with regards to an urban extension on the east side of the city (see <i>Ardaun LAP 2018-2024</i>). It aims to achieving further compact growth and consolidation of neighbourhood areas by primarily focusing on increasing residential densities within areas that are highly accessible to existing/planned frequent public transport services.</p> <p>As this approach is centred around travel patterns and maximising the built environment, it is consistent with PHH1 (promoting a good quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns, land-uses including potential adverse noise quality impacts), W3 (supporting the maintenance and improvement of drinking water supplies), W4 (supporting the promotion of water conservation), S2 (maximising the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and the existing built environment), M1 (maximising use of the built environment in a sustainable and efficient manner), M2 (maximising and supporting sustainable modes of transport), and M3 (ensuring water and wastewater are planned for and provided as critical services infrastructure). PHH3 (minimising noise, vibration and emissions from traffic and minimising impact on residential facilities) is an SEO at risk of being impacted cumulatively and long-term due to private car use and proximity to transport infrastructure. S1 (maintaining the quality of soils) may be negatively impacted due to the expansion and development of infrastructure at new sites.</p> <p>The extent of impact to the remaining SEOs are also undetermined. SEOs W1 (maintaining and improving quality of surface water, rivers, lakes and groundwater to meet the requirements of the National River Basin Management Plan), W2 (maintaining and improving the quality of transitional and coastal waters and to prevent the contamination of bathing water), and W5 (Progressively reducing discharges of polluting substances to waters) might be impacted negatively due to construction activities and increased surface runoff via existing or newly-created channels.</p> <p>Overall this approach may not be able to deliver on the maximised enhancement of the existing neighbourhoods and the creation of a vibrant and climate resilient city of sustainable neighbourhoods.</p>				

Alternative Considered	0	+	-	+/-
<b>Sustainable Neighbourhoods (A3)</b>		Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Population, Human Health and Noise Air and Climate Water Soil and Geology Cultural Heritage Landscape Interrelationships		Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Air and Climate Water Soil and Geology Population, Human Health and Noise
<p><b>Comment:</b>  This scenario builds on the previous two scenarios by incorporating an integrated land-use and transportation strategy and growth of regeneration areas at Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour, lands at Headford Road and an urban extension at Ardaun, with the promotion of increased residential densities at appropriate locations, including additional strategic regeneration and opportunity sites that have spatial advantages such as in close proximity to the city core. The scenario contributes to self-sufficiency where existing/planned high-frequency bus routes, proximity to employment, services and amenities are situated.  This scenario achieves compact growth by focusing future development within strategic regeneration and opportunity sites and would be conducive to meeting the needs of the shifting demographic of Galway City and those who currently commute to the city for economic, educational and recreational activities. Providing compact growth in the core city areas will offer people with options to downsize with changing life events, as well as place them closer to public services and amenities.  This scenario will focus on the development of areas accessible to frequent public transport services, therefore cutting down on private car use and longer commuting times. This scenario also aims to strengthen neighbourhoods around the city and to support the development of new communities. It focuses on ensuring that new development takes into account of a wide range of relevant issues including the context of the site and the character of the surrounding area and the need for good quality urban and building design to support successful place making and liveability. The development of sustainable neighbourhoods through guidelines, standards and through the implementation of local area plans, masterplans / frameworks / area plans is also promoted.  Overall, this scenario is expected to successfully deliver a good balance between quality of life for residents and the quality of the environment. With the possible exception of PHH3 (Minimise noise, vibration and emissions from traffic and minimize impact on residential amenities), this scenario will benefit all other SEOs pertaining to Population, Human Health and Noise due to the scope of streamlined management of residential properties and the proximity to recreational, education and employment environments. Development can therefore explore the possibilities of enhancing social inclusion and healthy living in a targeted way by accounting for the diverse demographics (in terms of age, ability, and socio-economic groups) in Galway City. Moreover, all SEOs relating to cultural heritage, landscape and Interrelationships stand to benefit from this scenario. Proximity to sites of cultural heritage can foster a deeper appreciation of the same in residents, and mobilise them to play an active role in the preservation of the unique cultural and built heritage and landscape features of the city<sup>58</sup>.</p>				

<sup>58</sup> "Citizen Engagement in the Protection of Cultural Heritage."

Alternative Considered	0	+	-	+/-
<p>Targeted, compact development will also act in the best interests of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and limit anthropological disturbances such as spread and introduction of invasive species in ecologically sensitive areas. Green and blue spaces specifically meant for recreational use can be managed more efficiently. Furthermore, investments for climate adaptation and mitigation measures can be delivered in a streamlined way. However, it is to be noted that improving the overall quality of air and reducing emissions will require further investigation as while compact growth offers the opportunity of reduced car use, higher population densities can potentially worsen local air quality and contribute to the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>The above-mentioned outcomes are consistent with the SEOs for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (B1, B2, B5), wherein disturbances to habitats and species are minimised by preventing undue encroachment to green spaces. The optimisation of the city design will greatly benefit Population, Human Health and Noise (PHH1, PHH2) and simultaneously, Interrelationships (IR1, IR2). There is potential for positive cumulative impacts to Air and Climate Change (C1, C2, and C3) with improvement in the overall quality of air and alignment of interests with climate adaptation and mitigation measures. Cultural Heritage (CH1) and Soil and Geology (S1, S2, and S4) will benefit from developmental design which will target growth centres and develop around existing heritage sites. Above all, this scenario is consistent with all SEOs for Material Assets (M1, M2, and M3).</p> <p>Therefore, it can be concluded Alternative 3 would contribute towards proper planning, environmental protection and management and sustainable development in a more efficient fashion than Alternatives 1 and 2.</p>				

## 6.6 Preferred Alternative

Based on the above assessment, at strategic level **Alternative 3 Sustainable Neighbourhoods (A3)** is identified as the preferred alternative. The approach identifies that compact growth of itself will not deliver sustainable neighbourhoods and that the delivery of increased density of housing is to be balanced with the provision of community infrastructure which includes a range of critical facilities including good open space, recreation facilities, good transport options and appropriate social and community infrastructure. The approach is further supported by an increasing focus on place making, public realm measures and enhancement of amenity and recreational opportunities. In addition, the following considerations apply:

- A3 is the most conducive to meeting the needs of the shifting demographics of Galway City with the current number of commuters due to focused future development within regeneration and opportunity sites that include regeneration areas Galway Ceannt Station, Headford Road and the Inner Harbour.
- A3 will reduce traffic-related greenhouse gas and noise emissions from a reduction in private car use and longer commuting times from development of areas placed near public transport services. There will be a positive cumulative impact on the quality of air and climate change over the longer-term.
- Compact development will act in the best interests of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna as there will be limited anthropogenic disturbance and urban sprawl, with the increased potential of streamlined management of blue and green spaces.
- Social inclusion and healthy living can be targeted by developing and offering suitable housing options based on an individual's needs and life circumstances. This alternative maximises the potential of brownfield sites and exploits the existing built environment to accommodate the evolving needs of the city.

## 7 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

### 7.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section of the Environmental Report is to predict and evaluate as far as possible the environmental effects of implementing the *GCDP 2023-2029*. Having established the environmental baseline and the key environmental sensitivities for the plan area in Chapter Four, and the Strategic Environmental Objectives in Chapter Five, an assessment for any potential environmental effects from implementing the Plan can be undertaken.

The assessment process has been undertaken using matrix assessments which reflect ratings in relation to potential significant effects on the environment as a result of implementation. The matrix assessment ratings used are as follows:

(+)	reflects a potential positive effect
(-)	reflects a potential negative effect
(+/-)	reflects that positive and negative effects are likely or that in the absence of further detail the effect is unclear
(0)	reflects a neutral or uncertain effect

Where there is a combination of these symbols (0/+ or 0/-) this indicates that any effect maybe neutral or positive, or neutral or negative depending on how the policies/objectives are delivered. Where negative effects are identified, mitigation measures are recommended to either include new objectives, or to amend or include additional text. The Natura Impact Report (NIR) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has also informed the overall environmental assessment process and mitigation measures arising from these processes are integrated into the plan making process.

## 7.2 Assessment of Draft Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

TABLE 7-1 ASSESSMENT OF DRAFT GALWAY CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023- 2029

(+)	reflects a potential positive effect
(-)	reflects a potential negative effect
(+/-)	reflects that positive and negative effects are likely or that in the absence of further detail the effect is unclear
(0)	reflects a neutral or uncertain effect

### Chapter 1: Introduction, Strategic Context and Core Strategy

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Strategic Goals</b>					
1.	Achieve a high quality of life for all citizens through the provision of a good quality, attractive, built environment, through the protection of the unique natural environment and through facilitation of key economic, cultural and social supports.	All SEOs			
2.	Enable Galway to become a city of scale as envisaged in the NPF and a regional driver of development that can contribute to economic growth through the provision of balanced and sustainable economic opportunities for development, innovation and investment across all employment sectors and allow the role of the City and Metropolitan Area to harness the strengths and maximise the economic development for the whole Northern and Western Region.	All SEOs			
3.	Commit to climate action and the national targeted reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through proactive measures in line with EU and national commitments to enable a just transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy and society in particular through specific promotion, adaptation and mitigation measures.	All SEOs			
4.	Apply the principle of sustainability and alignment with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development particularly where they relate to the uses of land, buildings, water, energy, waste and through the encouragement of sustainable modes of transport and the integration of transportation with land use.	All SEOs			
5.	Aspire to make Galway an equal and inclusive city, particularly through facilitating all forms of social inclusion in the built environment, including in the public realm, housing, and community facilities and in the ability to access services, amenities, employment opportunities and public transportation.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 IR1 IR2		All other SEOs	
6.	Protect and enhance the distinctive and diverse natural environment in the city and strengthen the green network and linkages, recognising the biodiversity value of the amenity, the range of recreational benefits	All SEOs			



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
	this provides, the potential for facilitating active and healthy lifestyles, the effect it can have on the quality of general health and well-being and the value it has for providing an attractive city setting.				
7.	Encourage a sense of collective identity and a shared vision through civic engagement on plans and projects such as the development of a Local Economic and Community Plan for Galway and also on the promotion of specifically focused projects, that will achieve community benefit, foster the indigenous culture and promote the unique form and character of the city, give opportunities for the development of cultural, community and other beneficial infrastructure and enhance and diversify the city economy.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 CH1 IR1		All other SEOs	
8.	Integrate land use and transport planning to maximize opportunities for active travel and public transport usage and enable key transport projects included in the Galway Transport Strategy which will deliver multi modal usage, smart mobility and accessibility for all.	PHH1, PHH2, PH33, C1, C2, C3 IR1, IR2 M2		All other SEOs	
9.	Ensure efficient and sustainable use of all water services environmental resources and infrastructure.	PHH1, PHH2 W3, W4 M3		All other SEOs	
10.	Develop a more urban compact form in the city that provides for attractive, integrated, and easily accessible neighborhoods that are supported by appropriate levels of services and amenities.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2, M3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 1.1 United Nations Sustainability Goals</b>					
1.	Through implementation of the Core Strategy and the policies and objectives of the Development Plan, advance the aims of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 1.2 National and Regional Framework</b>					
1.	Ensure consistency with the National Planning Framework and the vision to achieve the shared goals as expressed in the National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs).	All SEOs			
2.	Ensure consistency with the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) including the MASP and support the achievement of the associated Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs).	All SEOs			
3.	Collaborate with other regional cities in order to harness the combined potential and to maximise opportunities to provide a counterbalance to the growth of Dublin.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 1.3 Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)</b>					
1.	Recognise the importance of the Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) in the delivery of strategic growth with critical mass that supports the development of the city and existing surrounding settlements as strong, attractive urban places, supported by a level of services and infrastructure that creates successful, sustainable and socially inclusive communities and which harnesses the strengths associated with scale to maximise economic opportunities and supports investment.	All SEOs			
2.	Continue to liaise with Galway County Council in the context of the MASP and other relevant shared planning policy issues to support a consistent integrated approach to sustainable development and meeting population growth targets in the MASP area.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 1.4 Core Strategy</b>					

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
1.	Ensure that sufficient amount of lands are zoned and enabled to meet the demands for a diverse range of uses including housing, employment, services and amenity needs over the lifetime of the plan.	All SEOs			
2.	Support a just transition to a greener, low carbon and climate resilient city and integrate climate mitigation and adaptation measures in all plans and projects.	All SEOs			
3.	Support the compact growth of Galway City through appropriate policies that promote co-ordination between land use and locations that can be served by public transport and the walking and cycling networks and enables the delivery of 50% of all new homes within the existing built footprint on lands as set out in the Core Strategy.	All SEOs			
4.	Support the compact growth of the city by promoting development on designated regeneration and opportunity sites, by the re-development of brownfield and underutilised lands and through encouraging the reuse and adaptation of the existing building stock.	All SEOs			
5.	Implement a strategy for settlement that includes for housing on key regeneration and opportunity sites in the city centre, at Ardaun a designated strategic long term growth area and through consolidation and infill on the balance of suitable lands within the city.	All SEOs			
6.	Encourage new neighbourhoods and the consolidation of existing neighbourhoods to develop as sustainable, attractive, well-connected neighbourhoods at appropriate densities, with a high quality of design of buildings and spaces, supported by services, amenities and local enterprises.	All SEOs			
7.	Support the local community goals of the LECP to reduce poverty and alleviate disadvantage in the city by proactively promoting all forms of social inclusion, accessibility in the built environment and public realm, housing, community facilities, employment opportunities, and transport.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 W3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
8.	Ensure that the future growth of the city is undertaken in manner that strikes a balance between enabling development and protection of the environment and the built and natural assets of the city.	All SEOs			
9.	Collaborate with government departments, agencies, and key stakeholders to assist in the delivery of enabling infrastructure, amenities, and community facilities to facilitate compact growth, sustainable neighbourhoods and place making.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 W3 IR1, IR2 CH1 L1		All other SEOs	
10.	Require the preparation of Local Area Plans, Masterplans and design frameworks for those areas which are experiencing and/or likely to experience large scale development or regeneration.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 L1 CH1, IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		S2			
11.	Adopt an active land management approach through enhanced co-ordination with relevant stakeholders and infrastructure providers in the delivery of enabling infrastructure to support implementation of the core strategy.	L1 S1, S2, S3, S4 M1, M2, M3		All other SEOs	
12.	Review Ardaun Local Area Plan to ensure consistency with the Core Strategy and policies and objectives of the 2023-29 Development Plan.	All SEOs			
13.	Establish a Core Strategy Monitoring framework to measure planning outcomes and evaluate the policy objectives of the City Development Plan.	All SEOs			

### Chapter 2: Climate Action

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 2.1. Circular Economy</b>					
1.	Support a successful transition to a circular economy where waste and resources are minimised in accordance with emerging legislation and national strategy.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 2.2. Climate Action</b>					
1.	Support the implementation of International, European and National objectives as detailed in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the European Green Deal;</li> <li>- The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Acts 2015 to 2021;</li> <li>- The Climate Action Plan (2019) and any updated plan;</li> <li>- The National Climate Adaptation Framework 2018;</li> <li>- The National Climate Change Strategy;</li> <li>- Sectoral Adaptation Plans;</li> <li>- The National Climate Mitigation Plan (when prepared and adopted).</li> </ul>	All SEOs			
2.	Support the implementation of national objectives for climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation to achieve a just transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable, carbon neutral economy.	All SEOs			
3.	Support through plan policy and objectives, the national objective of the legally binding path to net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of 2030; through implementation of 5 year carbon budgets, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, promotion of sustainable transport, use of renewable resources, improving energy efficiency and supporting nature based solutions.	All SEOs			
4.	Support, facilitate and advance the implementation of policies and actions set out in the Galway City Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.	All SEOs			
5.	Prepare a five year Climate Action Plan in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2021 and future supporting guidelines and consequently review the development plan to ensure alignment.	All SEOs			
6.	Support national sectoral emissions ceilings and carbon budgets once adopted where applicable.	All SEOs			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
7.	Manage the climate risks associated with climate change through the development of climate adaptation measures and sustainable planning and development, including through the planning, design and implementation of the Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme in conjunction with the OPW.	All SEOs			
8.	Support the implementation of water management measures through mechanisms such as SUDS, rain water harvesting, use of grey water, water storage and nature based solutions to adapt to the impacts of climate change.	All SEOs			
9.	Support the designated and any future Decarbonising Zone in the city and associated implementation plan promoting measures to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and improve general environmental conditions in this area.	All SEOs			
10.	Support Energy Master Plans prepared by Sustainable Energy Communities in Galway City in particular to support the recommendations of the Galway City Energy Master Plan and associated Energy Action Plan setting out pathways for reducing greenhouse gas emission associated with energy use in Galway City (due to be completed by mid-2022)	All SEOs			
11.	Support initiatives to advance good soil management, carbon capture and carbon sequestration where feasible in the city.	All SEOs			
12.	Collaborate with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and any other relevant stakeholder in respect of the implementation of existing and future climate change adaption and mitigation strategies and climate action policy to support the transition to a low carbon economy.	All SEOs			
13.	Increase awareness and support behavioural change in relation to climate change, climate resilience and the transition to a low carbon economy.	All SEOs			
14.	Enable opportunities to activate EC funded projects such as the EU Horizon Europe Missions under the two missions of (i) Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and (ii) Adaptation to Climate Change, including societal transformation.	All SEOs			
15.	Require a climate action statement that considers energy, emissions and sustainable transport as part of every Local Area Plan, masterplan, spatial framework, and regeneration and opportunity site.	All SEOs			
16.	Support measures to reduce the reliance on single use plastics in the city with a particular emphasis on taking single use plastic bottles out of use as a measure to be pro-active in supporting the Climate Action Plan.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 2.3. Renewable Energy</b>					
1.	Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy within the city, and support national initiatives, which offer sustainable alternatives to dependency on fossil fuels and a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, subject to the avoidance of unduly negative visual and environmental impacts, or impacts on residential amenity.	All SEOs			
2.	Support and work in partnership with SEAI, local Sustainable Energy Communities and relevant stakeholders in the development of energy efficient and renewable energy projects and investigate and support the potential for the use of emerging renewable technologies in the city.	All SEOs			
3.	Ensure that the development of renewable energy and its associated infrastructure avoids negative impacts on European sites and adhere to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43EEC).	M1, M2 B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
4.	Promote small scale, on-site energy development, where energy generated is primarily required to meet the needs of households, communities and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. Examples could include micro wind/solar energy generation, district heating, geo thermal and air to water energy technologies.	All SEOs			
5.	Support transmission network integration requirements facilitating linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity and gas transmission grid, in a sustainable and timely manner, subject to proper planning and environmental considerations.	All SEOs			
6.	Support the development of appropriate land-based infrastructure at suitable locations in the city to support off- shore renewable energy production subject to appropriate visual, environmental and ecological protection.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 2.4. Sustainable Building Design and Construction</b>					
1.	Increase the energy performance of new buildings in the city by encouraging energy efficiency and energy conservation in the siting, layout, design, and construction of development.	M1, M2, M3 C1, C2, C3 PHH1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
2.	Encourage and ensure new development to limit greenhouse gas emissions and make use of opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy including through design, layout, orientation and construction practices.	M1, M2, M3 C1, C2, C3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Encourage high standards of energy conservation and improved energy performance in all existing and planned local authority housing and include for a deep retrofit programme of works (currently under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme).	All SEOs			
4.	Liaise with the SEAI and other agencies to develop standards, procedures and targets for energy conservation in the Council's housing stock.	All SEOs			
5.	Support the retrofit and reuse of existing buildings in the interests of sustainability and in line with delivery of the proposed National Aggregated Model of Retrofitting.	M1, M2, M3 S2 PHH1, PHH2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
6.	Promote energy efficiency and sustainability in both existing and new buildings and support the implementation of the EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive and the Building Energy Rating Certification (BER).	M1, M2, M3 PHH1, PHH2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
7.	Support flexibility, accessibility and adaptability in terms of layout and design of new housing.	PHH1, PHH2 S2 W3 M1, M2, M3		All other SEOs	

### Chapter 3: Housing and Sustainable Neighbourhoods

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 3.1. Housing Strategy</b>					

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
1.	Ensure that sufficient suitable lands are zoned to meet the extent of housing needs identified in accordance with the National Planning Framework 2040 (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) targeted population for Galway City, supporting compact growth and regeneration including the requirement that at least 50% of all new homes be delivered within the existing built-up footprint.	All SEOs			
2.	Facilitate the implementation and delivery of the Housing Strategy and HNDA 2023-2029 to meet the identified housing supply targets for the city and to aim for housing choice to be available to meet all needs and incomes.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S2 IR1		All other SEOs	
3.	Require as provided for under the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that 10% of lands zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, and any land which is not zoned for residential use or a mix of residential and other uses but in respect of which permission for the development of houses is granted, be reserved for the purposes of social housing. A further 10% shall be reserved for affordable housing in accordance with the aforementioned Acts and any relevant Ministerial guidance and regulations. Any subsequent amendments to the legal requirement to deliver 'Part V' housing during the lifetime of the Housing Strategy will be complied with. Delivery of 'Part V' housing shall be in accordance with relevant legislation and national, regional, and local policy.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2		All other SEOs	
4.	Engage in pre-planning consultation with private sector developers to facilitate the delivery of housing in accordance with the vision for the housing sector as expressed in the national housing strategy " <i>Housing for All-A New Housing Plan for Ireland</i> " and the requirements of GCC Housing Strategy and Housing Need and Demand Assessment for Galway City.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2, S3 C2 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
5.	Work in collaboration with the Land Development Agency to enhance delivery of the long term strategic needs for social, affordable and cost rental housing in the city.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2, M3 IR1 S1, S3, S3		All other SEOs	
6.	Encourage and facilitate the delivery of housing on vacant sites through maintaining a vacant site register and instituting the associated levy in accordance with the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended).	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M3 S2		All other SEOs	
7.	Support a diverse range of housing types, size and tenures within the City Council's housing developments in the interests of achieving good integration and to allow for a choice of community for all persons.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
8.	Support a diverse range of housing types, size and tenures and endeavour to meet the demand for Owner Occupier housing as projected in the Housing Strategy and the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA).	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
9.	Support the specific housing needs of older people including independent living options as well as semi-independent living options and nursing home accommodation. These facilities should be preferably accommodated within established neighbourhoods and at locations that have good access to community facilities and amenities.	PHH1, PHH2 S2, S3 M1, M2, M3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
10.	Enable older people to continue to live in their own homes, through adaption where necessary or a home more suitable to their needs through rightsizing.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2, M3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
11.	Promote life time adaptable homes that can accommodate the changing needs of a household over time.	PHH1, PHH2 S2 M1, M2, M3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
12.	Proactively promote the specific housing needs of persons with disabilities within City Council and AHB housing developments in order to meet the demand for such special needs accommodation in the interests of social inclusion.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
13.	Address the demand for additional social housing and housing delivery supports through a number of means including the construction of housing, direct acquisition of housing, delivery in conjunction with AHBs and the use of the RAS, HAPs, on a cost rental basis through affordable housing purchase arrangements, shared equity schemes, and any other appropriate housing delivery. Long term leasing as a social housing delivery option will be considered as a less favourable model and in accordance with Housing For All, will be phased out for new entrants.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
14.	Work with the voluntary, community and public sector in addressing the housing needs of homeless people with the endeavour to eliminate homelessness and having regard to the measures in the West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2020 – 2022 and relevant national policy including those that emerge from the housing objectives set out in set out in Housing For All -A New Housing Plan for Ireland.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
15.	Encourage the provision of good quality, well regulated, affordable private rented accommodation in order to provide a real choice, stable and attractive housing option to meet the general demands for both short and long term accommodation including for those on social housing support.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 W3 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
16.	Support and promote all initiatives that will supplement housing delivery in the city such as the Department of Finance Living City Initiative Scheme (2015); “living over the shop” type development and where appropriate change of use of vacant office space to residential use.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
17.	Support the development of high quality and high standard purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) at appropriate locations and of appropriate design (including adequate communal facilities and external communal space to meet the demand for student housing in accordance with the National Student	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
	Accommodation Strategy (2017) and any subsequent updates. Change of use from PBSA to any other form of housing will only be considered where it can be demonstrated through evidence based criteria that an over-provision of student housing exists relative to existing and extrapolated need and where appropriate residential standards and amenities can be achieved.	S2 W3 IR1, IR2			
18.	Support the development of sustainable communities and ensure that all new housing developments – private, public and voluntary are carried out in accordance with the DECLG guidelines Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas (2008) and where applicable to apartments, Section 28 Ministerial guidelines – Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (2020).	All SEOs			
19.	Support implementation of government policy in relation to the provision of accommodation for refugees and to facilitate community integration.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
20.	Planning applications for multiple housing units will be required to include a Statement of Housing Mix detailing the proposed mix and demonstrating that it provides a sufficient range in sizes and types to satisfy community mix including the demographic trend of reduction in average household sizes. The needs of special groups such as older persons and persons with disabilities will be required to be considered as part of this process.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 W3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
21.	Continue to monitor and review the HNDA as appropriate in accordance with guidance on HNDA methodology issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	All SEOs			
22.	Review the Housing Strategy two years following adoption as is required under legislation or at a sooner point should it be required in view of trends in the housing market or changes in national policy such as that which may come about following the preparation of revised national spatial policy.	All SEOs			
23.	Ensure the provisions of the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2019 and any other future legislation and guidelines are applied where planning permission is required to control short-term letting accommodation to prevent a negative impact on housing supply and /or an over-concentration of such uses. Notwithstanding this, where planning consent is required under legislation for short term letting, there will be a presumption against allowing such a use in view of the status of the city defined as a rent pressure zone.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
24.	Ensure delivery of housing contributes to meeting the objectives for emission targets in line with national legislation and imminent National Climate Action Plan.	All SEOs			
25.	Support service providers in the provision of domestic violence refuges in the city.	PHH1, PHH2			All other SEOs
<b>Policy 3.2 Traveller Accommodation</b>					
1.	Implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and any subsequent plan in the interest of providing a satisfactory standard of suitable, sustainable accommodation that meets the needs of the Traveller community. Include for engagement in this regard with the Local Traveller Representative Group, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) Galway County Council and AHB's.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 W3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
2.	Support and facilitate the specific accommodation needs of the Traveller community as identified in the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019-2024 through land use zoning objectives and the development management process, in particular to deliver traveller accommodation as identified in the TAP, to be provided as part of social housing schemes, as group housing schemes, culturally specific housing and through redevelopment and refurbishment of existing halting sites.	PHH1, PHH2 S2, S3 W3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 3.3. Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept</b>					
1.	Promote the development of compact, well designed safe and attractive neighbourhoods that deliver efficient use of land and have effective integration with social and physical infrastructure including public transport, and that will enable the development of successful communities and facilitate the growth strategy for Galway City as envisioned in the NPF and RSES.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2, S3 W3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
2.	Endeavour to contribute to decarbonisation and achievement of national emission targets in the housing sector through encouraging sustainable densities in housing, adherence to sustainable practices in construction, use of materials and standards, facilitating retrofitting, re-use and effecting Decarbonisation Zones that include residential areas.	All SEOs			
3.	Support neighbourhoods that can meet the needs of an aging and increasingly diverse society and that can accommodate social and physical inclusiveness and contribute to a good quality of life and general wellbeing.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
4.	Encourage sustainable neighbourhoods, through appropriate guidelines and standards and through the implementation of local area plans, masterplans / frameworks / area plans.	All SEOs			
5.	Encourage higher residential densities at appropriate locations as guided by the Galway Urban Density and Building Height Study. Such locations include strategic regeneration and opportunity sites, and residential and mixed use zoned sites located close to public transport routes and routes identified in the Galway Transport Strategy as suitable for high frequency, public transport services.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 L1 S2, S3 W3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
6.	Protect and enhance new/existing residential neighbourhoods through appropriate guidelines and standards, preparation of framework plans and through the use of development briefs and design statements.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 L1 S2, S3 W3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
7.	Ensure the design of residential developments have regard to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) and demonstrate compliance with the Urban Design Manual—A Best Practice Guide and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019).	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 L1		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		S2, S3, S4 W3 IR1, IR2			
8.	Support through policy and design standards the concept of a “15 minute city” where the daily needs of communities can be accessed within a 15 minute walk, cycle or by public transport.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 C1, C2, C3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
9.	Ensure designated residential amenity open spaces, which are in use and reflect high residential value and are allied to existing residential developments are protected for such use. Exceptions to allow for infill development will only be considered on underutilised lands which do not contribute positively to the urban structure and form and lack community value. Such development will only be considered where it contributes to place making and community, improves the quality of the neighbourhood and can enhance the built environment with better informal supervision of the public realm and can, where housing is part of the proposal, provide a mix in size and type of housing units.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 L1 M1, M2, M3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 3.4 Outer Suburbs</b>					
1.	Facilitate consolidation of existing residential development and densification where appropriate within the outer suburbs to deliver on population targets while ensuring the reasonable protection of the residential amenities.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
2.	Ensure that sustainable neighbourhoods are places where housing, streets, open spaces and local facilities come together in a coherent, integrated and attractive form with appropriate community infrastructure delivered in tandem with new growth.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Require the integration of biodiversity measures, green infrastructure and energy efficiency in the design and layout of residential development.	PHH1, PHH3, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 L1 IR1, IR2 C2, C3		All other SEOs	
4.	Encourage a mix of housing types and sizes within residential developments.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
5.	Encourage the use of homezones within residential developments.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2, M3		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		S2 IR1, IR2			
6.	Require residential developments of over 10 units to provide recreational facilities as an integral part of the proposed open space.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2 M1		All other SEOs	
7.	Ensure the design and layout of residential developments has regard to adjoining developments.	All SEOs			
8.	Encourage the promotion of universal design principles and lifetime adaptability in the design and layout of residential developments.	All SEOs			
9.	Promote the use of appropriate placenames for new residential development in accordance with the policy of An Coiste Logainmneacha and in support of recognition of Galway City as a Bilingual city.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 3.5 Established Suburbs</b>					
1.	Facilitate consolidation of existing residential development and densification where appropriate while ensuring a balance between the reasonable protection of the residential amenities and the character of the established suburbs and the need to provide for sustainable residential development and deliver population targets	PHH1, PHH2 L1 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
2.	Encourage additional community and local services and residential infill development in the established suburbs at appropriate locations.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Enhance established suburbs, such as the Mervue residential area, through the implementation of environmental improvement schemes and the protection of all open spaces including existing green spaces.	All SEOs			
4.	Review and implement the draft regeneration plan for Ballinfoile Park entitled A Better Ballinfoile in consultation with the local community and stakeholders.	All SEOs			
5.	Prepare a regeneration plan focusing on the open space areas in Ballybaan in consultation with the local community and stakeholders.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 3.6 Inner Residential Areas</b>					
1.	Protect the quality of inner residential areas including Claddagh, Shantalla and Newcastle (to Quincentenary Bridge) by ensuring that new development through consolidation, infill and redevelopment does not adversely affect their character and has regard to the prevailing pattern, form and density of these areas.	All SEOs			
2.	Enhance inner residential areas such as Claddagh, Shantalla and Bohermore, through the implementation of environmental improvement schemes and the protection of all open spaces, including existing green spaces.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 3.7 City Centre Residential Areas</b>					
1.	Prioritise the provision of new homes on designated regeneration and opportunity sites in the city centre at appropriate scales to enable the development of new sustainable city centre communities.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 IR1, IR2 W3 C2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
2.	Protect and enhance established city centre residential communities by discouraging encroachment from commercial development and unacceptable infill developments.	All SEOs			
3.	Enhance city centre residential areas through implementation of environmental improvement schemes and improvements to the public realm, including, where appropriate, homezones and recreational facilities in conjunction with local residents.	All SEOs			
4.	Encourage the expansion of the city centre residential community by requiring a residential content in new development proposals.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2, M3 W3 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
5.	Consider the redevelopment of the City Council car park at Bowling Green to meet social and or affordable housing needs.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2, M3 W3 S3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 3.8 Low Density Residential Areas</b>					
1.	Protect Low Density Residential Areas by reason of their character, environmental vulnerability and limited services capacity, and ensure new development has regard to the prevailing pattern, form and density of these areas.	All SEOs			
2.	Protect the characteristics of these areas through development standards and guidelines.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 3.9 Village Envelopes/Areas</b>					
1.	Strengthen the character of specified villages through encouraging appropriate development. Vehicular access to Coolagh Briarhill village shall be limited to the existing road access only. The objective for a proposed cycle network link from this road is indicative and an alternative alignment outside the village envelope is preferable.	All SEOs			
2.	Protect and enhance the character and amenity of Menlough and prepare a plan for the area, which will include for flood mitigation measures.	All SEOs			
3.	Reinforce the identity of Castlegar through protection and enhancement of existing amenities and through provision of additional community facilities.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 3.10 Mews Housing Development</b>					
1.	Prepare a co-ordinated plan for areas of the city which have potential for mews housing development in consultation with local residents.	All SEOs			
<b>Section 3.9 Specific Objectives</b>					
1.	Prepare an environmental improvement scheme for the Mervue residential area.	All SEOs			
2.	Prepare environmental improvement schemes for Claddagh, Shantalla and Bohermore residential areas.	All SEOs			
3.	Prepare a regeneration plan for the open space areas of Ballybane.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3		All other SEOs	



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		M1, M2, M3 S2 W3 IR1, IR2 L1			
4.	Review and update the draft regeneration plan for Ballinfoile Park entitled 'A Better Ballinfoile' and implement actions where feasible and subject to funding.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 W3 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
5.	Develop best practice advice and guidelines for the design of homezones.	All SEOs			
6.	Review guidance in conjunction with Recreational and Amenity, and Environment Section on open space design, hard and soft landscaping, recreational facilities and biodiversity enrichment.	All SEOs			
7.	Prepare a plan for the Menlough area. This will include guidance on new design and conservation and will explore the amenity potential of the area.	All SEOs			
8.	Prepare a plan for the Castlegar area in consultation with local residents taking cognisance of strategic proposals in the immediate area.	All SEOs			

#### Chapter 4: Sustainable Mobility and Transportation

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 4.1 General</b>					
1.	Develop a compact city, where sustainable land use and transportation are integrated and where there is choice and accessibility to a range of transport modes, with increasing support for a shift to more sustainable modes in line with national aims on climate action and where safety and ease of movement is provided to and within the City and onward to the wider area of the MASP, County Galway and the Northern and Western Region.	All SEOs			
2.	Align with the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF and the regional policy objectives of the RSES in the promotion of sustainable patterns of transport and in the support for the delivery of key transport infrastructure that will enable development to take place in accordance with the Core Strategy.	All SEOs			
3.	Support the implementation of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) which will advance the delivery and modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport and also enable planned integration of land use and transport within the city and the greater MASP area in consultation with Galway County Council, NTA and TII and service providers.	All SEOs			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
4.	Support the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and the associated implementation programme which will deliver a high quality public transport network, provide and encourage the use of other sustainable modes of transport, and facilitate the efficient movement of private vehicles and freight.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
5.	Support the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and the outcomes of the planned evidenced based review to be carried out in conjunction with Galway County Council and the NTA. This review will consider all transport modes including the feasibility of a light rail option and will not preclude the advancement of the Cross City Link route to planning consent stage.	C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
6.	Continue to progress a sustainable transport solution for the city through the implementation of measures included in the GTS and required supporting projects in particular the N6 GCRR project.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 4.2 Land Use and Transportation</b>					
1.	Promote close co-ordination between land use and transportation through policies, land use zoning and objectives.	All SEOs			
2.	Support and facilitate the integration of land-use and transportation in order to facilitate compact city growth, supported by sustainable modes of transport that will encourage economic well-being and ensure the movement of people and goods in a manner that is sustainable, safe and provides ease of access for all, enhances quality of life and supports a reduction in transport related greenhouse gas emissions.	All SEOs			
3.	Provide for the development of high volume, trip intensive, developments such as commercial centres and employment hubs at locations that will minimise the need, distance and time taken to travel and promote the use of sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport to access these locations.	PHH1, PHH2 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2 S2, S4 B4, B5		All other SEOs	
4.	Promote effective sustainable residential densities in the city particularly along and close to the existing and planned public and sustainable transport route network.	PHH1			
5.	In line with Core Strategy and to give direction for future settlement expansion prepare Local Area Plans and masterplans where appropriate that includes for integration of land use with transportation.	All SEOs			
6.	Encourage the concept of a “15 minute city” where land use policies facilitate residents to access their daily needs within a 15 minute walk or bike ride and thereby reduce the dependence on car transport.	PHH1, PHH2 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 4.3 Public Transport</b>					
1.	Support the implementation of Bus Connects Galway and the overall bus transport network which will include for a high frequency cross-city network of services and all associated infrastructural requirements, traffic management and priority arrangements.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M2		All other SEOs	
2.	Promote the availability of the city bus network including the priority measures for use by the national, regional and tour bus services.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		C1, C2, C3 M2			
3.	Facilitate public transport interchanges and associated proposals for transfer ticketing and flexible payment methods.	PHH1 M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
4.	Prioritise the provision of park and ride facilities at appropriate locations so that they align with the bus network and cross-city link route to create the necessary modal shift to reduce car dependency.	PPH1, PPH2, PHH3 C2, C3 M2		All other SEOs	
5.	Promote access to public transport services for those attending primary and post primary schools in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills.	PHH1, PPH3 M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
6.	Ensure ease of access to all bus termini in the city centre and facilitate tourist coach drop-off /pick up locations and bus layover areas.	M2 PHH1, PPH2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
7.	Support measures which aim to improve the service capacity of the Galway City inter urban rail transport network including for the development of commuter rail services, with a preference for a twin track approach from the city to Athenry.	PHH1, PPH2 M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
8.	Support measures to develop Ceannt Station as an integrated multi modal transport hub which facilitates easy interchange between national, regional and local transport services.	PHH1, PPH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 C1, C2, C3 S2, S4 IR1, IR2 W3, W4 B4, B5, B6		All other SEOs	
9.	Continue to support taxi services at appropriate locations including proximate to public transport corridors and where feasible permit use of bus priority infrastructure.	M2 PHH1, PPH2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
10.	Support the modal change to public transport under the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) through modal change targets for walking, cycling, and public transport within the lifetime of the City Development Plan.	PHH1, PPH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 C1, C2, C3 S2, S4 IR1, IR2 W3, W4 B4, B5, B6		All other SEOs	

**Policy 4.4 Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle**

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
1.	Support the Galway Transport Strategy proposals for a primary cycle network to facilitate safe and convenient medium distance journeys.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the Galway Transport Strategy proposals for a secondary cycle network and feeder links to facilitate safe and convenient local journeys and to afford linkage into the primary cycle network.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
3.	Support the National Greenway Strategy and proposed Greenways as part of the primary cycle network and as part of a links to Bearna, Oranmore, Maigh Cuilinn and Oughterard.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
4.	Implement a structured programme of improvements across the whole city pedestrian network and at street crossings.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
5.	Facilitate cycling on the proposed Bus Connects Galway Routes where appropriate including on the proposed Cross-City Link.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOS	
6.	Support and promote initiatives such as Park and Stride, Green Schools Travel and Safe Routes to School Programmes, School Streets and the concept of having safe routes to school.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOS	
7.	Improve bicycle parking at key destinations and near bus stops /interchanges.	M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
8.	Promote, facilitate and maintain maximum connectivity and permeability for pedestrians and cyclists in the design and management of new public and private projects and in upgrading and retrofitting existing developments in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019) and Permeability a Best Practice Guide, NTA (2015).	M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
9.	Ensure facilities for pedestrians and cyclists are designed in accordance with national standards.	M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
10.	Promote the implementation of a Wayfinding Scheme with provision of directional information and signage at appropriate locations across the city as part of the implementation of the Public Realm Strategy.	M1, M2 L1 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
11.	Promote and facilitate the development of Public Bike/other share schemes across the city.	M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 4.5 Transport Demand Management Measures</b>					
1.	Support GTS measures for a reduction of car movements through the city centre, to be achieved by specific traffic management arrangements including the implementation of a City Centre Access Network.	PPH1, PHH2, PHH3		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		C1, C2, C3 M1, M2			
2.	Support the GTS proposals to prioritise public transport movements in the city centre through the implementation of a designated public transport route, the Cross-City Link.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 S2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
3.	Promote changes in the management of car parking, including for the reduction of on-street parking, improved access arrangements and a review of pricing structures that will encourage greater sustainable mobility.	S2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
4.	Implement the GTS proposals for a HGV management strategy and a loading and delivery strategy in the city centre.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
5.	Support and promote the use of smarter mobility and Intelligent Transport Solutions (ITS) to increase efficiency, safety and co-ordination across all transport networks.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
6.	Promote the implementation of Travel Plans with employers and schools.	PHH1, PHH2		M1, M2	All other SEOs
7.	Increase the use of sustainable transport modes including public transport through targeted promotion and encouragement of behavioural change.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2		C1, C2, C3 S2	All other SEOs
<b>Policy 4.6 Road and Street Network and Accessibility</b>					
1.	Support the N6 Galway City Ring Road project in conjunction with Galway County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in order to develop a transportation solution to address the existing congestion on the national and regional road network.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
2.	Enhance the delivery of an overall integrated transport solution for the city and environs by supporting the reservation of the designed strategic road corridor to accommodate the N6 GCRR project.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
3.	Support the proposals in the Galway Transport Strategy for design interventions, revised traffic management arrangements and priority arrangements for walking, cycling and public transport on the road network.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
4.	Implement improvements on the general road network, including new links and junction revisions where needed in the interest of safety and convenience.	PHH1, PHH3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
5.	Implement best practice in road and street design as set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013) as updated (2019).	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		M1, M2 L1 IR2			
6.	Support reduced speed limits in the city centre and residential areas of the city.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
7.	Promote accessibility for people with disabilities and people with reduced mobility and have regard to best practice guidance from the National Disability Authority (NDA).	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
8.	Promote a permeable urban and suburban environment in accordance with best practice guidance as provided for in Permeability a Best Practice Guide (NTA 2015) and implement permeability schemes in existing areas where appropriate, permeability proof proposed developments and endeavour to retain existing local links with enhancements where needed.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
9.	Support national policy and guidance with regard to protection of the National Road network including the strategic function of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network. Development objectives will be in accordance with the DOECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012).	PHH1, PHH3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 4.7 Galway Port</b>					
1.	Support proposals for development and extension of port facilities and an extension of the rail line to the port, which are of strategic importance to the City and the northern and western region.	PHH1 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 4.8 Low Emission Infrastructure</b>					
1.	Support the development of low emission fuel infrastructure and associated technologies.	All SEOs			
2.	Support and facilitate the switch to Electric Vehicles through supporting the expansion of the Electric vehicle charging network at appropriate locations within the city in association with relevant agencies and stakeholders.	M1, M2 PHH1		All other SEOs	
<b>Section 4.8 Specific Objectives</b>					
<b>Public Transport</b>					
1.	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the provision of the 'Cross City Link' as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the Cross City Link and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	PHH1 C2, C3 M1, M2 S2, S4 L1		All other SEOs	
2.	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the development of a public bus network in accordance with the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land	PHH1 M1, M2		All other SEOs	



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
	requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the public bus network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	C2, C3 S2, S4 L1			
3.	Facilitate the delivery of the Bus Connects Programme serving the City and the MASP area by securing and maintaining any required route reservations.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
4.	Develop the Tuam Road Bus Multi-modal Corridor from Claregalway to Moneenageisha Cross via Joyces Road in conjunction with Galway County Council and reserve lands accordingly.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
5.	Provide for bus transport and infrastructure along the Western Distributor Road.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
6.	Identify appropriate locations in the city to accommodate tour bus parking facilities and drop off/pick up points in accordance with the Tour Bus Parking Study.	PHH1 S2 M1, M2 CH1 L1		All other SEOs	
7.	Reserve lands parallel with the rail line from the city centre to the eastern city boundary for future sustainable transport requirements and to provide for possible commuter rail stops.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
8.	Provide measures to allow for the repair/replacement of Wolfe Tone Bridge in the interests of safety and accommodate pedestrian improvements where feasible.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
9.	Identify through a review of the Galway Transport Strategy the need for bus transport in areas of Galway City currently not serviced by bus transport to include rural Bushypark, Circular Road, Upper Ballymoneen Road and Menlo and other locations as appropriate.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
<b>Sustainable Mobility – Walk and Cycle</b>					
10.	Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the development of a cycle network including for a core, secondary and feeder network in accordance with the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the cycle network and associated traffic management	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S2,		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
	and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	L1			
11.	Provide cycle parking facilities at appropriate locations including the City Centre, District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, close to public transport interchanges, schools, beaches, cemeteries and parks and where appropriate in residential areas.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
12.	Develop the National Greenway Network in the city, in particular the National Galway to Dublin Cycleway and the Galway to Clifden Greenway in conjunction with the NTA, TII and Galway County Council.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
13.	Ensure biodiversity and appropriate greening/ incorporated, into greenways, segregated cycleways and pathways where appropriate and ensure that paths and structures are constructed from suitable materials and incorporating a SUDS approach.	B1, B5, B6 M1, M2 W1 L1		All other SEOs	
14.	Provide pedestrian and cycle bridge crossing of the River Corrib adjacent to the Salmon Weir Bridge.	M1, M2		All other SEOs	
15.	Provide a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the piers of the Old Clifden Railway Line from the Headford Road Regeneration area to NUIG campus.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
16.	Investigate the potential for the construction of a new pedestrian bridge from Gaol Road to Newtownsmyth.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
17.	Prioritise improvements to pedestrian movements and safety within the city centre including extension of pedestrianisation, provision of wider footpaths and shared streets.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
18.	Prioritise improvements to pedestrian movements and safety between the City Centre, Woodquay and Bóthar na mBan to the Headford Road Regeneration area.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
<b>Galway Transport Strategy Measures</b>					
19.	Implement the programme of actions and measures as provided for in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and on a phased and co-ordinated basis, based on priority needs.	All SEOs			
<b>Transport Demand Management Measures</b>					

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
20.	Re-organise car parking in the city in particular to reduce on-street provision in the city centre and along key sustainable transport routes as provided for in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS).	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
21.	Expand the use of mobility management and smart technologies in conjunction with service providers and the NTA.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
<b>Road and Street Network and Accessibility</b>					
22.	Reserve the route corridor of the N6 Galway City Ring Road (N6 GCRR) project as approved with conditions and modifications by An Bord Pleanála which accommodates the designed strategic road and the associated bridge crossing of the River Corrib.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
23.	Give priority to the reservation the N6 GCRR designed strategic road corridor and any associated land requirements over other land uses and objectives in the City Development Plan and prohibit developments within the designed strategic road corridor which could potentially prejudice the development of this strategic road and river crossing.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
24.	Investigate and develop road improvements, junction improvements and traffic management solutions in the context of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and strategic developments, to maximise the operating efficiency and safety of the network having regard to the requirements of all categories of road users and road network capacity constraints. Such solutions or interventions will be developed in conjunction with the relevant agency, such as the TII, NTA, and the Department of Transport, and will, where necessary, be subject to the requirements and consenting procedures of the Planning and Development Acts and the Roads Acts.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
25.	Provide for upgrading of the Tuam Road (N83) from Bóthar na dTreabh (N6) to the city boundary and including the realignment of the Castlegar Road/ Tuam Road (N83) junction.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
26.	Facilitate a new access to Merlin Park Hospital from the Dublin Road.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
27.	Implement general road widening and street improvements for safety and convenience including at Bóthar na Cóiste.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
28.	Complete the N6 Multimodal Corridor Improvement Scheme and scheduled upgrades to Martin roundabout to improve the functioning of the junctions, provide for pedestrian and cycle movements and to facilitate public transport.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1 C1, C2, C3 S2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
29.	Ensure that along the Western Distributor Road, new access points will only be considered where adequate traffic and public safety can be ensured, where the objective to provide bus lanes can be secured and where the proposal provides improved permeability and contributes to the public realm. Minimum distances between existing and proposed junctions of 100m will be required.	PHH1 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
30.	Implement the traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the provision of the City Centre Access Network as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated route and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the City Centre Access Network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes, where they are in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	PHH1 M1, M2 S2		All other SEOs	
31.	Reserve land for a strategic link road from Sean Mulvoy Road to Sandy Road, the location and alignment of which shall be based on optimum transport and sustainable planning and development considerations.	PHH1 M1, M2 S2		All other SEOs	
32.	Investigate the possibility of, with a view to providing an additional/ alternative access and egress for Boireann Bheag estates, Roscam in order to help alleviate chronic traffic congestion on the Doughiska road artery at peak times.	PHH1 M1, M2		All other SEOs	

#### Chapter 5: Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 5.1 Green Network and Biodiversity</b>					
1.	Support sustainable use and management of areas of ecological importance, parks and recreation amenity areas and facilities through an integrated green network policy approach in line with the Galway Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and where superceded by the Greenspace Strategy, where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites.	All SEOs			
2.	Support the actions of the Galway Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and the upcoming Greenspace Strategy with particular emphasis on the progression and completion of both the existing South Park and Kingston Land Masterplans.	All SEOs			
3.	Support the retention and enrichment of biodiversity throughout the city in recognition of the need to protect and restore biodiversity to increase the resilience of natural and human systems to climate change.	All SEOs			
4.	Support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017- 2021) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) and support the actions of the City Council's Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness and biodiversity.	All SEOs			
5.	Support climate action through implementation of nature based solutions that enhance biodiversity in the green network, including measures such as tree planting, SUDS, use of green infrastructure. Such measures will be informed by the Greenspace strategy.	All SEOs			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
6.	Promote the integration of nature-based solutions in all new developments as appropriate to contribute to the city's climate resilience and require large scale development proposals to include a green infrastructure and biodiversity plan.	All SEOs			
7.	Ensure sufficient recreation and amenity open space for the future development of the city.	All SEOs			
8.	Achieve a sustainable balance between meeting future recreational needs (both passive and active) and the preservation of the city's biodiversity and ecological and cultural heritage.	All SEOs			
9.	Continue to acquire and develop lands zoned for recreation and amenity use. These lands will be used predominately for public use, but opportunities for public/private partnerships will also be investigated where a high standard of recreation facility will be developed and where opportunities for public access is provided.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S2 W3		All other SEOs	
10.	Support the outcomes of the Greenspace Strategy and any objectives to progress delivery of new urban parks including an additional urban park close to the city centre.	All SEOs			
11.	Support the Healthy Green Spaces initiative which seeks to improve the quality of green spaces in the city, to enhance climate change resilience, aesthetic value, biodiversity and improve public health and wellbeing.	All SEOs			
12.	Improve accessibility to the City Parks, recreation and amenity areas and facilities and include for sustainable modes of transport, where appropriate.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
13.	Retain, extend and enhance opportunities for recreation within the green network for all members of the community including people with disabilities.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
14.	Retain where appropriate the grounds of schools, colleges, sports clubs and other institutional facilities for recreation and amenity use allowing for increases in the capacity of the institutions or clubs and for policies in relation to CF zoned lands.	PHH1, PHH2 L1		All other SEOs	
15.	Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated European sites.	All SEOs			
16.	Promote the multi-use of indoor and outdoor (both private and public) recreation and leisure facilities and amenities to accommodate a diverse range of recreational needs.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
17.	Enhance linkages and connectivity within the green network identified in Table 4.1.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
18.	Promote public art, cultural events and exhibitions as an important part in the design of facilities, open space and amenities.	CH1 PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	
19.	Ensure that all passive and active recreational proposals are considered in the context of potential impact on the environment, sites of ecological and biodiversity importance and general amenity.	All SEOs			
20.	Ensure that notwithstanding land use zoning objectives, significant change of use from existing recreational facilities will only be considered if it is clearly demonstrated that either the loss of such a facility would not have an unacceptable impact on recreation and amenity provision in the city, or if an alternative facility is provided of equal or preferably superior benefit to the local community or the city's hierarchy of facilities and amenities.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1 L1		All other SEOs	
21.	Support the actions of the Galway Sports Partnership Strategic Plan.	PHH1, PHH2			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
22.	Support the actions of the National Physical Activity Plan (DH, 2021) and National Sports Policy 2018-2027 (DTTS, 2018).	PHH1, PHH2			
23.	Continue to implement measures to increase and restore biodiversity in open spaces and road verges through the no mow grass management initiative, and ornamental pollinator projects such as the perennial bulb planting scheme.	All SEOs			
24.	The Council will pursue a range of funding sources, by way of development contributions and other Council income, along with Exchequer and EU funding to support the implementation of the plan. Where appropriate, the City Council Annual Service Delivery Plans will be focused on the delivery of the Plan objectives.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 5.2 Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance</b>					
1.	Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network (including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and associated national legislation.	All SEOs			
2.	Ensure that all plans or projects within the Plan area will only be authorised and /or supported after the competent authority has ascertained based on scientific evidence, screening for appropriate assessment and /or a Habitats Directive Assessment that : i. The plan or project will not give rise to an adverse direct, indirect or secondary effect on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or ii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or iii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.	All SEOs			
3.	Protect, conserve and promote the nationally designated sites of ecological importance, including existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHA and pNHAs) in the city.	All SEOs			
4.	Protect, conserve and support the development of an ecological network throughout the city which will improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	All SEOs			



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
5.	Continue to recognise sites of County Geological Interest in the city identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and protect such sites from inappropriate development and protect geological NHAs should they become designated and notified to the Local Authority, during the lifetime of the Plan.	All SEOs			
6.	Protect Local Biodiversity Areas, wildlife corridors and stepping stones based on the Galway Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2024 and support the biodiversity of the city in the Council's role/responsibilities, works and operations, where appropriate.	All SEOs			
7.	Encourage, in liaison with the NPWS, the sustainable management of features which are important for the ecological coherence of the network of European sites and essential, by their linear or continuous nature or as stepping stones for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	All SEOs			
8.	Support the actions of the Galway City Council Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and any update and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness and biodiversity, the protection of wildlife corridors and the prevention of wildlife habitat fragmentation.	All SEOs			
9.	Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated sites.	All SEOs			
10.	Protect and conserve rare and threatened habitats and their key habitats, (wherever they occur) listed on Annex I and Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and listed for protection under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000.	All SEOs			
11.	Ensure that plans and projects with the potential to have a significant impact on European sites (SAC or SPA) whether directly, indirectly or in combination with other plans or projects are subject to Appropriate Assessment, under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and associated legislation and guidelines, to inform decision making.	All SEOs			
12.	Achieve a sustainable balance between meeting future recreational needs (both passive and active) and the protection of the city's ecological heritage.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 L1 S4		All other SEOs	
13.	Support the inclusion of natural features, such as trees, hedgerows, stone walls, ponds and the use of green design features and the incorporation of biodiversity measures in developments layouts.	All SEOs			
14.	Support and implement measures to control and manage alien/invasive species.	B4		All other SEOs	
15.	Protect the ecological integrity of statutory Nature Reserves, refuges for fauna and Annex 1 Habitats.	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 5.3 Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways</b>					
1.	Protect and maintain the integrity of the coastal environment and waterways by avoiding significant impacts and meeting the requirements of statutory bodies, national and European legislation and standards.	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6 W1, W2, W5 S1		All other SEOs	
2.	Conserve and protect natural conservation areas within the coastal area and along waterways and ensure that the range and quality of associated habitats and the range and populations of species are maintained.	All SEOs except M1, M2, M3		M1, M2, M3	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
3.	Develop and enhance the recreational and amenity potential of the city's waterways and coastal area, while not compromising the ecological importance of these areas.	All SEOs			
4.	Investigate the extensive water resource in the city with a view to exploring where public access and enjoyment can be improved and where potential sustainable uses and water based recreation can be developed to the benefit of the city, and have regard to ecological conservation and safety considerations.	PHH1, PHH2 W1, W2, W5 B1, B2, B3, B4, B6, B7 IR1, IR2 L1		All other SEOs	
5.	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin Management Plan in relation to the protection of water quality of surface waters, groundwater and coastal waters.	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5		All other SEOs	
6.	Ensure development and uses adhere to the principles of sustainable development and restrict any development or use which negatively impact on water quality.	All SEOs			
7.	Have regard to European and national best practice when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any designated European sites, protected coastal and marine fauna and flora.	All SEOs			
8.	Ensure the conservation of the canal corridor and require that developments abutting the canal relate to the context of the adjacent environment and contribute to the overall amenity, and explore the possibility of opportunities for public access.	B1, B6, B6 PHH1, PHH2 W1, W2, W4, W5 IR1, IR2 L1		All other SEOs	
9.	Work with stakeholders, including IW, OPW, EPA, Inland Fisheries and Corrib Navigation Trust in the management of the river and canal systems.	All SEOs			
10.	Encourage uses which will facilitate conservation of the industrial archaeology legacy of mill buildings, warehouses and associated features.	CH1 M1 L1		All other SEOs	
11.	Ensure that developments located adjacent to the River Corrib do not adversely affect the safe and accessible navigation of the river.	M2 PHH1, PHH3 W1, W2		All other SEOs	
12.	Ensure the protection of the River Corrib as a Salmonid River, where appropriate.	W1, W2, W4, W5 B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6		All other SEOs	
13.	Restrict the location of structures other than structures with essential links to the waterway and public utilities within 10 metres of the River Corrib in G agricultural zoned lands.	W1, W2, W4, W5 S1, S2, S4 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
14.	Facilitate sustainable flood defence and coastal protection works in order to prevent flooding and coastal erosion, subject to environmental and visual considerations as guided by the Corrib go Csta, Galway Flood Relief Scheme project.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
15.	Maintain and extend the achievement of the Blue Flag Beach Status in co-operation with IW.	W1, W2, W5		All other SEOs	
16.	Ensure any development within the aquatic environment shall be carried out in consultation with prescribed bodies and with adherence to their guidelines.	All SEOs			
17.	Protect and maintain, where feasible, undeveloped riparian zones and natural floodplains along the River Corrib and its tributaries.	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
18.	Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, on protected species.	All SEOs			
19.	The Council will seek to designate shore fishing areas at appropriate locations in the city.	B1, B2, B3, B6 PHH1		All other SEOs	
20.	Implement the outcomes of the emerging strategy for the marine environment set out in the forthcoming Marine Planning and Development Management legislation.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 5.4 Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees</b>					
1.	Manage and develop woodlands in the ownership of Galway City Council for natural heritage, recreation and amenity use, including Terryland Forest Park, Merlin Park Woods and Barna Woods/Lough Rusheen City Park.	All SEOs			
2.	Make Tree Preservation Orders for individual trees or groups of trees within the city, where appropriate.	B5, B6 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Integrate existing trees and hedgerows on development sites where appropriate and require tree planting, as part of landscaping schemes for new developments.	B1, B2, B5, B6 IR1, IR2 L1		All other SEOs	
4.	Continue to promote partnerships with the community for the management and improvement of biodiversity in local open spaces, through schemes such as the Green Flag Awards.	B1, B2, B4, B5, B6 PHH1 IR1, IR2 L1		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 5.5 Community Spaces: Greenways, Boreens and Public Rights of Way</b>					
1.	Continue to develop and improve the greenway network in the city, providing alternative accessible circulation routes for pedestrians and cyclists, for the enjoyment of the entire community.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
2.	Develop a strategic citywide coastal greenway from east to west linking riverside walkways, having due regard to nature conservation considerations.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		IR1			
3.	Facilitate linked greenways from the city into the county area in particular to Bearna, Oranmore and Maigh Cuillinn as identified in the Galway Transport Strategy and investigate the potential for an additional link to the Tonabrocky area.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
4.	Support the use of boreens in the city for passive recreation, active travel and for the promotion of linkage to the green network.	PHH1 CH1 L1 IR1 S1		All other SEOs	
5.	Provide controlled access and linkages into all parks/public open spaces, areas of natural heritage, including along waterways, where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites.	PHH1, PHH2 B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6 S4 L1, CH1 IR1		All other SEOs	
6.	Ensure biodiversity and greening is incorporated into all greenways, segregated cycleways and pathways where appropriate and ensure that paths and structures are constructed from suitable materials that contribute to aesthetics, sustainability and safety.	B1, B5, B6 PHH1, PHH2 S1, S3 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
7.	Create, enhance and maintain accessible and safe public rights of way, where appropriate for pedestrian convenience, including public lighting where appropriate.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
8.	Promote and facilitate safe and convenient walking and cycling routes through land use policy and the implementation of measures set out in the Galway Transport Strategy.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 5.6 Community Spaces: Child Friendly City</b>					
1.	Enhance and promote Galway as a 'Child Friendly City' which will help children understand and feel secure in their environment and will encourage them to experience and respect the natural heritage of the city.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 L1 B7 M1, M2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the right of the child to play by ensuring the creation and maintenance of inclusive natural and built play areas within every community.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
3.	Maintain and enhance existing play areas and provide new, accessible and safe play areas for all in accordance with the Council's commitment to the Barcelona Declaration, policies in relation to Social Inclusion, the Recreation and Amenity Needs Study, and any subsequent strategies including the future Greenspace Strategy.	PHH1, PHH2 M1			All other SEOs
4.	Continue the improvement and development of playground facilities as outlined in the Council's Recreation and Amenity Needs Study.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 S2		All other SEOs	
5.	Enhance the provision of facilities for older children and teenagers within the city, including skateboarding areas, teenage shelters, ball walls and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs).	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 S2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 5.7 Community Spaces: Protected Views of Special Amenity Value and Interest</b>					
1.	Protect views and prospects of special amenity value and interest, which contribute significantly to the visual amenity and character of the city, through the control of inappropriate development.	L1		All other SEOs	
2.	Require landscaping schemes as part of planning applications to have regard to such views and limit any planting which could have a detrimental impact on the value of protected views.	L1		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 5.8 Community Spaces: Allotments, Community Gardens and Cemeteries</b>					
1.	Continue to provide and facilitate allotments and community gardens in the city subject to Council approval.	All SEOs			
2.	Maintain existing burial grounds and provide new city cemetery site(s) in the city or city environs and approach cemetery design with an emphasis on landscaping and natural amenities.	PHH1, PHH2 L1			
<b>Policy 5.9 Open Spaces: Public Realm</b>					
1.	Implement the public realm strategy for the public domain which contributes to the creation and maintenance of high quality and successful open spaces.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 5.10 Open Spaces: Agricultural Lands</b>					
1.	Encourage sustainable agricultural activities, protect the rural character of these lands and where appropriate provide for sustainable recreation/amenity opportunities.	All SEOs			
2.	Prevent developments which could cause environmental pollution or injury to general amenities.	All SEOs			
3.	Ensure agricultural development complies with the measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and imminent draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 and future plans.	All SEOs			
4.	Provide for limited residential development in A zoned agricultural lands.	All SEOs			
5.	Restrict the location of structures other than structures with essential links to the waterway, within ten metres of the River Corrib, in G zoned lands.	All SEOs			
<b>Section 5.10 Specific Objectives</b>					
<b>Blue Spaces</b>					
<b>Short term</b>					
1.	Prepare a master plan for Lough Atalia and Renmore Lagoon to include the upgrading of the amenity park, walkways, ecological areas and development of water-based recreation, forming part of a wider coastal path network.	All SEOs			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
2.	Support the development of the Great Western Blueway on River Corrib and Lough Corrib in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland.	All SEOs			
3.	Investigate the feasibility of a restoration project for the tidal pools at Salthill taking into consideration technical feasibility, funding, management and maintenance, public safety, climate change considerations and impacts on the environment and European sites.	All SEOs			
<b>Medium/Long term</b>					
4.	Investigate possible locations for the provision of municipal water based recreation infrastructure along the River Corrib and canal system.	M1, M2 PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
5.	Initiate the preparation of a river conservation management plan in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. The purpose of the plan will include examination of best locations for the development of water based activities that will minimise environmental, biodiversity and ecological impacts.	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5 B3, B6 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Green Spaces</b>					
<b>Short Term</b>					
6.	Continue the preparation of master plans for parks, in accordance with the Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and where superseded by Greenspace strategy in consultation with all stakeholders including Barna/Lough Rusheen Park, Merlin Woods City Park (Doughiska RA zoned Land), Terryland Forest Park and Castlepark RA lands and a key management objective will be to maintain and enhance their biological diversity.	All SEOs			
7.	Prepare and implement a Tree Planting Strategy for the city which will provide for long term planting, protection and maintenance of trees, hedgerows and woodlands.	All SEOs			
8.	Prepare and implement a plan which identifies suitable parts of the road and street network for the planting of trees and plant species that are biodiversity rich.	All SEOs			
9.	Continue to implement measures to increase and restore biodiversity in open spaces and road verges through the no mow grass management initiative and ornamental pollinator projects such as the perennial bulb planting scheme.	All SEOs			
10.	Implement masterplan for South Park and for the Kingston RA lands.	All SEOs			
11.	Examine the potential for provision of an athletics running track at Doughiska in the context of the Greenspace Strategy.	PHH1, PHH2			Other SEOs
<b>Medium/Long Term</b>					
12.	Explore the potential for developing lands adjacent to Terryland Castle, Merlin Castle and Menlough Castle for public realm and landscaping to enhance the context of the Castles.	All SEOs			
13.	Support the incorporation of art sculptures and installations in parks and open spaces, in accordance with the City's Arts Plan and the Per Cent for Arts Scheme.	L1, CH1, PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
14.	Retain car parking of approximately 30 car parking spaces for amenity purposes east of Merlin Park Woods at Doughiska.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 S2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Community Spaces</b>					
<b>Short Term</b>					
15.	Implement green infrastructure measures for key public spaces as identified in the Galway Public Realm Strategy.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 C1, C2, C3 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
16.	Develop equipped children's play facilities in accordance with the Council's annual playground programme.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
17.	Undertake a feasibility assessment to identify the type and optimum locations for multipurpose/synthetic/floodlit playing facilities to include play facilities for the 0-6 age group.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
18.	Undertake a feasibility assessment to identify the type and optimum locations for new skateboard facilities throughout the city as part of the Greenspace Strategy.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
19.	Acquire and develop a new city cemetery site(s) in the city or city environs and approach cemetery design with an emphasis on landscaping and natural amenities.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
20.	Facilitate the extension of existing coastal greenway and linkages from Bearna to Oranmore in conjunction with the greenway measures as identified in the Galway Transport Strategy.	All SEOs			
21.	Facilitate the implementation of the National Galway to Dublin Greenway and Galway to Clifden Greenway.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
22.	Ensure pedestrian access to Mutton Island is retained for heritage and amenity purposes subject to safety protocol.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
23.	Extend the riverside walk relating to the development of the proposed Clifden Railway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge at Waterside.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
24.	Prepare a strategy for the long-term improvement and enhancement of the Salthill Promenade.	All SEOs			
25.	Continue to compile and review an Inventory of existing public rights of ways in the city and make these publically available.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3		All other SEOs	
26.	Upgrade Millers Lane for passive recreation and retain and enhance the biodiversity of this greenway.	PHH1, PHH2 B1, B2, B4, B5, B6 M1, M2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
27.	Develop a Community Centre/ Sports Hall, a swimming pool with associated ancillary facilities on a phased basis adjoining and linked with the existing changing rooms at Doughiska on RA zoned lands.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
28.	Provide for additional allotment/community gardens in the city subject to Council approval.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 S1, S2 L1 B6		All other SEOs	
Medium/ Long Term					
29.	Prepare an amenity environs plan in conjunction with Galway County Council which includes the greenway linkages as identified in the Galway Transport Strategy and accommodate additional links to the Tonabrocky area.	All SEOs			
30.	Explore greenways to link Merlin Woods City Park, Murrugh LAP area from Ballyloughane and Liam Mellows GAA lands to Lough Atalia within the coastal greenway.	All SEOs			
31.	Develop a number of greenways within the city including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal walk extending from Galway Docks to Roscam Point.</li> <li>• Riverside walk along the western side of the River Corrib in conjunction with NUIG to terminate at the access road beside the running track which links Galway/Moycullen road at Dangan to the River Corrib.</li> <li>• Riverside walk from the Dyke road to NUIG lands on the opposite side of the River Corrib via the proposed Clifden Railway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge with funding provided under the URDF Call 2.</li> <li>• Riverside walk along the eastern side of the River Corrib from the Dyke Road to the pier at Menlough. A deviation from the route indicated on the development plan map may be permitted, any alternative alignments shall maximise amenity benefits.</li> <li>• Riverside Walk along the northern side of the Terryland River from the Dyke Road to the point where it disappears underground at Glenanail to the rear of Glenburren Park.</li> <li>• Riverside walk along western side of the River Corrib from O'Briens Bridge to Wolfe Tone Bridge.</li> </ul>	All SEOs			
32.	Investigate the potential of providing services, for example kiosks, public toilets and food trucks or stalls, in or in close proximity to public parks and open spaces and along the coast and waterways.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
33.	Upgrade existing boreens in the city for passive recreation and to enhance their biodiversity value and explore potential where feasible for active travel use.	PHH1, PHH2 L1 IR1, IR2 B5, B6		All other SEOs	
34.	Support the development of large scale sports facilities in the city funded under the Large Scale Sports Facilities Fund.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1		All other SEOs	
35.	Support the provision of a hockey facility with an all-weather pitch with a suitable playing surface for hockey in the west of the city and to support the provision of a further facility suitable for hockey elsewhere in the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
36.	The Council will support the provision of changing facilities at playing pitches in the city based on an assessment of need for such facilities. A minimum one dressing room per Local Electoral area will be considered and priority will be given to Doughiska, Hazel/Laurel Park and Millers Lane, in consultation with local residents and sports clubs.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
37.	Work with all stakeholders and explore the development of a multi-use community complex to include but not be restricted to floodlit grass and Astro turf playing facilities, community training and performance space, multi-purpose meeting rooms, changing facilities and outdoor training areas with enhanced walkways.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
<b>Open Spaces</b>					
<b>Short Term</b>					
38.	Progress the acquisition of lands for recreation and amenity purposes, and other lands which will enhance the extent of the green network, in particular key linkages and lands for active and passive recreation.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
39.	Acquire and develop predominately for public use, lands zoned for recreation and amenity use in conjunction with new housing at Castlegar, Doughiska, Terryland Valley, Ballymoneen, Knocknacarra, Roscam and Ardaun.	PHH1, PHH2 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
40.	Develop and expand guidelines in relation to new development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice advice for design of homezones.</li> <li>• Best practice advice for open space.</li> <li>• Best practice for green infrastructure and nature based solutions.</li> </ul>	All SEOs			
<b>Medium/Long term</b>					
41.	Identify and expand active recreation facilities for older persons throughout the city.	PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	
42.	Identify and provide recreation facilities for persons with disabilities throughout the city.	PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	

#### Chapter 6: Economy, Enterprise and Retail

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 6.1 General Policy</b>					
1.	Support and facilitate the role of Galway as a Regional City and driver of sustainable economic growth for the whole Northern and Western Region through the provision of balanced and sustainable economic and employment opportunities for development, enterprise, innovation and investment across all employment sectors consistent with the goals and objectives of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, including Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan).	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the ambitions for strong sustainable economic growth as set out in the Regional Policy Objectives of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP).	PHH1, PHH2 C1, C2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
3.	Ensure sufficient resources including land and infrastructure are available within the city to facilitate sustainable inward investment that will encourage the development of a resilient and diverse local enterprise sector and enhance economic opportunities on existing commercial and enterprise areas, on key regeneration and opportunity sites and at other appropriate locations while facilitating integration between employment, housing and transport in particular sustainable transport modes.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2 S2		All other SEOs	
4.	Support the review and preparation of a new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the city to ensure the local level framework is in place to support sustainable economic growth and community improvements.	PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	
5.	Provide for opportunities for growth, innovation and investment across all sectors in order to create a resilient and diverse city economy that will maximise high value employment opportunities for the entire workforce and facilitate measures for a just transition in society.	PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	
6.	Maintain and enhance the attractiveness of the city and the quality of life it supports in order to sustain investment, quality employment opportunities and to attract and retain an appropriately skilled workforce.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
7.	Co-operate with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the SME and entrepreneurial eco-system, Galway County Council, Universities, Higher Institutes of Education, LEO, Solas and other agencies in meeting the needs of industry, training, reskilling and innovation.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
8.	Support measures that will enable decarbonisation of the economy and specific projects that that will help deliver the aims of the European Green Deal.	PHH1, PHH2 C1, C2, C3 M2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
9.	Enable a flexible approach to allow for ongoing technological transformation in the economy and rapid changes in working practices and business agility where these are not detrimental to amenity and support good live /work practices.	PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	
10.	Co-operate with Galway County Council in the promotion and servicing of IDA lands, designated as business and technology parks at Parkmore, Athenry and Oranmore.	PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	
11.	Sustain and expand the role of the city and MASP as a regional attractor for Foreign Direct Investment.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
12.	Facilitate strategic opportunities for job creation on designated lands at Ragoon/Knocknacarra and at Ardaun enabling integration with adjacent existing and future settlements, while encouraging low carbon trip patterns and contributing to achieving the benefits of the “15 minute neighbourhood concept”.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
13.	Facilitate the development of the designated District, Neighbourhood and Local centres at a scale appropriate to serve the associated catchment areas while encouraging low carbon trip patterns and contributing to achieving the benefits of the “15 minute neighbourhood concept”.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
14.	Support the economic performance of the city and the wider MASP through the implementation of the phased plan of transport measures as provided in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) including those relating to public transport, walking, cycling, and the N6 GCR strategic road project.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M1, M2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 6.2 Commercial Sector</b>					
1.	Preserve the city centre as the prime focus for city centre commercial activities and enable complementary uses and activities, including compact residential development that will enhance the unique sense of place, the vitality and vibrancy of this area.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S1, S2, S3 C2		All other SEOs	
2.	Encourage and facilitate the regeneration of city centre sites at Ceannt Station Quarter, the Inner Harbour and at Headford Road, to include for a range of uses including higher value commercial office space capable of accommodating a business and technology enterprise cluster.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S1, S2, S3		All other SEOs	
3.	Encourage and facilitate the development of other designated regeneration sites in the city for mixed use development appropriate to the scale and context of each site.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S1, S2, S3		All other SEOs	
4.	Support the preparation of a masterplan for the regeneration of NUI Galway lands and buildings at Nun's Island and the framework such a plan will give for implementation of associated URDF supported projects, subject to standard assessment requirements and environmental considerations.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S1, S2, S3 C1, C2, C3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.3 Industrial Sector</b>					
1.	Prioritise investment and expansion in high tech manufacturing, innovation research and development at strategic key employment locations at Mervue, Parkmore, Briarhill, Dangan and Ballybrit on the designated regeneration and opportunity sites.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S1, S2, S3		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.4 Knowledge Economy, Technology Industries and Life Sciences</b>					
1.	Promote a Smart City approach through the application of new innovations and digital technologies to support economic growth, citizen engagement, enhance the quality and performance of urban services and to reduce costs and consumptions of resources.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.5 Enterprise and Innovation</b>					
1.	Promote the development of knowledge based enterprise and support research and innovation hubs and incubation facilities within the city in association with other agencies.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
2.	Continue to support and facilitate the development of start-up enterprises for local indigenous enterprises.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
3.	Recognise the value of social enterprise in the city and support the objectives of the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 as further affirmed under the national commitment to support the Toledo Declaration.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
4.	Support the development of the higher institutes of education and the strong collaborative research, innovation, development and training roles that they have with industry to create innovative growth opportunities.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
5.	Encourage enterprise and business to transition to a circular economy where waste and resource use is minimised and where positive environmental, economic and social impacts can be delivered.	PHH1, PHH2 C1, C2, C3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
6.	Support the harnessing of knowledge and innovation to reduce carbon footprint of enterprise in the City and create local added value and employment from the required Just transition of society.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 6.6 Office Sector</b>					
1.	Encourage a high quality of workplace environment through architectural design, layout, landscaping and facilities where these can contribute positively to the health and wellness of the workforce and to the urban landscape.	PHH1, PHH2 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
2.	Encourage innovation in the workplace through digitisation, remote & flexible work practices and support hub working.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.7 Health and Education Sector</b>					
1.	Support and facilitate the sustainable development of the strategic health and education institutions in their primary functional roles and also where they contribute to innovation, research, training and skills development.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.8 Tourism Sector</b>					
1.	Recognise the significant contribution that national and international tourism makes to the local economy and the vitality of the city and facilitate, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and key stakeholders, the sustainable development of associated infrastructure, attractions including a destination attraction of scale and events particularly where they reflect the distinctive history, culture and environment of Galway and highlight the significance of Galway as the only city on the “Wild Atlantic Way “ and as a gateway to the Northern and Western Region.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 S4		All other SEOs	
2.	Encourage the continuing diversification in the tourism offer in the city in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland in particular through the development of greenways, blueways and connections with the evolving network of walking trails and promote opportunities in all activities and facilities that contribute to decarbonisation.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 CH1 L1 C1, C2, C3 W1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Protect the distinctive built and natural heritage of the city and seek to maintain and implement improvements in the public realm that will sustain the attraction of the urban environment for visitors and citizens alike and will increase opportunities for the use of outdoor space and support events and gatherings.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 L1 CH1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
4.	Work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and key stakeholders to support the hospitality sector and promote tourism related facilities including a sustainable range of tourism accommodation.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		M1			
5.	Support the preparation and development of a Galway Tourism brand and maximise on the legacy of the designation of Galway as European Capital of Culture 2020.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
6.	Support the city as a destination city and support adoption of the VICE model for Destination management to ensure Sustainable Tourism which considers the interaction between Visitors, the Industry that serves them, the Community that hosts them and their collective impact on, and response to the Environment.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2 CH1		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.9 Marine Sector and Renewable Energy</b>					
1.	Promote, encourage and facilitate the sustainable growth and competitiveness of enterprise activities associated with the ocean and coastal economy including transport, trade, fishing, aquaculture, research, marine industries, renewable energy, tourism and leisure.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the migration of industrial uses from the inner harbour area to suitable locations to enable regeneration of the inner harbour area in line with national and regional objectives	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2 S1, S2, S3		All other SEOs	
3.	Support offshore industries, particularly wind energy which will contribute to a low carbon economy and generate employment.	PHH1, PHH2 C1, C2, C3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
4.	Support the sustainable re- development and extension of the Port of Galway and the diversification and expansion of activities subject to environmental, visual, economic viability and transportation considerations.	PHH1, PHH2 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.10 Creative Economy and Gastronomy Sectors</b>					
1.	Promote the city as a hub for the Creative Economy, building on the distinctive culture, arts, and creative legacy in the city, including UNESCO City of Film Designation, and recognising the particular value of these activities in the economy of the city and the importance of this economy to the region as identified in the RSES and by the Western Development Commission.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
2.	Recognise the importance that recreation and amenity facilities, natural and built heritage, public realm and arts and cultural infrastructure are to maintaining the competitiveness of the city and continue to maintain and develop these assets through implementation of local plans and strategies including the public realm strategy.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 S4		All other SEOs	
3.	Enable the development of gastronomy as a sustainable enterprise, supporting SME's, producers, food entrepreneurs, hospitality sector, tourism and the associated development of infrastructure, marketing and events that will strengthen the distinctive brand of Galway City and County and extend the legacy from the designation of <i>Galway as a European Region of Gastronomy in 2018</i> .	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.11 Retail Strategy</b>					
1.	Adopt the retail hierarchy for the city as identified in the strategy and restrict retail development at each level on the hierarchy to a scale and nature commensurate with catchment demands.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 S2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
2.	Provide for an appropriate range and scale of retail services throughout the city at locations accessible by walking cycling and public transport in accordance with the settlement strategy and population target for the city.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 S2 C2, C3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Review the strategies and policies for retailing within two years of adoption of the plan following the preparation of a joint retail study with Galway County Council, in order to best assess the impact on the disruption in the industry accelerated by the Covid -19 pandemic, to ensure sufficient policy support to create a positive framework for continued vitality and investment in the main retail areas especially the city centre, through regeneration, an increased mix in complementary uses including residential and to ensure an informed and consistent approach to policies relating to shared retailing activities in line with national policy.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
4.	Enhance the city centre as the primary retail service centre in the MASP area, through promotion of appropriate uses, regeneration, an increased mix in complementary uses including residential, leisure, cultural uses and through investment in public realm, amenities and sustainable transport infrastructure.	PHH1, PHH2 PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
5.	Improve access and permeability in the city centre and other designated centres with particular emphasis on improving the public realm with a focus on an increase in pedestrianisation to enhance access by public transportation, cycling and walking.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3 M2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
6.	Support a diversity of uses in the public realm including markets, outdoor seating and dining, arts and culture events to add to the vitality and vibrancy of the city and the retail experience.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 L1 CH1 IR1, IR2 S2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
7.	Encourage a high quality retail environment through implementation of the GTS and PRS and other initiatives that combined, contributes to creating places that are attractive, vibrant, sustainable and safe.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
8.	Have regard to the Galway City Shopfront Design Guidelines and support Irish language and bilingual signage.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		L1			
9.	Have regard to the Retail Design Manual (2012), a companion document to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) to ensure that retail developments provide a high quality of architecture and urban design.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 L1 S2 M1, M2, M3		All other SEOs	
10.	Require that major proposals for retail development should be supported by a Retail Impact Assessment (RIA), prepared in line with the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) and that demonstrates compliance with the strategies in the Development Plan in particular the objective to not negatively impact on the vitality and vibrancy of an existing retail centre in particular the city centre.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 L1		All other SEOs	
11.	Encourage retail development to include for measures that can contribute positively to climate action and to increased investment in the circular economy in alignment with the national strategy to significantly reduce Ireland's circularity gap.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 6.12 Retail Hierarchy - Metropolitan City Centre</b>					
1.	Protect and enhance the city centre, designated as the most important shopping area in the Galway MASP and county area and as a major centre in the Northern and Western Region and facilitate a mixed expansion of services including high order comparison retailing in conjunction with service retailing, an enhanced shopping experience and cultural and entertainment facilities through appropriate and sensitive re-development, infill and development on designated regeneration in conjunction with implementation of key public realm and sustainable transport projects.	PHH1, PHH2 L1 M1 S2		All other SEOs	
2.	Direct strategic investment in commercial, civic, cultural and retail, particularly high order comparison goods and specialist retailing into the city centre where they can enhance vitality and viability through a mix of uses, reuse of vacant sites and revitalisation to contribute to regeneration and the maintenance of a compact core area.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 S2		All other SEOs	
3.	Strengthen the vitality of the city centre and its resilience to changing retail trends and consider measures to support a sustainable retail environment taking into account flexibility of uses and retail formats, complementary uses and a quality retail experience.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
4.	Support the development of a vibrant, night time culture and economy through sustainable measures and promote the need for the associated transport supports, measures to ensure a safe environment, and diversity in entertainment and creative offerings.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
5.	Ensure that the design of city centre retail developments, including extensions and modifications, respond positively to the unique setting, distinctive character and quality of the built and natural environment of Galway.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 6.12 Retail Hierarchy - District, Neighbourhood and Local Centres</b>					
6.	Promote the vitality and viability of the District Centres and encourage the provision of an appropriate range of retail, non-retail, community and leisure services. Such retail services should be mainly of a convenience or lower order comparison type in order to protect the prime role of the city centre for	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
	shopping. Some locations may also have capacity for residential uses where it can sustainably complement the use mix without diminishing the primary commercial objective.	L1			
7.	Promote and protect Neighbourhood Centres in their role as providers of a mix of local services including retailing of a basic, predominantly convenient nature that are so located to be easily accessible by the catchment they serve and where they can contribute to the concept of the 15 minute neighbourhood.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
8.	Promote and protect small scale local shops in residential areas, in accordance with the neighbourhood concept, where they can fulfil a role in the provision of day to day convenience needs and where they do not have a negative impact on existing amenities.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1 S2		All other SEOs	
9.	Restrict and direct bulky goods retailing to existing identified retail parks and to a more limited extent to district centre and restrict the sale of ancillary items associated with an otherwise bulky good to sales space of not more than 20% of the total net retail floorspace of the relevant retail unit in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
10.	Have regard in general to the assessment guidelines for specific retail formats as provided for in Section 4.11 of the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	

#### Chapter 7: Community and Culture

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>7.1 General</b>					
1.	Support and facilitate the sustainable development of community, social and cultural infrastructure in collaboration with key stakeholders that affords inclusive opportunities for everyone to shape their own lives, enables communities to realise their full potential and that contributes to a high quality of life and wellbeing for all who live work and visit the city.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
2.	Support and facilitate key infrastructure and actions that encourages expanded development of the city's culture, arts and creative industries and strengthens the linguistic heritage.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Facilitate a balanced and equitable provision of community social and culture services and facilities in collaboration with key stakeholders in alignment with the core/settlement strategy through policies, zoning objectives and specific designations.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
4.	Work in partnership with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to achieve the aims of Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to ensure that Galway City is an equal and inclusive city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
5.	Promote and facilitate in conjunction with key stakeholders the co-location of community services and infrastructure to allow for shared use for a variety of purposes including health, education, social and local enterprise and community activities.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
6.	Encourage design flexibility in buildings of culture, arts and community use, so that the buildings can be adapted in ways, which allow for a diversity of different uses and include for accessibility for all, including people with disabilities.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		L1			
7.	Explore innovative models of delivery, ownership and management of community facilities and infrastructure.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
8.	Support the refurbishment of community and cultural venues to improve the energy efficiency performance of these buildings to reduce the carbon footprint of the cultural and community activity that takes place within them.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1, C1 ,C2			
<b>Policy 7.2 Creative City</b>					
1.	Promote Galway as a city of for culture and arts excellence, a hub for the creative and cultural industries and support Everybody Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2025.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
2.	Support and facilitate the aims of the New Directions: Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026 and Action Plan 2021-2024	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
3.	Facilitate and encourage the provision of new and improved arts and culture facilities in the city and in district and neighbourhood centres and where identified in New Directions: Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 M1		All other SEOs	
4.	Implement the actions of the Galway City Council Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and subsequent plans.	All SEOs			
5.	Participate in the 'Per cent for Art' Scheme where the Council's capital and infrastructure projects are supported by the scheme to deliver public art and the associated community engagement in conjunction with the Galway City Arts Office.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 L1		All other SEOs	
6.	Facilitate the delivery of public art by ensuring large-scale developments incorporate and deliver works of public art that facilitate interpretation of place and community.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 L1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
7.	Enable expansion of accessible arts and culture infrastructure by requiring such facilities to be integrated into planned development on designated regeneration and opportunity sites.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 L1 M1		All other SEOs	
8.	Ensure that future culture and arts facilities are located, designed and laid out to be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, in particular the sustainable networks and associated proposals included for in the Galway Transport Strategy.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 M1, M2, M3 L1		All other SEOs	
9.	Support the delivery of strategic arts and cultural infrastructure in the city including the expansion of the City Museum; a new arts performance and exhibition space; a municipal gallery; a new city public library; a creative and cultural hub for children and young people and other key infrastructure as identified in Everybody Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2025 and New Directions: Galway City Council Arts Plan 2021-2026.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 M1 L1		All other SEOs	
10.	Support the use of public outdoor spaces for public performance, festivals, events and engagement with the arts and culture activities in accordance with Galway City Public Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying manuals.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 CH1		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
11.	Support a creative hub for multidisciplinary artists that can provide space for a range of activities.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
12.	Co-ordinate with other service providers in the provision of culture, arts and community facilities and where appropriate support the temporary use of vacant buildings/sites for arts and cultural purposes.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1 M1 S2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 7.3. Inclusive City</b>					
1.	Proactively promote all forms of social inclusion, where feasible in land use planning particularly in the built environment and public realm, housing, community facilities, employment opportunities, transport and accessibility.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2, M3		All other SEOs	
2.	Proactively promote the various aims of the Council to give effect to the Barcelona Declaration and support universal design principles to make Galway a more accessible and disability friendly city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
3.	Support the objectives of the Social Inclusion Office in promoting a socially inclusive society in the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
4.	Ensure meaningful public participation, engagement and knowledge sharing in the planning process and in relation to other strategic policy and projects within the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
5.	Promote the concept of 'life-time adaptability' and access for all in the built environment.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2, IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
6.	Facilitate the implementation of the Housing Strategy, in particular with regard to reducing undue segregation and in specialist housing provision.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
7.	Co-operate with the Access for All Network and other organisations representing people with disabilities to provide equal access for all citizens particularly in the area of housing, transport, built environment and the public realm within the city.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2 M1, M2, M3		All other SEOs	
8.	Support the participation of the city in the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network and the implementation of the Healthy Galway City Strategy 2019-2021.	PHH1, PHH2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
9.	Support the Galway City & County Age Friendly programme.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
10.	Support the development of an accessible and safe resource centre for the LGBT+ community.	PHH1, PHH2			
<b>Policy 7.4. Bilingual City</b>					
1.	Protect and promote the distinctive cultural and linguistic heritage of the city and continue to support Galway's status as a Bilingual City and recognise the importance of the Irish language as a cultural, community and economic resource.	CH1 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
2.	Promote the use of the Irish language in the naming of new residential developments, public roads and parks and encourage the use of Irish/ bilingual signage in the commercial and public realm.	CH1 L1 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
3.	Support and facilitate the development of infrastructure, which promotes the cultural and linguistic heritage of the city, where appropriate.	CH1 L1 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
4.	Support the implementation of Plean Tenga Chathair na Gaillimhe 2020-2026 and the designation of the city as a Gaeltacht Service Town.	CH1 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 7.5. Community Facilities</b>					
1.	Facilitate a balanced and equitable provision of diverse community services and facilities in collaboration with key stakeholders in alignment with the core/settlement strategy through policies, zoning objectives and specific designations	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the location and concentration of local community facilities and services in accordance with the aim to build sustainable, compact neighbourhoods in line with the '15 Minute City' concept so that these can be easily accessible by walking and cycling. Where larger scaled facilities and services are provided these should be aligned with existing /proposed public transport links.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Ensure that all facilities designed for community use are suitable for use by people of all ages and abilities in accordance with the Building for Everyone – Universal Design Guidance.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
4.	Encourage and facilitate the provision of community facilities and local services of a nature and scale appropriate to serve the needs of the local community in tandem with the development of residential areas.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 W3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
5.	Maintain existing burial grounds and make provision for new cemeteries and associated services such as a crematorium to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 7.6 Education</b>					
1.	Ensure that sufficient land is reserved for the establishment, improvement or expansion of education facilities within the city in accordance with the settlement strategy, targeted population and in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills (DES).	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the ongoing development and provision of third level education, further education and lifelong learning in the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
3.	Facilitate the upgrade and expansion of existing education facilities and the provision of new education facilities as required, including to: Support the future improvement and sustainable expansion of NUI Galway; Support the development of GMIT and the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA) approved designation as Technological University status; Support the role of the GTI in the delivery of education; Support the role of the GRETB in the delivery of Further Education and Training in the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
4.	Ensure that the design and layout of all educational establishments incorporate facilities for sustainable transport measures and public transport.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M2 C3		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
5.	Ensure that safe and easy access for people with disabilities is incorporated in the design of all education developments.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
6.	Support the further development and diversification of third level education institutions in the city, including the promotion of knowledge based industry linked research and innovation hubs and facilities.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
7.	Encourage the multi-use of school facilities for other community uses outside of school hours to maximise community benefit and use of resources.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 7.7 Childcare</b>					
1.	Facilitate the development of childcare facilities, including afterschool services, at a number of suitable locations, such as, within residential areas, places of employment, city centre, neighbourhood and district centres, schools, in the vicinity of educational and community establishments and adjacent to public transport nodes in consultation with the Galway Childcare Committee.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
2.	Contribute to the provision of childcare facilities by requiring that such facilities be provided in conjunction with residential developments over 75 dwelling units. An exception can only be considered where it can be clearly established and professionally supported that adequate childcare facilities already exist to service the area and where acceptable alternative arrangements to support childcare, play and or other child specific facilities are deemed acceptable.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 S2 IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 7.8 Healthcare Facilities</b>					
1.	Promote the delivery and enhancement of health care facilities in the city having regard to the designated role of Galway as a Regional City under the NPF/RSES.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the development and expansion of existing healthcare infrastructure by the HSE, statutory and voluntary agencies and private healthcare providers to support the provision of healthcare, including community based care, mental health and social care services as appropriate and in accordance with the local need and the regional role of the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
3.	Ensure healthcare facilities are delivered in tandem, and at an appropriate scale, with new residential development and in locations that are easily accessed by walking, cycling and public transport.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 C1, C2, C3		All other SEOs	
4.	Support the delivery of an enhanced regional healthcare service, including for a new Emergency Department at University Hospital Galway (UHG) and expanded hospital services at Merlin Park University Hospital (MPUH) that will serve the Metropolitan Area and the wider regional catchment.	PHH1, PHH2,		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 7.9 Institutional Lands</b>					
1.	Facilitate and promote the development of institutional land within the city.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
2.	Retain institutional lands and only allow consideration for change in use where it is demonstrated that certain institutional lands are surplus to requirements, the Council will consider residential use or uses compatible with that of adjoining zones or specifically require that the lands be retained for alternative institutional uses. Where residential development is permitted a reserve of a minimum of 20% of the total site area for communal open space will be required.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
3.	Promote the retention of public access to institutional lands where this has been traditionally enjoyed or where there is a significant amenity associated with the lands.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Section 7.7 Specific Objectives</b>					
1.	Support the delivery of actions and objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan in partnership with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and in conjunction with key stakeholders.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
2.	Facilitate the on-going development of community facilities in neighbourhood areas and emerging new communities such as at Ardaun.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
3.	Facilitate the upgrading of existing community facilities in terms of energy efficiency in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the activities taking place therein.	PHH1 PHH2 C1 C2			
4.	Undertake a Social and Community Infrastructure Audit in conjunction with the LECP/LCDC and relevant stakeholders to establish a baseline of services in the city and to ensure adequate community facilities are provided to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
5.	Support proposals to repurpose Lenaboy Castle as a creative and cultural hub for children and young people.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
6.	Develop a new City public library in conjunction with Galway County Council and national funding.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
7.	Progress the redevelopment of Galway City Museum as a transformative project to meet the vision of the Atlantic Museum Galway.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
8.	Support the provision of a new arts performance and exhibition space and a municipal gallery in the city.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
9.	Support proposals for the development of a destination tourism and recreational attraction at the Leisureland and Salthill park sites with the potential to provide modern, purpose built recreation, civic and cultural facilities to serve the city and region.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
10.	Implement actions from strategies and plans that support the development of culture and heritage in the city including: Cultural Strategy, Arts Strategy and Action Plan, Heritage Plan, Tourism Strategy and City Museum Strategic Plan.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1		All other SEOs	
11.	Establish and develop new cemetery sites to serve the city, which can accommodate associated services such as a crematorium-to serve the existing and future targeted population of the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
12.	Work with relevant stakeholders and service providers to investigate the delivery of community facilities to serve the community of Ballybane including: A Family Resource Centre in conjunction with TUSLA; – A community crèche and early years education service;	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outdoor and indoor amenities for all age groups;</li> <li>- A Primary and secondary school in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills (DES).</li> </ul>				
13.	Support the development of a permanent site for a post primary school in the East of the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
14.	Support the development of a permanent site for a primary school in the West of the city.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	

### Chapter 8: Built Heritage, Placemaking and Urban Design

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 8.1 Record of Protected Structures</b>					
1.	Protect structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures, in accordance with legislation and DEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011.	CH1 PHH1 L1			All other SEOs
2.	Ensure new development enhances the character or setting of a protected structure.	CH1 M1 PHH1 L1 S4			All other SEOs
3.	Avoid protected structures becoming endangered by neglect or otherwise by taking timely appropriate action.	CH1 L1			All other SEOs
4.	Have regard to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in the assessment of development.	CH1 L1			All other SEOs
5.	Consider the inclusion of buildings and structures of special interest or of distinctive heritage value in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and consider any recommendations for inclusion in the RPS made by Ministerial Recommendation.	CH1 L1			All other SEOs
6.	Consult with the DHLGH and have regard to recommendations of the DHLGH on planning applications relating to protected structures.	CH1 L1			All other SEOs
7.	Implement proactive measures to encourage the conservation of protected structures.	CH1 L1			All other SEOs
8.	Promote sustainable building design, best conservation practice and the appropriate maintenance, adaption and reuse of historic buildings.	CH1 L1 PHH1 M1 S2, S4			All other SEOs
<b>Policy 8.2 Architectural Conservation Areas</b>					

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
1.	Protect and enhance the character and special interest of designated Architectural Conservation Areas, in accordance with legislation and DEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011.	CH1 L1 PH SEOS			All other SEOs
2.	Prepare and implement management plans for the conservation and enhancement of designated Architectural Conservation Areas.	CH1 L1 PHH1			All other SEOs
3.	Ensure that developments within an Architectural Conservation Area respects and enhances the character and special interest of the ACA.	CH1 L1 PHH1			All other SEOs
4.	Ensure the character of Architectural Conservation Areas is preserved by protecting and conserving historic street furniture and paving features and ensure that new street furniture and surfacing is designed to be compatible with the character of the ACA.	CH1 L1 PHH1 M1			All other SEOs
<b>Policy 8.3 Vernacular Heritage</b>					
1.	Encourage the conservation and rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing structures that contribute to the character of the city.	CH1 L1 M1 S2 C3			All other SEOs
2.	Take cognisance of the 'The Inventory of Thatched Buildings' in the assessment of any proposed works to such structures.	CH1 L1			All other SEOs
<b>Policy 8.4 Archaeology</b>					
1.	Protect and promote the archaeological heritage of the city.	CH1 L1 PHH1 S4 PHH1, PHH2			All other SEOs
2.	Ensure that proposed development within the designated city centre Zone of Archaeological Notification is not detrimental to the character of an archaeological site or its setting.	CH1 L1 S4 PHH1, PHH2			All other SEOs
3.	Have regard to the archaeological recommendations of the DHLGH on any planning applications.	CH1 L1 PHH1, PHH2			All other SEOs
4.	Endorse the sustainable use of archaeological heritage as an educational and cultural resource and promote public awareness of the archaeological heritage of the city.	CH1 L1 PHH1, PHH2			All other SEOs

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
5.	Require the surveying, recording or excavation of archaeological heritage during the development process, where appropriate.	CH1 L1 PHH1, PHH2			All other SEOs
6.	Seek the preservation in situ or, at a minimum, preservation by record of archaeological sites/monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places and of previously unknown sites, features or objects of archaeological interest that are revealed through development activity.	CH1 L1 PHH1, PHH2 S4			All other SEOs
7.	Ensure that any development proposal with potential to impact on archaeological heritage includes for an archaeological assessment. This includes within terrestrial, riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal environments.	CH1 L1 B1, B3 S4 PHH1, PHH2			All other SEOs
<b>Policy 8.5 Industrial Archaeology</b>					
1.	Promote the protection of the varied industrial heritage of the city and encourage greater appreciation and public awareness of this heritage.	CH1 L1 PHH1			All other SEOs
<b>Policy 8.6 Galway City Walls</b>					
1.	Secure preservation in situ of the historic medieval city walls and seek to protect and enhance their settings.	CH1 L1 PHH1			All other SEOs
2.	Support the implementation of recommendations set out in the 'Galway City Walls Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan (2013)'.	CH1 L1 PHH1		All other SEOs	
3.	Progress the Atlantic Museum extension and the associated interpretation of the city walls and medieval features of the city.	CH1			All other SEOs
<b>Policy 8.7 Urban Design and Placemaking</b>					
1.	Encourage high quality urban design in all developments.	All SEOs			
2.	Improve qualitative design standards through the application of design guidelines and standards of the Development Plan, the 'Galway Public Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying design, activity and delivery manuals', 'Galway Shopfront and Signage Design Guidelines (2012)' and 'Design Guidelines Canopies (2011)'.	L1 CH1 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
3.	Ensure that development delivers high quality urban design, place making and public realm that contributes to urban regeneration in the city and that is resilient to potential impacts of climate change.	All SEOs			
4.	Encourage innovation in architecture and promote energy efficiency and green design.	All SEOs			
5.	Progress the implementation of the Ardaun Local Area Plan 2018-2024.	All SEOs			
6.	Prepare Local Area Plans, masterplans and spatial/design frameworks which provide an urban design framework to contribute to the development of sustainable, vibrant working and living environments.	All SEOs			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
7.	Promote sustainable and inclusive urban design, urban form and architecture that positively contributes to the city's existing character and distinctiveness.	All SEOs			
8.	Adhere to the <i>Galway City Urban Density and Building Height Study (2021)</i> and promote development which incorporates high quality sustainable and inclusive urban design, urban form and architecture that positively contributes to the city's character, heritage and neighbourhood areas.	PHH1, PHH2 L1			
9.	Proposals for buildings which are taller than the prevailing benchmark heights will only be considered where they do not have an adverse impact on the context of historic buildings, ACA's, residential amenity or impinge upon strategic views, in accordance with the Urban Density and Building Height Study for the city.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2		All other SEOs	
10.	Promote the reuse and adaptation of derelict and vacant buildings.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2, M3 S2 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 8.8 Public Realm</b>					
1.	Progress implementation of the Public Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying manuals including the delivery of enhancement projects and a typology of streets and public spaces that positively contributes to the city's environment and heritage.	All SEOs			
2.	Build upon Galway's distinctive materiality and character to inform the design of the public realm.	L1 CH1 S2 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
3.	Rationalise materials, street furniture and planting in Galway to create well-designed, coordinated public realm.	L1 PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 S2		All other SEOs	
4.	Prioritise the safe movement of people on streets and create a high quality environment through design promoting connectivity, accessibility and the principles of universal design.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
5.	Promote nature based SUDS solutions in the public realm where possible to enhance biodiversity and resilience to climate change.	All SEOs			
6.	Promote the important role that public space plays in providing for informal social interaction and maximise opportunities for outdoor gathering places, play areas and outdoor public seating, where appropriate and in accordance with the Public Realm Strategy and accompanying manuals.	PHH1, PHH2 L1 M2 S2		All other SEOs	
7.	Support measures in the GTS to ensure that qualitative public realm considerations are integrated into GTS projects promoting sustainable transport use and the pedestrianisation of specific city centre streets.	L1 M1, M2 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		C1, C2, C3			
8.	Establish strong links between the city centre and regeneration areas of the Harbour, Ceannnt Station and Headford Road and at Nuns Island.	M1, M2 S2 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
9.	Prioritise the creation of public spaces in the development of regeneration areas and opportunity sites and deliver high quality public realm.	L1 PHH1, PHH2 S2 M1, M3		All other SEOs	
10.	Promote high standards of design, materials and workmanship in the public realm. Ensure that such works adhere to the principles and guidance of the Public Realm Strategy and has regard to the distinctive character of an area.	L1 PHH1, PHH2 S2 M1, M3		All other SEOs	
<b>Section 8.10 Specific Objectives</b>					
<b>Built Heritage</b>					
1.	Facilitate the conservation, adaptation and reuse of the waterworks building at Terryland Water Treatment Plant.	PHH1 W1, W2, W5 M1, M3		All other SEOs	
2.	Progress implementation of Conservation Management Plan recommendations for Merlin Castle, Terryland Castle and Menlough Castle.	All SEOs			
3.	Progress implementation of Conservation Management Plan for the Browne Doorway.	CH1 L1		All other SEOs	
4.	Advance the preparation of Architectural Conservation Area Management Plans within the city and review and complete the Eyre Square ACA Management Plan.	CH1 L1 PHH1		All other SEOs	
<b>Vernacular Heritage</b>					
5.	Increase public awareness of the vernacular heritage of the city including through publication of 'The Inventory of Thatched Buildings'.	PHH1, PHH2 CH1			All other SEOs
<b>Urban Design and Placemaking</b>					
6.	Require the use of design statements and masterplans/ spatial frameworks for developments where appropriate.	All SEOs			
<b>Public Realm</b>					
7.	Establish a cross-departmental working group to coordinate public realm strategy implementation and develop and deliver a proactive maintenance and management strategy, in liaison with external agencies delivering public realm works.	All SEOs			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
8.	Support public realm enhancement projects contained in the Public Realm Strategy and accompanying manuals and their integration with GTS projects, environmental improvements and initiatives relating to climate adaption, biodiversity, public art and activities in the public realm.	All SEOs			
9.	Examine outputs of the Galway City Mobility Management Team for the sustainable use of outdoor space and streets.	All SEOs			
10.	Progress the delivery of Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects which comprise of new public spaces at Woodquay and the Galway Cathedral, rejuvenated space at Fishmarket, Eyre Square (North) and increased city centre pedestrianisation.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3, C1, C2, C3, S2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
11.	Prepare an environmental improvement scheme for Bowling Green and carry out further public realm improvements at Raven Terrace.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1 S2		All other SEOs	
12.	Carry out a Civic Improvement Scheme for the Small Crane Square.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1 S2		All other SEOs	
13.	Advance an environmental improvement scheme for Shop Street as part of the pedestrian area rehabilitation programme and extend the pedestrian zone, in consultation with local communities and stakeholders.	All SEOs			
14.	Create a number of small-scale microspaces in the city centre by redesigning 'leftover' spaces and the conversion of car parking spaces to parklets.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1 S2		All other SEOs	
15.	Carry out an audit of existing street furniture poles and signage in the public realm, with the aim of removing redundant elements.	L1 M1 PHH1			All other SEOs
16.	Carry out an audit of existing roads and public realm spaces in Galway in order to itemise in priority order the specific locations which need to be modified to improve accessibility.	PHH1, PHH2			

#### Chapter 9: Environment and Infrastructure

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 9.1 Flood Risk</b>					
1.	Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DECLG and OPW Guidelines for Planning Authorities for	All SEOs			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
	Planning Authorities, the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Management (2009), updated/superseding legislation or departmental guidelines and have regard to the findings and relevant identified actions of the Corrib Catchment Flood Risk Management (CFRAM) Study.				
2.	Support and facilitate the implementation of the Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme in conjunction with the OPW to support a climate resilient city, protect against flooding and minimise the impact of future climate events. Support in general the associated mitigation and adaptation measures in order to prevent flooding and coastal erosion, subject to appropriate environmental, visual, built heritage and other relevant considerations.	All SEOs			
3.	Ensure the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 are taken into consideration in the assessment of developments in identified areas of flood risk and require site specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and associated design and construction measures where appropriate.	All SEOs			
4.	Protect and promote sustainable management and uses of water bodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains.	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 W1, W2, W3, W4, W5 C4 PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
5.	Ensure flood risk is incorporated into the preparation of any future local area plans, framework plan and masterplans in the city.	All SEOs			
6.	Ensure any proposed measure designed to alleviate flooding/coastal erosion is subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, where appropriate.	All SEOs			
7.	Continue to protect the coastal area and the foreshore and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of coastal erosion and/or would cause and escalate coastal erosion in adjoining areas.	All SEOs			
8.	Protect and maintain, where feasible, undeveloped riparian zones and natural floodplains along the River Corrib and its tributaries.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 9.2 Water Quality</b>					
1.	Support the actions of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and future River Basin Management Plan in order to promote and achieve a restoration of good status, reduce chemical pollution and prevent deterioration of surface, coastal and groundwater quality, where appropriate.	W1, W3, W3, W4, W5 B3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
2.	Continue to pursue the maintenance of good bathing water quality at the city beaches through monitoring and management actions in accordance with the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008.	W1, W2, W5		All other SEOs	
3.	Ensure development adheres to prevailing environmental standards and guidelines and accords with emerging legislation and strategy on the marine environment.	All SEOs			
4.	Maintain and extend the Blue Flag Beaches status in regard to water quality, infrastructure and amenity provision for beaches in the city.	W1, W2, W5 M1		All other SEOs	



		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
5.	Protect the city's groundwater resource in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (SI No. 9 of 2010) or any updated legislation and limit any development which has potential to impact the objectives for protection, enhancement and/or restoration.	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5 S1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
6.	Minimise and control discharges to inland surface water bodies, groundwater and coastal waters to prevent water pollution and protect the environment.	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5 S1 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 9.3 Water Services</b>					
1.	Work in close liaison with Irish Water in the operation of water and wastewater facilities in the city and the upgrade and expansion of the network and the delivery of strategic projects such as the Terryland Water Treatment Plant Intake Works and completion of the Greater Galway Area Drainage Strategy.	W5 M1, M3 B3 PHH1		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the delivery of the objectives of the Irish Water Water Services Strategic Plan (2015) and implementation of the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024.	All SEOs			
3.	Work in conjunction with Irish Water to ensure the provision and maintenance, of a high quality and efficient water supply capable of meeting existing and future needs of the city and support any ongoing water mains rehabilitation and water conservation projects.	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5 M1, M3 IR1, IR2		All other SEOs	
4.	Encourage all significant water users to use best practices in water conservation and continue to promote water conservation measures in the design of all new development in the city, such as rainwater harvesting and re-use of grey water, in liaison with Irish Water.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 B7 W1, W2, W3, W4, W4 M3		All other SEOs	
5.	Support and liaise with Irish Water in the provision of a sustainable and effective wastewater drainage collection and treatment system capable of meeting the existing and future needs of the city and MASP area.	PHH1 W1, W2, W3, W4, W5 M3		All other SEOs	
6.	Support the Irish Water ongoing watermain rehabilitation and water leak reduction programme in order to conserve the city's water supply.	M3 W1, W2, W3, W4, W5 PHH1		All other SEOs	
7.	Support the decommissioning of existing individual effluent treatment systems which include septic tanks, where there is a feasible option to connect to the public sewer network. Galway City Council will collaborate with Irish Water in this regard.	M3 W1, W2, W3, W4, W5			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		PHH1			
<b>Policy 9.4 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)</b>					
1.	Ensure the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) and sustainable surface water drainage management, wherever practical in the design of development to enable surface water run-off to be managed as near its source as possible and achieve wider benefits such as sustainable development, water quality, biodiversity local amenity and climate adaptation.	All SEOs			
2.	Promote the use of green infrastructure e.g. green roofs, green walls, bioswales, planting and green spaces for surface water retention purposes as an integrated part of SUDs and to deliver all the ancillary benefits.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 9.5 Safe Environment – Control of Major Accident Hazards Directive (SEVESO III Directive)</b>					
1.	Consult with the Health and Safety Authority (also known as the National Authority for Occupational and Health Standards) when changing any policies/objectives and assessing any proposed relevant developments in or in the vicinity of sites identified under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Directive (Seveso III Directive), in order to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and to limit their consequences to the environment and community.	All SEOs			
2.	Ensure that major developments comply with the requirements of the Galway City Major Emergency Plan.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 9.6 Air Quality and Noise</b>					
1.	Maintain air quality to a satisfactory standard by regulating and monitoring atmospheric emissions in accordance with EU policy directives on air quality and Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive (2008/50/EC) by promoting and supporting initiatives to reduce air pollution and by increasing the use of sustainable transport modes and developing urban woodlands, encouraging tree planting, conserving and creating green open space.	All SEOs			
2.	Ensure the design of development incorporates measures to minimise noise levels in their design and reduce the emission and intrusion of any noise or vibration which might adversely impact on amenities, in particular residential amenities where appropriate.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3		All other SEOs	
3.	Consider the details of Galway City Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 in the assessment and design of relevant development applications in the interests of protecting future amenity.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 IR1		All other SEOs	
4.	Implement environmental noise mitigation measures as outlined in Galway City Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3		All other SEOs	
5.	Promote best practice in the implementation of radon prevention and mitigation measures in partnership with relevant agencies.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 9.7 Light Pollution</b>					
1.	Ensure the design of external lighting minimises the incidence of light pollution, glare and spillage into the surrounding environment and has due regard to the visual and residential amenities of surrounding areas and is so designed to mitigate adverse impacts on wildlife and ecosystems.	PHH1 B1, B2, B5, B6		All other SEOs	
2.	Require all new developments to be designed with the inclusion of energy efficient lighting schemes.	B1, B2, B5, B6 C2		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
		M1			
<b>Policy 9.8 Waste Management</b>					
1.	Secure the provision of waste management facilities and infrastructure with appropriate provision for minimisation, recovery and recycling of waste and regulate waste operations in a manner which reflects the 'polluter pays' and 'proximity' principles with particular emphasis on large waste producers , in accordance with the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Plan 2015-2021, except in relation to incineration and emerging legislation on the transition to a circular economy and the National Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020-2025.	All SEOs			
2.	Have a waste management system in the city in line with EU and national policies, which prioritises waste prevention, minimisation, recycling and reuse and accords with the outcomes of the Circular Economy Bill 2021 and the associated strategy.	All SEOs			
3.	Support the objectives and targets of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Plan 2015-2021 relating to Galway City and any subsequent Waste Plan.	All SEOs			
4.	Ensure that adequate recycling facilities and bring facilities are provided within the city, including where those are required in association with the layouts of new residential, industrial and commercial developments and where they comply with the requirements of the Environment Section of the Council.	M1, M2, M3 PHH1		All other SEOs	
5.	Ensure the sustainable siting of waste facilities in relation to existing and potential surrounding land-uses, transportation and environmental considerations.	M1, M2, M3 S2		All other SEOs	
6.	Promote the implementation of the City Council Litter Management Plan and other litter management initiatives in order to minimise and control the extent of litter pollution in the city.	All SEOs			
7.	Ensure that development on contaminated lands include appropriate remediation measures.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 9.9 Telecommunications and Smart Technology</b>					
1.	Support the development and expansion of telecommunication infrastructure (including the broadband network) within the city where appropriate, subject to environmental, visual and residential amenity considerations.	PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	
2.	Ensure that developers of masts facilitate the co-location of antennae with other operators in order to avoid an unnecessary proliferation of masts. Where this is not possible operators will be encouraged to co-locate so that masts and antennae may be clustered.	PHH1, PHH2, M1		All other SEOs	
3.	Ensure that development for telecommunication and mobile phone installations take cognisance of the Planning Guidelines for Telecommunications Antennae and Support (DECLG, Circular Letter PL07/12) and in relation specifically to new free standing masts and antennae, locations in the immediate proximity to residential areas, schools and other community facilities will only be considered where all other more suitable options, including opportunities to locate on tall buildings, rooftops and co –location with existing masts, have been exhausted following an evidenced based evaluation of potential sites.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 S2		All other SEOs	
4.	Facilitate the rollout of digital infrastructure to implement a world class digital infrastructure and sensor network that will provide real time data and smart city solutions.	PHH1, PHH2 M1		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
5.	Support the actions of the draft Galway City Digital Strategy (2020-2024).	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 9.10 Energy and Associated Infrastructure</b>					
1.	Support the infrastructural renewal and strategic development of the national transmission grid system and energy networks in the city, underground where at all possible, including the overhead high voltage lines necessary to provide the required networks in accordance with the Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure 2012.	PHH1 M1		All other SEOs	
2.	Support the deliver a sustainable electricity system and ensure transition to a low-carbon economy in accordance with ambitions for decarbonisation of the energy sector.	All SEOS			
3.	Ensure that the infrastructural renewal and development of energy networks avoid negative impacts on European sites and adhere to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43 EEC).	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6		All other SEOs	

#### Chapter 10: Compact Growth and Regeneration

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
<b>Policy 10.1 City Centre</b>					
1.	Maintain and enhance the resilience of the city centre by reinforcing its dominant role for commerce, shopping, tourist, cultural and leisure activities, enhancing its vitality and attractiveness as a place to work, live and visit.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
2.	Control the proliferation of uses which could lead to the deterioration of retailing on the principal shopping streets.	L1 M1, M2 PHH1		All other SEOS	
3.	Control the negative impact caused by dominance, due to proliferation or scale, of particular uses.	All SEOs			
4.	Encourage a living city centre by requiring a residential content in new developments and promoting a high quality urban environment in the design and layout of new schemes.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2		All other SEOs	
5.	Encourage use of vacant upper floors in the city centre and promote city centre living through measures such as the Living City Initiative.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 L1		All other SEOs	
6.	Maintain and enhance the environmental quality of the city centre to support city centre living and to ensure a safe and attractive legible environment.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 L1		All other SEOs	

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
7.	Maintain and enhance the quality of the city centre public realm and enhance accessibility and connectivity to and within the city centre through improvements to the network of streets, footpaths and public spaces and through implementation of the public realm strategy.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2 L1		All other SEOs	
8.	Support a diversity of uses in the city centre public realm including markets, outdoor seating and dining, arts and culture events to add to the vitality and vibrancy of the city.	L1 CH1 M1, M2		All other SEOs	
9.	Ensure new developments incorporate design features that complement the character of the city centre.	L1 CH1		All other SEOs	
10.	Improve the public realm and residential amenities of existing city centre communities at Woodquay and Bowling Green by the implementation of improvement schemes.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2, S4 L1		All other SEOs	
11.	Enhance the quality of the urban environment in the West Area and Ravens Terrace through improvements to the public realm, enhanced linkages and through implementation of the Public Realm Strategy and traffic management measures.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2, S4 L1		All other SEOs	
12.	Progress the implementation of Public Realm Strategy civic space improvement projects within the city centre at Fishmarket, Cathedral, Eyre Square North, Courthouse Square and the Small Crane.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 S2, S4 L1		All other SEOs	
13.	Support initiatives to enhance the image and attractiveness of the city centre in co- operation with local businesses, communities and other stakeholders.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
14.	Ensure the development of significant city centre sites is carried out to high standards and in the context of an overall masterplan.	All SEOs			
15.	Support and facilitate the development of innovative enterprise initiatives within the city centre in collaboration with education providers, Enterprise Ireland and other stakeholders.	PHH1, PHH2		All other SEOs	
16.	Expand in conjunction with relevant stakeholders the provision of free public Wifi hotspots within the city centre.	PHH1, PHH2 M2		All other SEOs	
17.	Maintain and enhance the quality of the city centre public realm and enhance accessibility and connectivity to and within the city centre through implementation of measures included in the Galway Transport Strategy.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 10.2 Strategic Regeneration and Brownfield Sites</b>					
1.	Facilitate and enable the redevelopment of strategic Regeneration and Opportunity sites in the city to support the sustainable and compact growth of the city which will add value and create more attractive places in	All SEOs			

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
	which people can live and work and achieve alignment with the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF and the Regional Policy Objectives of the RSES and implementation of the Core Strategy.				
<b>Policy 10.3 Salthill</b>					
1.	Enhance the role of Salthill as an urban village, recreation and coastal amenity area for the city and service centre for the surrounding residential neighbourhoods.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 M1, M2, M3 L1 S2, S4			
2.	Ensure high quality in the design of new developments and have regard to the distinctive character of Salthill.	PHH1, PHH2 M1, M2 L1 S2, S4			
3.	Enhance the public realm of Salthill including the implementation of an environmental improvement scheme carried out in consultation with local businesses, residents and key stakeholders, with particular focus on the main commercial street and in the vicinity of Seapoint and D'Arcy roundabout.	PHH1, PHH2 M1 L1 S2			
4.	Continue to improve the amenity recreational quality of the area through the preparation of a strategy for the long-term management and enhancement of the promenade and by the implementation of environmental and coastal improvement schemes. This shall include for appropriate flood risk assessment and management measures.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 10.4 Westside</b>					
1.	Enhance the quality of the urban environment at Westside through the creation of a more enclosed, strong street edge on CI zoned lands along the Seamus Quirke Road, creating a high quality active and vibrant streetscape.	M1 L1 S2 PHH1		All other SEOs	
<b>Policy 10.5 Ardaun</b>					
1.	Develop Ardaun, in accordance with the Local Area Plan taking a co-ordinated and phased approach that will contribute to the integration of land use, urban form and structure, transportation and natural heritage to create a new urban village and a sustainable living and working environment.	All SEOs			
<b>Policy 10.6 Murrough</b>					
1.	Develop the Murrough area in accordance with a Local Area Plan which will reserve a substantial bank of land for recreational purposes, allow for public access and allow for mixed-use development which will create a sustainable neighbourhood and maximise the sustainable development of appropriate recreation facilities.	All SEOs			
<b>10.27 Specific Objectives</b>					
<b>City Centre Area</b>					
1.	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the Ceannt Station site.	All SEOs			
2.	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the Inner Harbour.	All SEOs			
<b>Headford Road Area</b>					

		(+)	(-)	(+/-)	(0)
3.	Prepare a Local Area Plan for the Headford Road area (south of the Bodkin junction).	All SEOs			
4.	In advance of the adoption of the Headford Road LAP, any proposals to advance development of the Dyke Road Regeneration site by the GCC/LDA having regard to the socio-economic benefits for the city will be considered, subject to the preparation of a masterplan.	PHH1, PHH2, PHH3 IR1, IR2			
<b>Regeneration and Opportunity sites</b>					
5.	Require the preparation of masterplans and spatial frameworks to inform development proposals.	All SEOs			
<b>Salthill</b>					
6.	Prepare a strategy for the long term development and enhancement of the character of Salthill village and promenade which provides for guidelines for good urban design and the development of high quality architectural standards for new developments and redevelopments.	All SEOs			
7.	Carry out an environmental improvement scheme for Salthill.	All SEOs			
8.	Upgrade public facilities including provision of outdoor/indoor showers, changing facilities and toilets and supports for water based activities.	All SEOs			
9.	Support proposals for the development of a destination tourism and recreational attraction at the Leisureland and Salthill park sites with the potential to provide modern, purpose built recreation, civic and cultural facilities to serve the city and region.	All SEOs			
<b>Ardaun</b>					
10.	Implement the Local Area Plan for Ardaun.	All SEOs			
<b>Murrough</b>					
11.	Prepare a Local Area Plan for Murrough.	All SEOs			



## 7.3 Overall Evaluation – Climate Change

**Table 7.2** provides a summary of how climate action has been integrated and reflected to the draft *GCDP 2023-2029*. Climate mitigation and adaptation and actions in the Galway Climate Action Plan 2019-2024 were also taken into account when preparing land use zoning for inclusion into the Plan and when undertaking the SEA. The approach to land-use zoning has been informed by response to climate change, in terms of potential impacts as well as adaptation. The focus on compact growth, regeneration and opportunity sites and altered focus on greenfield development support this approach.

**TABLE 7-2 HOW CLIMATE CHANGE HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE GCDP 2023-2029**

Chapter	How the Chapters contribute to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
1. Introduction, Strategic Context and Core Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commits to climate action and national targeted reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with EU and national commitments and promotes sustainability in alignment with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).</li> <li>• Identifies climate action and just transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy as a strategic goal.</li> <li>• Identifies the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and the green network as strategic goal.</li> <li>• Facilitates compact growth of the city through the integration of land use and sustainable mobility networks and the redevelopment of brownfield and underutilised lands.</li> </ul>
2. Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports the implementation of various International, European and national and local objectives set out in government and sectoral climate plans and the Galway City Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.</li> <li>• Supports the concept of Decarbonising Zones in the city to reduce carbon emissions and improve environmental conditions locally</li> <li>• Promotes and support renewable energy along with sustainable building design and construction.</li> <li>• Promotes the development of renewable energy infrastructure, green infrastructure and nature based solutions and flood risk management in the city.</li> <li>• Supports the delivery of Coirib go Cósta Flood Relief Scheme</li> <li>• Supports the transition to a circular economy.</li> </ul>
3. Housing and Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes the concept of Sustainable Neighbourhoods and the incorporation of green infrastructure, energy efficiency and life time adaptability in the layout of new developments.</li> <li>• Support compact growth and higher residential density on strategic regeneration and opportunity sites.</li> <li>• Support the integration of green infrastructure, energy efficiency and life time adaptability in the layout of new developments.</li> </ul>
4. Sustainable Mobility and Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports the integration of land use and transportation to encourage compact growth, shift to sustainable mobility and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Supports the development of low emission fuel infrastructure and a switch to Electric Vehicles.</li> <li>• Supports the ‘15 Minute City’ concept to reduce dependence on car use and encourage sustainable mobility.</li> <li>• Supports the delivery of public transport and sustainable mobility projects in the Galway Transport Strategy.</li> </ul>
5. Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and the Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes the integration of nature-based solutions and green/blue infrastructure in all new developments.</li> <li>• Supports the protection of sites of ecological importance, the protection of wildlife corridors and stepping stones and the restoration of biodiversity through green design features in the city.</li> </ul>
6. Economy, Enterprise and Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports the transition to a low carbon economy.</li> <li>• Supports new employment which is aligned with climate action and the circular economy.</li> <li>• Supports the integration of employment, housing and sustainable transport modes.</li> <li>• Facilitate the development of vibrant District, Neighbourhood and Local Centres with range of retail, community and leisure services to reduce travel demand and support '15 minute neighbourhood (city) concept'.</li> <li>• Supports innovation in the workplace through digitisation, remote &amp; flexible work practices and support hub working.</li> </ul>
7. Community and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures that the design of all educational establishments incorporate facilities for sustainable transport measures and public transport.</li> <li>• Ensures that community facilities and services are delivered in tandem with new developments.</li> </ul>
8. Built Heritage, Placemaking and Urban Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes sustainable building design, best conservation practice and the appropriate maintenance, adaption and reuse of historic buildings.</li> <li>• Supports the delivery of high-quality urban design, place making and public realm that is resilient to the climate change.</li> <li>• Encourages innovation in architecture to promote energy efficiency and green design and deliver high quality urban design that is resilient to the potential impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Promotes nature-based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) solutions in the public realm to enhance biodiversity and resilience to climate change.</li> </ul>
9. Environment and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protects and promotes the sustainable management of water and water bodies in the city and the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, management and delivery of Flood Relief Scheme Corrib go Cósta.</li> <li>• Promotes the development of green infrastructure.</li> <li>• Protects against light pollution and requires the design of energy efficient lighting schemes for all new developments.</li> <li>• Supports the development of digital infrastructure and a Smart City. Promotes and supports initiatives to reduce air pollution and increase the use of sustainable transport modes and develops urban woodlands by encouraging tree planting, conserving and creating green open spaces.</li> <li>• Supports the decarbonisation of the energy sector by supporting the delivery of a sustainable electricity system and the transition to a low-carbon economy.</li> </ul>
10. Compact Growth and Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports measures to facilitate compact development focused on accessible locations and minimisation of travel.</li> <li>• Supports the development of regeneration and brownfield sites and measures to address dereliction and vacancy.</li> <li>• Supports the enhancement of the public realm to enhance accessibility and connectivity.</li> </ul>

The tables in Section 7 above provides an overall evaluation of the potential environmental effects arising from the draft *GCDP 2023-2029*. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from

implementation of the Plan. Environmental impacts which occur will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site-specific environmental factors.

## 7.4 Cumulative and In Combination Effects

This section of the Environmental Report provides an outline of the potential cumulative effects on the environment as a result of implementation of the GCDP. Cumulative effects are referred to in a number of SEA Guidance documents and are defined in the EPA SEA Process Checklist as “effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space”. These effects can be insignificant individually but cumulatively over time and from a number of sources can result in the degradation of sensitive environmental resources. The assessment of cumulative effects is a requirement of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).

Department Guidelines outlines that the SEA process is in a good position to address cumulative effects for which the Environmental Impact Assessment process is not equipped to deal with. Due to the strategic nature of the SEA process a forum is provided in which cumulative effects can be addressed. The EPA Strive Report 2007-2013 on ‘Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment’ describes cumulative effects as incremental effects resulting from a combination of two or more individual effects, or from an interaction between individual effects – which may lead to a synergistic effect (i.e. greater than the sum of the individual effects), or any progressive effect likely to emerge over time.

The *GCDP 2023-2029* is framed within a policy context set by national and regional level strategic plans. The NPF and RSES were subject to full SEA and AA and require adherence to the SEA and Habitats Directives.

An assessment on the potential cumulative and in-combination effects of the *GCDP 2023-2029* is provided in NIR which concluded that through the implementation of the overarching policies and objectives of the Plan no negative in-combination effects from other plans and projects to European sites are expected through the implementation of this Plan.

Key cumulative and in combination effects are presented below:

- Many of the policies across Chapter 2: Climate Action, Chapter 3: Housing and Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Chapter 5: Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity in particular, if successfully implemented and delivered can support adaptation to climate change as well as positive interactions across many SEOs including Water, Soil and Geology, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Population, Human Health and Noise.
- For transport, provisions including in the Chapter 4: Sustainable Mobility and Transportation is of particular relevance. These are identified as generating positive impacts for a number of SEOs including Population, Human Health and Noise, Air and Climate and Material Assets. Several transport measures (in particular public transport and walking and cycling) create positive impacts as they support more sustainable transport options with cumulative and in combination positive impacts relating to Population, Human Health and Noise, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Air and Climate SEOs.
- Cumulatively and in combination, these policies encourage a modal shift and in turn gives rise to indirect positive effects, for example by creating more physical activity in terms of travel to work and school, positively affecting air quality with accompanying benefits to both population and human health. In addition, this can create a reduction in emissions associated with Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide. This benefits both Population, Human Health and Noise, as well as Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Water SEOs.
- As with other policies and objectives relating to sustainable communities, place making, regeneration and compact growth, positive long term effects are achieved for the Cultural Heritage SEO relating to sustainable buildings, reuse of existing buildings both protected and vernacular, in city centre and suburban areas. These represent embodied carbon and their reuse is positive in terms of the Air and

Climate SEO. In addition, these features contribute to local landscape and cityscape character, with accompanying positive interactions in placemaking – Population Human Health and Noise, Soil and Geology and Landscape SEOs.

- Whilst greenways and blueways are identified as generating positive, long term effects in relation to Population Human Health and Noise SEO, Material Assets, Air and Climate and Landscape SEOS, these, if not carefully designed with ecological and other environmental considerations from the outset can contribute to habitat fragmentation, adverse effects to biodiversity and water quality through disturbance, increased noise and emissions and loss of local landscape character.
- Nature based solutions in relation to water management, flood risk and public realm are identified as being consistent and positive across all SEOs, in particular measures that promote natural based solutions such as tree planting and SUDs are all positive across all parameters and provide multi-functional benefits in the landscape and cityscape. In combination and cumulative effects are particularly relevant to the nature based solutions actions which together create long term positive effects across Population, Human Health and Noise, Landscape, Biodiversity Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water and Material Assets SEOs whilst responding to climate change effects.

## 8 Mitigation Measures

### 8.1 Introduction

Section (g) of Schedule 2B of the SEA Regulations (as amended) requires: *'The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Plan'*.

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where the environmental assessment identifies significant adverse effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such impacts or where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be generally divided into those that:

- Avoid effects;
- Reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effect;
- Repair effects after they have occurred, and
- Compensate for effects, by balancing out negative impacts with positive ones.

In order to facilitate the consideration of environmental resources in any future development associated with the draft *GCDP 2023-2029*, mitigation measures have been included here. The overall strategy of the *GCDP 2023-2029* is to protect and improve the environment of the city and its various aspects, including designated sites, air and water quality, waste management and biodiversity. There are already sustainable policies carried over from the existing GCDP. Section 8.2 presents the principal existing Environmental Protection Measures in the GCDP. Section 8.3 presents the mitigation measures recommended through the SEA process on the draft GCDP.

It is recommended that all legislation, policies and guidelines outlined in both the *GCDP 2023-2027* and this Environmental Report and are adhered to. Relevant future legislation, policies and guidelines should also be fully integrated into this plan making process and Environmental Report. In addition, many impacts will be more adequately identified and mitigated at project and EIA level. In general terms, all proposals for development will be required to have due regard to environmental considerations outlined in this SEA Environmental Report and associated NIR/SFRA. Proposals for development which are deemed contrary to the environmental objectives and policies contained within the Plan will not normally be permitted, and if permitted, should contain development specific mitigation measures which have been proven beyond scientific doubt, to remove significant negative effects.

### 8.2 Principal Existing Environmental Measures in the draft GCDP 2023-2029

**Table 8.1** presents the principal environmental mitigation measures present in the GCDP 2023-2027.

**TABLE 8-1 PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES IN THE DRAFT GCDP 2023-2027**

Policy 2.1 Circular Economy	
1.	Support a successful transition to a circular economy where waste and resources are minimised in accordance with emerging legislation and national strategy.
Policy 2.2. Climate Action	
1.	Support the implementation of International, European and National objectives as detailed in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU Climate Adaptation Strategy 2021</li> <li>- the European Green Deal;</li> <li>- The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2015 to 2021;</li> <li>- The Climate Action Plan (2019) and any updated plan;</li> <li>- The National Climate Adaptation Framework 2018;</li> <li>- The National Climate Change Strategy;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sectoral Adaptation Plans</li> <li>- The National Climate Mitigation Plan (when prepared and adopted)</li> </ul>
2.	Support the implementation of national objectives for climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation to achieve a just transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable, carbon neutral economy.
3.	Support through plan policy and objectives, the national objective of the legally binding path to net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of 2030; through implementation of 5 year carbon budgets, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, promotion of sustainable transport, use of renewable resources, improving energy efficiency and supporting nature based solutions.
4.	Support, facilitate and advance the implementation of policies and actions set out in the Galway City Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.
5.	Prepare a five year Climate Action Plan in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2021 and future supporting guidelines and consequently review the development plan to ensure alignment.
6.	Support national sectoral emissions ceilings and carbon budgets once adopted where applicable.
7.	Manage the climate risks associated with climate change through the development of climate adaptation measures and sustainable planning and development, including through the planning, design and implementation of the Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme in conjunction with the OPW.
8.	Support the implementation of water management measures through mechanisms such as SUDS, rain water harvesting, use of grey water, water storage and nature based solutions to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
9.	Support the designated and any future Decarbonising Zone in the city and associated implementation plan promoting measures to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and improve general environmental conditions in this area. (draft by Feb 2022)
10.	Support Energy Master Plans prepared by Sustainable Energy Communities in Galway City in particular to support the recommendations of the Galway City Energy Master Plan and associated Energy Action Plan setting out pathways for reducing greenhouse gas emission associated with energy use in Galway City (due to be completed by mid-2022)
11.	Support initiatives to advance good soil management, carbon capture and carbon sequestration where feasible in the city.
12.	Collaborate with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and any other relevant stakeholder in respect of the implementation of existing and future climate change adaption and mitigation strategies and climate action policy to support the transition to a low carbon economy.
13.	Increase awareness and support behavioural change in relation to climate change, climate resilience and the transition to a low carbon economy.
14.	Enable opportunities to activate EC funded projects such as the EU Horizon Europe Missions under the two missions of (i) Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and (ii) Adaptation to Climate Change, including societal transformation.
15.	Require a climate action statement that considers energy, emissions and sustainable transport as part of every Local Area Plan, masterplan, spatial framework, and regeneration and opportunity site.
16.	Support and facilitate measures to reduce the reliance on single use plastics in the city with a particular emphasis on taking single use plastic bottles out of use as a measure to be pro-active in supporting the Climate Action Plan.

<b>Policy 2.4. Sustainable Building Design and Construction</b>	
1.	Increase the energy performance of new buildings in the city by encouraging energy efficiency and energy conservation in the siting, layout, design, and construction of development.
2.	Encourage and ensure new development to limit greenhouse gas emissions and make use of opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy including through design, layout, orientation and construction practices.
3.	Encourage high standards of energy conservation and improved energy performance in all existing and planned local authority housing and include for a deep retrofit programme of works (currently under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme).
4.	Liaise with the SEAI and other agencies to develop standards, procedures and targets for energy conservation in the Council's housing stock.
5.	Support the retrofit and reuse of existing buildings in the interests of sustainability and in line with delivery of the proposed National Aggregated Model of Retrofitting.
6.	Promote energy efficiency and sustainability in both existing and new buildings and support the implementation of the EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive and the Building Energy Rating Certification (BER).
7.	Support flexibility, accessibility and adaptability in terms of layout and design of new housing.
<b>Policy 3.3. Sustainable Neighbourhood Concept</b>	
1.	Promote the development of compact, well designed safe and attractive neighbourhoods that deliver efficient use of land and have effective integration with social and physical infrastructure including public transport, and that will enable the development of successful communities and facilitate the growth strategy for Galway City as envisioned in the NPF and RSES.
2.	Endeavour to contribute to decarbonisation and achievement of national emission targets in the housing sector through encouraging sustainable densities in housing, adherence to sustainable practices in construction, use of materials and standards, facilitating retrofitting, re-use and effecting Decarbonisation Zones that include residential areas.
3.	Support neighbourhoods that can meet the needs of an aging and increasingly diverse society and that can accommodate social and physical inclusiveness and contribute to a good quality of life and general wellbeing.
4.	Encourage sustainable neighbourhoods, through appropriate guidelines and standards and through the implementation of local area plans, masterplans / frameworks / area plans.
5.	Encourage higher residential densities at appropriate locations as guided by the Urban Density and Building Height Study. Such locations include strategic regeneration and opportunity sites, and residential and mixed use zoned sites located close to public transport routes and routes identified in the Galway Transport Strategy as suitable for high frequency, public transport services.
6.	Protect and enhance new/existing residential neighbourhoods through appropriate guidelines and standards, preparation of framework plans and through the use of development briefs and design statements.
7.	Ensure the design of residential developments have regard to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) and demonstrate compliance with the Urban Design Manual—A Best Practice Guide and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019).
8.	Support through policy and design standards the concept of a “15 minute city” where the daily needs of communities can be accessed within a 15 minute walk, cycle or by public transport.
9.	Ensure designated residential amenity open spaces, which are in use and reflect high residential value and are allied to existing residential developments are protected for such use. Exceptions to allow for infill development will only be considered on underutilised lands which do not contribute positively to the urban structure and form and lack community value. Such development will only be considered where it contributes to place making and community, improves the quality of the neighbourhood and can enhance the built environment



	with better informal supervision of the public realm and can, where housing is part of the proposal, provide a mix in size and type of housing units.
<b>Policy 3.7 City Centre Residential Areas</b>	
1.	Prioritise the provision of new homes on designated regeneration and opportunity sites in the city centre at appropriate scales to enable the development of new sustainable city centre communities.
2.	Protect and enhance established city centre residential communities by discouraging encroachment from commercial development and unacceptable infill developments.
3.	Enhance city centre residential areas through implementation of environmental improvement schemes and improvements to the public realm, including, where appropriate, homezones and recreational facilities in conjunction with local residents.
4.	Encourage the expansion of the city centre residential community by requiring a residential content in new development proposals.
<b>Policy 4.1. General</b>	
1.	Develop a compact city, where sustainable land use and transportation are integrated and where there is choice and accessibility to a range of transport modes, with increasing support for a shift to more sustainable modes in line with national aims on climate action and where safety and ease of movement is provided to and within the City and onward to the wider area of the MASP, County Galway and the Northern and Western Region.
2.	Align with the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF and the regional policy objectives of the RSES in the promotion of sustainable patterns of transport and in the support for the delivery of key transport infrastructure that will enable development to take place in accordance with the Core Strategy.
3.	Support the implementation of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) which will advance the delivery and modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport and also enable planned integration of land use and transport within the city and the greater MASP area in consultation with Galway County Council, NTA and TII and service providers.
<b>Policy 4.2 Land Use and Transportation</b>	
1.	Promote close co-ordination between land use and transportation through policies, land use zoning and objectives.
2.	Support and facilitate the integration of land-use and transportation in order to facilitate compact city growth, supported by sustainable modes of transport that will encourage economic well-being and ensure the movement of people and goods in a manner that is sustainable, safe and provides ease of access for all, enhances quality of life and supports a reduction in transport related greenhouse gas emissions.
3.	Provide for the development of high volume, trip intensive, developments such as commercial centres and employment hubs at locations that will minimise the need, distance and time taken to travel and promote the use of sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport to access these locations.
4.	Promote effective sustainable residential densities in the city particularly along and close to the existing and planned public and sustainable transport route network.
5.	In line with Core Strategy and to give direction for future settlement expansion prepare Local Area Plans and masterplans where appropriate that includes for integration of land use with transportation.
6.	Encourage the concept of a "15 minute city" where land use policies facilitate residents to access their daily needs within a 15 minute walk or bike ride and thereby reduce the dependence on car transport.
<b>Policy 5.1. Green Network and Biodiversity</b>	
1.	Support sustainable use and management of areas of ecological importance, parks and recreation amenity areas and facilities through an integrated green network policy approach in line with the Galway Recreation and

	Amenity Needs Study and where superceded by the Greenspace Strategy, where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites.
2.	Support the actions of the Galway Recreation and Amenity Needs Study and the upcoming Greenspace Strategy with particular emphasis on the progression and completion of both the existing South Park and Kingston Land Masterplans.
3.	Support the retention and enrichment of biodiversity throughout the city in recognition of the need to protect and restore biodiversity to increase the resilience of natural and human systems to climate change.
4.	Support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017- 2021) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) and support the actions of the City Council’s Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness and biodiversity.
5.	Support climate action through implementation of nature based solutions that enhance biodiversity in the green network, including measures such as tree planting, SUDS, use of green infrastructure. Such measures will be informed by the Greenspace strategy.
6.	Promote the integration of nature-based solutions in all new developments as appropriate to contribute to the city’s climate resilience and require large scale development proposals to include a green infrastructure and biodiversity plan.
8.	Achieve a sustainable balance between meeting future recreational needs (both passive and active) and the preservation of the city’s biodiversity and ecological and cultural heritage.
10.	Support the outcomes of the Greenspace Strategy and any objectives to progress delivery of new urban parks including an additional urban park close to the city centre.
11.	Support the Healthy Green Spaces initiative which seeks to improve the quality of green spaces in the city, to enhance climate change resilience, aesthetic value, biodiversity and improve public health and wellbeing.
12.	Improve accessibility to the City Parks, recreation and amenity areas and facilities and include for sustainable modes of transport, where appropriate.
15.	Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated European sites.
17.	Enhance linkages and connectivity within the green network identified in Table 4.1.
19.	Ensure that all passive and active recreational proposals are considered in the context of potential impact on the environment, sites of ecological and biodiversity importance and general amenity.
20.	Ensure that notwithstanding land use zoning objectives, significant change of use from existing recreational facilities will only be considered if it is clearly demonstrated that either the loss of such a facility would not have an unacceptable impact on recreation and amenity provision in the city, or if an alternative facility is provided of equal or preferably superior benefit to the local community or the city’s hierarchy of facilities and amenities.
23.	Continue to implement measures to increase and restore biodiversity in open spaces and road verges through the no mow grass management initiative, and ornamental pollinator projects such as the perennial bulb planting scheme.
<b>Policy 5.2. Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance</b>	
1.	Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network (including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and associated national legislation.
2.	Ensure that all plans or projects within the Plan area will only be authorised and /or supported after the competent authority has ascertained based on scientific evidence, screening for appropriate assessment and /or a Habitats Directive Assessment that :

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The plan or project will not give rise to an adverse direct, indirect or secondary effect on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</li> <li>ii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or</li> <li>iii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</li> </ul>
3.	Protect, conserve and promote the nationally designated sites of ecological importance, including existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHA and pNHAs) in the city.
4.	Protect, conserve and support the development of an ecological network throughout the city which will improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
5.	Continue to recognise sites of County Geological Interest in the city identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and protect such sites from inappropriate development and protect geological NHAs should they become designated and notified to the Local Authority, during the lifetime of the Plan.
6.	Protect Local Biodiversity Areas, wildlife corridors and stepping stones based on the Galway Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2024 and support the biodiversity of the city in the Council's role/responsibilities, works and operations, where appropriate.
7.	Encourage, in liaison with the NPWS, the sustainable management of features which are important for the ecological coherence of the network of European sites and essential, by their linear or continuous nature or as stepping stones for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
8.	Support the actions of the Galway City Council Heritage Plan 2016-2021 and any update and Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024 relating to the promotion of ecological awareness and biodiversity, the protection of wildlife corridors and the prevention of wildlife habitat fragmentation.
9.	Co-operate with the NPWS, landowners and stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of management plans for designated sites.
10.	Protect and conserve rare and threatened habitats and their key habitats, (wherever they occur) listed on Annex I and Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and listed for protection under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000.
11.	Ensure that plans and projects with the potential to have a significant impact on European sites (SAC or SPA) whether directly, indirectly or in combination with other plans or projects are subject to Appropriate Assessment, under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and associated legislation and guidelines, to inform decision making.
12.	Achieve a sustainable balance between meeting future recreational needs (both passive and active) and the protection of the city's ecological heritage.
13.	Support the inclusion of natural features, such as trees, hedgerows, stone walls, ponds and the use of green design features and the incorporation of biodiversity measures in developments layouts.
14.	Support and implement measures to control and manage alien/invasive species.
15.	Protect the ecological integrity of statutory Nature Reserves, refuges for fauna and Annex 1 Habitats.

Policy 5.3 Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways	
1.	Protect and maintain the integrity of the coastal environment and waterways by avoiding significant impacts and meeting the requirements of statutory bodies, national and European legislation and standards.
2.	Conserve and protect natural conservation areas within the coastal area and along waterways and ensure that the range and quality of associated habitats and the range and populations of species are maintained.
3.	Develop and enhance the recreational and amenity potential of the city's waterways and coastal area, while not compromising the ecological importance of these areas.
4.	Investigate the extensive water resource in the city with a view to exploring where public access and enjoyment can be improved and where potential sustainable uses and water based recreation can be developed to the benefit of the city, and have regard to ecological conservation and safety considerations.
5.	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin Management Plan in relation to the protection of water quality of surface waters, groundwater and coastal waters.
6.	Ensure development and uses adhere to the principles of sustainable development and restrict any development or use which negatively impact on water quality.
7.	Have regard to European and national best practice when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any designated European sites, protected coastal and marine fauna and flora.
8.	Ensure the conservation of the canal corridor and require that developments abutting the canal relate to the context of the adjacent environment and contribute to the overall amenity, and explore the possibility of opportunities for public access.
9.	Work with stakeholders, including IW, OPW, EPA, Inland Fisheries and Corrib Navigation Trust in the management of the river and canal systems.
10.	Encourage uses which will facilitate conservation of the industrial archaeology legacy of mill buildings, warehouses and associated features.
12.	Ensure the protection of the River Corrib as a Salmonid River, where appropriate.
13.	Restrict the location of structures other than structures with essential links to the waterway and public utilities within 10 metres of the River Corrib in G agricultural zoned lands.
14.	Facilitate sustainable flood defence and coastal protection works in order to prevent flooding and coastal erosion, subject to environmental and visual considerations as guided by the Corrib go Cósta, Galway Flood Relief Scheme project
15.	Maintain and extend the achievement of the Blue Flag Beach Status in co-operation with IW.
16.	Ensure any development within the aquatic environment shall be carried out in consultation with prescribed bodies and with adherence to their guidelines.
17.	Protect and maintain, where feasible, undeveloped riparian zones and natural floodplains along the River Corrib and its tributaries.
18.	Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, on protected species.
20.	Implement the outcomes of the emerging strategy for the marine environment set out in the forthcoming Marine Planning and Development Management legislation.

<b>Policy 5.4. Green Spaces: Urban Woodlands and Trees</b>	
1.	Manage and develop woodlands in the ownership of Galway City Council for natural heritage, recreation and amenity use, including Terryland Forest Park, Merlin Park Woods and Barna Woods/Lough Rusheen City Park.
2.	Make Tree Preservation Orders for individual trees or groups of trees within the city, where appropriate.
3.	Integrate existing trees and hedgerows on development sites where appropriate and require tree planting, as part of landscaping schemes for new developments.
4.	Continue to promote partnerships with the community for the management and improvement of biodiversity in local open spaces, through schemes such as the Green Flag Awards.
<b>Policy 8.1 Record of Protected Structures</b>	
1.	Protect structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures, in accordance with legislation and DEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011.
2.	Ensure new development enhances the character or setting of a protected structure.
3.	Avoid protected structures becoming endangered by neglect or otherwise by taking timely appropriate action.
4.	Have regard to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in the assessment of development.
5.	Consider the inclusion of buildings and structures of special interest or of distinctive heritage value in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and consider any recommendations for inclusion in the RPS made by Ministerial Recommendation.
6.	Consult with the DHLGH and have regard to recommendations of the DHLGH on planning applications relating to protected structures.
7.	Implement proactive measures to encourage the conservation of protected structures.
8.	Promote sustainable building design, best conservation practice and the appropriate maintenance, adaption and reuse of historic buildings.
<b>Policy 8.2 Architectural Conservation Areas</b>	
1.	Protect and enhance the character and special interest of designated Architectural Conservation Areas, in accordance with legislation and DEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011.
2.	Prepare and implement management plans for the conservation and enhancement of designated Architectural Conservation Areas.
3.	Ensure that developments within an Architectural Conservation Area respects and enhances the character and special interest of the ACA.
4.	Ensure the character of Architectural Conservation Areas is preserved by protecting and conserving historic street furniture and paving features and ensure that new street furniture and surfacing is designed to be compatible with the character of the ACA.
<b>Policy 8.4 Archaeology</b>	
1.	Protect and promote the archaeological heritage of the city.
2.	Ensure that proposed development within the designated city centre Zone of Archaeological Notification is not detrimental to the character of an archaeological site or its setting.
3.	Have regard to the archaeological recommendations of the DHLGH on any planning applications.
4.	Endorse the sustainable use of archaeological heritage as an educational and cultural resource and promote public awareness of the archaeological heritage of the city.

5.	Require the surveying, recording or excavation of archaeological heritage during the development process, where appropriate.
6.	Seek the preservation in situ or, at a minimum, preservation by record of archaeological sites/monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places and of previously unknown sites, features or objects of archaeological interest that are revealed through development activity.
7.	Ensure that any development proposal with potential to impact on archaeological heritage includes for an archaeological assessment. This includes within terrestrial, riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal environments.
<b>Policy 8.7 Urban Design and Placemaking</b>	
1.	Encourage high quality urban design in all developments.
2.	Improve qualitative design standards through the application of design guidelines and standards of the Development Plan, the 'Galway Public Realm Strategy 2019 and accompanying design, activity and delivery manuals', 'Galway Shopfront and Signage Design Guidelines (2012)' and 'Design Guidelines Canopies (2011)'.
3.	Ensure that development delivers high quality urban design, place making and public realm that contributes to urban regeneration in the city and that is resilient to potential impacts of climate change.
4.	Encourage innovation in architecture and promote energy efficiency and green design.
5.	Progress the implementation of the Ardaun Local Area Plan 2018-2024.
6.	Prepare Local Area Plans, masterplans and spatial/design frameworks which provide an urban design framework to contribute to the development of sustainable, vibrant working and living environments.
7.	Promote sustainable and inclusive urban design, urban form and architecture that positively contributes to the city's existing character and distinctiveness.
8.	Adhere to the <i>Galway City Urban Density and Building Height Study (2021)</i> and promote development which incorporates high quality sustainable and inclusive urban design, urban form and architecture that positively contributes to the city's character, heritage and neighbourhood areas.
9.	Proposals for buildings which are taller than the prevailing benchmark heights will only be considered where they do not have an adverse impact on the context of historic buildings, ACA's, residential amenity or impinge upon strategic views, in accordance with the Urban Density and Building Height Study for the city.
10.	Promote the reuse and adaptation of derelict and vacant buildings.
<b>Policy 9.1 Flood Risk</b>	
1.	Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No, 122 of 2010) and the DECLG and OPW Guidelines for Planning Authorities for Planning Authorities, the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Management (2009), updated/superseding legislation or departmental guidelines and have regard to the findings and relevant identified actions of the Corrib Catchment Flood Risk Management (CFRAM) Study.
2.	Support and facilitate the implementation of the Coirib go C6sta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme in conjunction with the OPW to support a climate resilient city, protect against flooding and minimise the impact of future climate events. Support in general the associated mitigation and adaptation measures in order to prevent flooding and coastal erosion, subject to appropriate environmental, visual, built heritage and other relevant considerations.
3.	Ensure the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 are taken into consideration in the assessment of developments in identified areas of flood risk and require site specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and associated design and construction measures where appropriate.

4.	Protect and promote sustainable management and uses of water bodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains.
5.	Ensure flood risk is incorporated into the preparation of any future local area plans, framework plan and masterplans in the city.
6.	Ensure any proposed measure designed to alleviate flooding/coastal erosion is subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, where appropriate.
7.	Continue to protect the coastal area and the foreshore and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of coastal erosion and/or would cause and escalate coastal erosion in adjoining areas.
8.	Protect and maintain, where feasible, undeveloped riparian zones and natural floodplains along the River Corrib and its tributaries.
<b>Policy 9.2 Water Quality</b>	
1.	Support the actions of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and future River Basin Management Plan in order to promote and achieve a restoration of good status, reduce chemical pollution and prevent deterioration of surface, coastal and groundwater quality, where appropriate.
2.	Continue to pursue the maintenance of good bathing water quality at the city beaches through monitoring and management actions in accordance with the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008.
3.	Ensure development adheres to prevailing environmental standards and guidelines and accords with emerging legislation and strategy on the marine environment.
4.	Maintain and extend the Blue Flag Beaches status in regard to water quality, infrastructure and amenity provision for beaches in the city.
5.	Protect the city's groundwater resource in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (SI No. 9 of 2010) or any updated legislation and limit any development which has potential to impact the objectives for protection, enhancement and/or restoration.
6.	Minimise and control discharges to inland surface water bodies, groundwater and coastal waters to prevent water pollution and protect the environment.
<b>Policy 9.6 Air Quality and Noise</b>	
1.	Maintain air quality to a satisfactory standard by regulating and monitoring atmospheric emissions in accordance with EU policy directives on air quality and Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive (2008/50/EC) by promoting and supporting initiatives to reduce air pollution and by increasing the use of sustainable transport modes and developing urban woodlands, encouraging tree planting, conserving and creating green open space.
2.	Ensure the design of development incorporates measures to minimise noise levels in their design and reduce the emission and intrusion of any noise or vibration which might adversely impact on amenities, in particular residential amenities where appropriate.
3.	Consider the details of Galway City Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 in the assessment and design of relevant development applications in the interests of protecting future amenity.
4.	Implement environmental noise mitigation measures as outlined in Galway City Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023.
5.	Promote best practice in the implementation of radon prevention and mitigation measures in partnership with relevant agencies.



Policy 9.7 Light Pollution	
1.	Ensure the design of external lighting minimises the incidence of light pollution, glare and spillage into the surrounding environment and has due regard to the visual and residential amenities of surrounding areas and is so designed to mitigate adverse impacts on wildlife and ecosystems.
2.	Require all new developments to be designed with the inclusion of energy efficient lighting schemes.
Policy 10.2 Strategic Regeneration and Brownfield Sites	
1.	Facilitate and enable the redevelopment of strategic Regeneration and Opportunity sites in the city to support the sustainable and compact growth of the city which will add value and create more attractive places in which people can live and work and achieve alignment with the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF and the Regional Policy Objectives of the RSES and implementation of the Core Strategy.

### 8.3 SEA Mitigation Measures

TABLE 8-2 SEA MITIGATION MEASURES

Policy	Mitigation (blue font)
Introduction and Core Strategy: Policy 1.4 Core Strategy	<b>Support the implementation of the SEA Directive, the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, EIA Directive and Water Framework Directive and appropriate supporting legislation and guidelines.</b>
Climate Action: Policy 2.1 Circular Economy	1. Support a successful transition to a circular economy where waste and resources are minimised in accordance with emerging legislation and national strategy, <b>including the Circular Economy Programme 2021-2027.</b>
Climate Action: Policy 2.2 Climate Action	1. Support the implementation of International, European and National objectives as detailed in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -the European Green Deal;</li> <li>• -The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Act 2015 to 2021;</li> <li>• -The Climate Action Plan (2019) and any updated plan;</li> <li>• -The National Climate Adaptation Framework 2018;</li> <li>• -The National Climate Change Strategy and</li> <li>• <b>EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030;</b></li> <li>• Sectoral Adaptation Plans.</li> </ul>
Housing and Sustainable Communities: Section 3.9 Specific Objectives	1. Prepare an environmental improvement scheme for the Mervue residential area <b>that reflects good practice in urban design and includes for green infrastructure measures.</b> 2. Prepare environmental improvement schemes for Claddagh, Shantalla and Bohermore residential areas <b>that reflects good practice in urban design and includes for green infrastructure measures.</b> 3. Prepare a regeneration plan for the open space areas of Ballybane <b>that reflects good practice in open space and urban design and includes for green infrastructure measures.</b>
Sustainable Mobility and Transportation: Section 4.8 Specific Objectives - Sustainable Mobility - Walk and Cycle	13. Ensure biodiversity and appropriate greening/ <b>nature based solutions are</b> incorporated, into greenways, segregated cycleways and pathways where appropriate and ensure that paths and structures are constructed from suitable materials and incorporating a SUDS approach <b>that supports and contributes to ecological connectivity and biodiversity.</b>
Natural Heritage, Biodiversity, Recreation and Amenity: Policy 5.1. Green Network and Biodiversity	6. Promote the integration of nature-based solutions <b>and green/blue infrastructure</b> in all new developments as appropriate to contribute to the city's climate resilience and require large scale development proposals to include a green infrastructure and biodiversity plan.
Built Heritage and Placemaking and Urban Design:	<b>Progress, by way of the Derelict Sites Register, the development of derelict sites for housing and regeneration purposes through consultation with</b>

Policy	Mitigation (blue font)
Policy 8.7 Urban Design and Placemaking	landowners and the application the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended) and other means available to Galway City Council.

## 9 Monitoring

### 9.1 Introduction

It is proposed, in accordance with the SEA Directive, to base monitoring on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality, for example water pollution levels. Monitoring will focus on the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly impacted upon by the implementation of the *GCDP 2023-2029*.

The targets and indicators are derived from the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) discussed in Chapter Five. The targets underpins the objective whilst the indicators are used to track the progress of the objective and targets in terms of monitoring of impacts.

The monitoring programme will consist of an assessment of the relevant indicators and targets against the data relating to each environmental component. Similarly, monitoring will be carried out frequently to ensure that any changes to the environment can be identified.

It is proposed that the SEA monitoring reporting should be undertaken as a mid-term review of the Plan. However, in some cases as data becomes available, Galway City Council may prepare an additional SEA Monitoring Report. In turn the list below is subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data. Should the monitoring programme identify significant impacts (such as impacts on designated sites) early on in the Plan implementation, this should trigger a review of the Plan and monitoring programme and in turn corrective action as appropriate<sup>59</sup>. In addition, the identification of positive impacts from monitoring should also be reported as this will assist in determining successful environmental actions.

It is recommended that data arising from planning applications, particularly in terms of environmental constraints mapping and Environmental Impact Statements be integrated into a GIS and monitoring system. This will assist in assessing cumulative impacts also, in particular ecology and water quality.

Finally, it is recommended that the monitoring report be made available to the public upon its completion. It is recommended that this data be shared with neighbouring local authorities to assist in monitoring cross county effects and ensure consistency of monitoring.

**Table 9.1** overleaf presents the Monitoring Programme.

TABLE 9-1 SEA MONITORING TABLE

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna  BFF</b>	Condition of European Sites	Control significant adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts) to relevant habitats, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites and networks	GCC, NPWS, DHLGH, DTCAGSM, EPA, RBD stakeholders, GCC Biodiversity Action Plan and Heritage Plan stakeholders	NPWS and Department reports and database, National Biodiversity database centre, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	Ongoing monitoring through the development management process
	Biodiversity gain	Control significant adverse impacts on rare and threatened habitats and species or their sustaining resources, including those in the Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Acts			Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report.
		Improvements to the green network and public realm whilst projecting the city's ecological heritage			
		Delivery of actions identified under River Basin Management Plan, All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2026 and local plans including Galway Biodiversity Action Plan, Heritage Plan, Public Realm Strategy and forthcoming Greenspace Strategy.			

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Population, Human Health and Noise PHHN</b>	<p>Implementation of Plan measures in relation to meeting population targets, improvements to provision of social and physical infrastructure including availability of public transport / public and community facilities, services, public realm and amenities</p> <p>Reduction in travel times and distances to and within the city and alleviation of traffic congestion</p> <p>Increase in modal shift from private car to public transport and active travel</p> <p>Increase in social inclusion and accessibility</p>	<p>Improvements to physical and social infrastructure, green network, public realm, active travel</p> <p>Delivery of actions in Galway Transport Strategy, LECP, Public Realm Strategy, forthcoming Greenspace Strategy</p>	GCC, Co Co, NTA, TII LECP stakeholders	GCC, TII, CSO, LECP, Healthy City and Age Friendly research, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the development management process and of plans and strategies including Galway Transport Strategy</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Air and Climate AC</b>	<p>Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</p> <p>Traffic volumes and % modal shift, see also PHH monitoring measure</p> <p>Changes in air quality as identified during air quality monitoring programmes</p> <p>Improvements to the green network and public realm</p>	<p>Achievement of measures relating to climate reduction targets in plan and Galway Climate Adaption Strategy and 5 year action plan, future energy plan and energy action plan, implementation of Noise Action Plan</p> <p>Increase the percentage of population travelling by public transport including cycling and walking, and decrease in private vehicle dependency</p> <p>Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NOx and particulate m</p>	GCC, EPA, NTA, TII, DECC, CARO, SEAI, Climate Adaption Strategy stakeholders	GCC, SEAI , CSO databases, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the EPA monitoring programmes and regulation through development management process – planning conditions and enforcement</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholder to feed into 2 year report</p> <p>.</p>

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Water W</b>	<p>Status of water bodies and drinking water quality as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programmes</p> <p>Trends in water conservation</p> <p>Flood Risk Assessment incorporated into development proposals in flood risk areas</p> <p>Number of flood protection measures provided</p>	<p>Not to cause deterioration in the status or affect the ability of any surface water groundwater, transitional and coastal waters to achieve 'good status'</p> <p>Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle (once finalised)</p> <p>Implementation of objectives of River Basin Management Plan, Water Framework Directive, EU (Drinking Water) Regulations, Bathing Water Quality Regulations</p> <p>Minimise development on land susceptible to significant flood and/or coastal erosion risk</p>	EPA, Irish Water, OPW, CFRAM stakeholders, RBD stakeholders including GCC and GCoCo	EPA, Irish Water Monitoring Programmes and databases, GCC, EPA , Irish Water reports, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the EPA monitoring programmes and regulation through development management process – planning conditions and enforcement</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>



SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Soil and Geology SG</b>	<p>Area of brownfield land developed</p> <p>Increased densities appropriate to neighbourhood character</p> <p>Reduction in vacant sites and derelict buildings on registers</p> <p>Monitoring of historical landfill sites , enforcement</p> <p>Increase in recycling, and recovery of C&amp;D waste,</p> <p>Conservation status of GSI sites</p>	<p>Achievement of measures in plan to meet NPF AND RSES targets of at least 50% of all new homes be delivered within the existing built-up footprint (2032 target)</p> <p>Reduce brownfield lands within the city</p> <p>Reuse and recycle C&amp;D waste at source and encourage use of appropriate materials including from local sources, implementation of waste permit regulations</p> <p>Safeguard soil quality and quantity and to ensure that soils remain healthy and capable of supporting human activities and ecosystems</p> <p>Retain conservation status of important geological heritage sites</p>	GCC, EPA, GSI,	GCC, GSI and EPA databases, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the EPA monitoring programmes and development management process</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>

<p><b>Material Assets MA</b></p>	<p>Increase in sustainable transport facilities and infrastructure throughout the city</p> <p>Number of people travelling to work or school by public transport, walking or cycling</p> <p>Improvements in the public realm</p> <p>Changes in water quality as identified during water quality monitoring programmes</p> <p>Volume of waste recycled and to landfill</p> <p>Control of inappropriate development within SEVESO III site consultation zone</p> <p>SEE also PHHN and AC and BFF</p>	<p>Achievement of measures in the Plan to maintain and improve a high quality built environment</p> <p>Have an integrated, sustainable transport and land use system that eases movement to and within the city and promotes sustainable transport modes</p> <p>Meet EU, national and regional objectives for water quality and for recycling of municipal waste and its diversion from landfill</p> <p>Control inappropriate development within SEVESO III site consultation zone</p> <p>Delivery of actions in Galway Transport Strategy, Public Realm Strategy, forthcoming Greenspace Strategy</p>	<p>GCC, Irish Water, EPA, NTA,TII, Regional Waste Authority, HSA</p>	<p>GCC, CSO, NTA, TII, Irish Water and EPA databases, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate</p>	<p>Ongoing monitoring through the EPA monitoring programmes, development management process and of plans and strategies including Galway Transport Strategy</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>
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SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Cultural Heritage CH</b>	<p>Implementation of Plan measures relating to protect and promote cultural, built, archaeological and linguistic heritage</p> <p>Reuse and adaption of existing built heritage</p> <p>Number of grants administered for protected structures and cultural heritage projects/activities</p> <p>Number of ACA management plans prepared, number of additions to the RPS and any additional ACAs</p> <p>Increase in use of Irish in signage and place names of new residential developments, public roads, parks</p>	<p>Increase uptake of grants available for protected structures and to promote good conservation practice</p> <p>Expand the RPS and designate additional ACAs, where appropriate</p> <p>Increase the number of uninhabited and derelict structures that are restored opposed to demolition.</p> <p>Delivery of actions identified in Everybody Matters Cultural Strategy, Galway Heritage Plan, Public Realm Strategy, Cultural Strategy and Galway City Arts Plan</p>	GCC, DHLGH, DTCAGSM, GCC Heritage Plan, Cultural Strategy and Arts Plan stakeholders	GCC, NIAH databases, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	<p>Ongoing monitoring through Heritage plan and development management process</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report</p>

SEA Topic	Indicators	Targets	Key Responsible Authority /Stakeholders	Data Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Landscape L</b>	<p>Impacts on protected views/prospects, built heritage and G and RA zoned lands incorporated into development proposals as appropriate</p> <p>Improvements to the green network and public realm</p>	<p>Protect and enhance built heritage, designated ACAs, protected views/prospects and G and RA zoned lands</p> <p>Protect and enhance the green network and public realm in a sustainable manner</p> <p>Delivery of local area plans, environmental improvement schemes, ACA management plans and urban design framework plans, actions identified under Galway Biodiversity Action Plan, Heritage Plan and Public Realm Strategy</p>	GCC, Galway Biodiversity Action Plan and Heritage Plan stakeholders,	GCC, NIAH databases, National Biodiversity data centre, consultation with stakeholders where appropriate, LAPS, masterplans, large scale developments	Ongoing monitoring through development management process Consultation with stakeholders to feed into 2 year report





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