

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Strategic Environmental
Assessment of Oranmore
Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018
SEA Statement

Updated November 2012

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Strategic Environmental Assessment of Oranmore Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018 SEA Statement

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1 Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement of the Oranmore Local Area Plan (LAP) 2012 -2018, adopted by Galway County Council on 24th September 2012. This statement forms the final part of the requirements for the SEA of the Oranmore LAP.

SEA is a key process that promotes sustainable development and highlights significant environmental issues within the planning regime. The purpose of SEA is to formally and systematically evaluate the likely significant effects of implementing a plan or programme, in this instance the new Oranmore LAP.

EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment were transposed into Irish law under:

- The European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004);
- The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004);
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment)(Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), and
- Planning and Development (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (S.I No 200 of 2011).

This SEA Statement is a requirement of S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (as amended). These Regulations detail the information to be included in a SEA Statement. These requirements are discussed in the following section.

1.1.1 Purpose of SEA Statement

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process and to document how environmental considerations, the views of statutory consultees and other submissions received during consultation and the recommendations of the Environmental Report have been taken into account in the adopted Oranmore LAP and the arrangements put in place for monitoring.

The SEA Statement is available to the public, along with the Environmental Report and the adopted LAP. The SEA Statement includes the following information:

- Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the LAP;(Section Two)
- Summary of how submissions received during consultation have been taken into account in the LAP (Section Two);
- Reasons for choosing the recommended strategy, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered (Section Three);
- Measures that are to be undertaken to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan (Section Four).

1.1.2 Implications of SEA for the Oranmore LAP Process

As a result of the above legislation, the Oranmore LAP 2012 to 2018 was required to undergo SEA. The findings of SEA were presented in the Environmental Report which was submitted to the Elected Members alongside the Draft LAP. The purpose of the report was to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the future development of Oranmore over the lifetime of the plan.

Amendments were made to the Draft LAP at each stage of the process and these were evaluated for their environmental consequences. In turn this evaluation was presented to the Elected Members in the form of an Addendum Report. These addendum reports assessed whether the proposed material alterations would require full SEA or Habitats Directive Assessment, these were assessed against the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs). For both material alteration processes, it was determined that full SEA was not required.

On adoption of the Draft LAP, these Addenda were used to update the original Environmental Report into a final Environmental Report (ER) which accompanies the adopted Plan. In the Final ER, additional text is included in bold and italic font with a footnote to highlight who or what agency provided the submission during the consultation processes. The SEA Screening Reports prepared for each material alteration is also provided as an Annex to the Final ER.

At each stage of the process the Elected Members were required by the legislation to take into account the Environmental Report -including the Addenda - before the adoption of the LAP. The Final Landuse Zoning Maps, Specific Objective Maps and Flood Risk Maps as adopted and included in the final Oranmore Local Area Plan are presented in Annex A at the end of this SEA Statement.

2 How Environmental Considerations have been integrated into the Oranmore LAP.

2.1 Introduction

The strategic environmental assessment process took place in tandem with the preparation of the Oranmore LAP. The SEA and Habitats Directive consultants were appointed in September 2012 and commenced the SEA scoping process. This iterative process ensured that the SEA and the preparation of the LAP were integrated. The following section outlines the different consultation stages during the preparation of the LAP, and highlights the key environmental issues that rose during this process. Further detailed information on submissions received, issues raised and how they were addressed in the SEA and Natura Impact Report (NIR) as appropriate are provided in Chapter Two Section 2.3 Tables 2a to 2b of the SEA ER. Annex C of the ER also provides the SEA Screening reports for the material alterations.

The following section summarises key environmental issues raised through the consultation process carried out as part of the LAP preparation process. These are shown through a series of tables that highlight the key environmental issue and are accompanied by a description/comment of where or how this was addressed in the final plan.

2.2 Pre-Draft Consultation with External Stakeholders

A Background Issues Paper was prepared in May 2011 with the aim to promote discussion and consultation on issues affecting the sustainable development of Oranmore. A notice was published on 30th May providing information on the preparation of the LAP and requesting submissions until 1st July. Twenty two submissions were received including those from statutory agencies and local residents. Key environmental issues raised through this consultation are presented in Table 2a below:

Table 2a: Pre-draft Consultation – Key Environmental Issues Raised

Environmental Issue Raised	Addressed in Final Oranmore Local Area Plan	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
Wheelchair safety and accessibility around Oranmore	Objective SI2 Universal Access.	Pop 1 Pop 2
Traffic problems around Oranmore	A number of policies and objectives aim to promote sustainable transport, integrated landuse and transport and alternative transport options including walking, cycling and public transport. These include the following: Policy T11- Sustainable Transport, Walking and Cycling, Objectives T11- Integrated Landuse and Transport, T12 -Sustainable Transportation, and T13 -Public Transport and T14 Walking.	Pop 1 Mat 7
Reference to guidelines including provisions of Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines,	Section 1.4 Plan Informants outlines the strategic planning context for the Oranmore LAP and refers to such guidelines. In	Pop 1 Mat 7

Retail Planning Guidelines and Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines.	addition, specific policies and objectives also refer to these guidelines as appropriate, for example: Policy TI 2 Roads, Streets and Parking, Objective ED 4 Retail Development.	
Careful consideration to zoning close to national road network Seek to minimise local trip generation (in cars) by encouraging integrated development	The principal measures in the plan that promote integrated and sustainable transport planning and aim to reduce local trip generation are as follows: Policy TI1- Sustainable Transport, Walking and Cycling Objectives TI1- Integrated Landuse and Transport TI2 -Sustainable Transportation and TI3 -Public Transport.	Pop 1 AQ1 Mat 7
Traffic and Transport Assessment and Road Safety Audits recommended for planning applications.	Objective TI 21 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment addresses this point.	Pop 1 Mat 7
Submissions relates to recommendations for cycling and walking routes including: Provision of cycling /walking along 'coast' road to link with Galway City Village to Rinville Park Complete tarring from Rinville Sailing Club to Rinville Point Provision of walk from Tesco s/c to Oranisland on phased basis	Principal objectives in relation to walking and cycling are as follows: Objective TI 4 Walking Objective TI 5 Cycling Objective TI 7 Walking and Cycling Strategy Objective TI 14 – Linkages for Pedestrians & Cyclists at Pairc an Clochar	Pop 1 Mat 7
Environmental impacts associated with urban generated one off rural housing.	There are a number of policies and objectives that promote the town centre and aim to reduce urban generated rural housing including: Policies RD1 -Residential Development, RD2- Phased Development on Residential Zoned Lands Objective RD1 -Phased Residential Development and Objective RD10 -Agricultural Zoned Lands.	Pop 1 AQ 1 Mat 7
Alignment of Core Strategy and Regional Planning guidelines Population target for Oranmore and residential zonings – current oversupply and requirement to ally with Core Strategy.	Objective DS2 -Consistency with Core Strategy, Policy RD1- Residential Development and Objective RD1 -Phased Residential Development in particular address alignment of Core Strategy with residential zonings in the plan area.	Pop 1
SEA and AA should examine likely impact of implementing the LAP on the Natura 2000 network and other environmental receptors	Chapter Seven and supporting Annexes of the SEA ER address potential impacts and the NIR addresses impacts on European sites. In addition, the Final LAP includes two overarching objectives that highlight requirements of the Habitats Directive, namely Objective DS3 -Natura 2000 Network	Bio 1, Bio 2, Bio 3, Bio 4, Bio 5, Wat 1 Pop 1, Pop 2

	and Habitats Directive Assessment and Objective NH1- Natura 2000 Sites	
<p>Requirements of EU Habitats Directive</p> <p>Information given on the following sites, and request that objectives and policies be developed to support same.</p> <p>The Natura 2000 sites, Galway Bay Complex cSAC (site code 000268), Inner Galway Bay SPA (site code 004031) and Creganna Marsh SPA (site code 004142).</p> <p>Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)</p>	<p>Objective DS3 -Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment and Objective NH1- Natura 2000 Sites.</p> <p>Objective NH 3 – Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas</p> <p>Objective NH 4 – Impact Assessments address these requirements.</p>	<p>Bio 1, Bio 2, Bio 3, Bio 4, Bio 5, Wat 1 Pop 1, Pop 2</p>
<p>Some issues of concern in the existing plan area are:</p> <p>land use zonings for development in Natura 2000 sites,</p> <p>surface water issues and flood risk management,</p> <p>groundwater issues and hydrogeology,</p> <p>cumulative loss and encroachment of wetlands.</p>	<p>The Final LAP now includes the new landuse zoning EM which provides for strict and limited development activities within Natura 2000 sites and no residential zonings in same.</p> <p>See Objective LU9 – Environmental Management.</p> <p>A suite of policies, objectives and the EM landuse zones are included in the Final LAP to address surface water management and flood risk management. Key policies and objectives include the following:</p> <p>Policy UI 1 – Water Supply, Wastewater And Surface Water Infrastructure</p> <p>Objective UI 5 – Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems</p> <p>Objective UI 6 – Provision of Infrastructural Corridor</p> <p>Policy UI4 – Flood Risk Management</p> <p>Objective UI 12 – Flood Risk Management and Assessment</p> <p>Objective UI 13 – Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses (Refer to Map 3A/3B)</p> <p>Objective UI 14 – Coastal Flooding</p> <p>Objective UI 7 – Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters</p> <p>Objective UI 8 – Groundwater & Aquifer</p> <p>Objective NH 10 – Geological and Geomorphological Systems</p> <p>Objective NH 7 – Wetlands, Springs, Rivers and Streams</p> <p>Objective NH 8 – Frenchfort Stream Ecological Corridor</p>	<p>Bio 1, Bio 2, Bio 3, Bio 4, Bio 5, Bio 6 Wat 1, Wat 2, Wat 3 Soil 3 Pop 1, Pop 2 Mat 1, Mat 2, Mat 4</p>

<p>Disturbance and habitat encroachment are an issue for the Birds Directive Annex I species, Greenland White-fronted Geese, in Cregganna Marsh SPA.</p> <p>Information on plan level mitigation Recommended that HDA is presented as a completed report not a draft. NIS or Screening report should conclude with clear statement SEA ER Scope of SEA should include: All sites with nature conservation designations Available information on habitats and habitat indicator mapping Available information on rare and protected species and their habitats All watercourse, surface water bodies and associated wetlands including floodplains and flood risk areas</p>	<p>The rezoning of designated lands as EM Environmental Management will provide better protection of species associated with Cregganna Marsh SPA through the strict control and limited development activities considered under this zoning. In addition, policies and objectives including the following strengthen overall protection of Annex 1 species.</p> <p>Objective DS3 -Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment Objective NH1- Natura 2000 Sites Objective NH 2 – Protected Habitats and Species Objective NH 4 – Impact Assessments</p> <p>Please see Final Natura Impact Report.</p> <p>SEA and AA integrated and biodiversity section of ER addresses each specific item as listed. Please see Chapter Four of the Final SEA ER.</p>	
<p>Urgent need for proper social, cultural and youth centre to include medical centre also Enhanced facilities at Rinville Park also proposed Coastal walks, cycle paths, park and ride and shuttle bus for new train station Wind or water renewable energy should be considered</p>	<p>Please see the following: Objective CF 12 – Social/Cultural/Youth Centre & Facilities Principal objectives in relation to walking and cycling are as follows: Objective TI 4 Walking Objective TI 5 Cycling Objective TI 7 Walking and Cycling Strategy Objective TI 14 – Linkages for Pedestrians & Cyclists at Pairc an Clochar Policy UI 3 – Climate Change & Air Quality Policy UI 6 – Energy and Communications</p>	<p>Pop 1 AQ 1, AQ 2 Mat 7</p>
<p>Core strategy and population trends, recommendation that unfinished estates be targeted before new estates be constructed New estates should not be constructed off the Maree Road.</p>	<p>Objective DS2 -Consistency with Core Strategy Policy RD1- Residential Development and Objective RD1 -Phased Residential Development in particular address alignment of Core Strategy with residential zonings in</p>	<p>Wat 1, Wat 2, Wat 3 Pop 1, Pop 2 Mat 4, Mat 7</p>

<p>Existing retail units should be occupied before considering new retail outlets.</p> <p>Serious congestion at Maree Road Hazard at entrance/exit from Oranisland Estate. Proposed road from Oranhill to roundabout on Limerick Road should be developed as soon as possible to relieve peak pressure</p> <p>Long term capacity of Mutton Island Wastewater treatment and suggest second modern wastewater treatment facility be reconsidered to serve extended Eastern suburbs of Galway and existing towns and villages such as Oranmore etc.</p> <p>Septic tanks be serviced and maintained, this is of particular importance due to underlying limestone and karst aquifer.</p> <p>Highlights visual impact of unfinished developments and Oranmore Castle Protective hoardings on Oranmore River also identified as unsightly. Consideration should be given to raised pedestrian walkway on Castle side of River. Signage should be addressed in particular proliferation of vans etc parked in green fields outside town, negates against image promoted by tourism bodies.</p>	<p>the plan area.</p> <p>Objective LU 1 – Town Centre/Commercial (C1) promotes town centre retail uses Objective ED 4 – Retail Development promotes retail within the town centre at appropriate locations.</p> <p>Objective TI 24 – Oranhill Distributor Route Objective TI 25 – Oranhill Distributor Route - (Maree Road)</p> <p>Objective UI 2 – Galway Main Drainage Scheme Objective UI 3 – Wastewater Disposal</p> <p>Objective UI 4 – Development Not Connecting to Public Sewer</p> <p>LAP promotes high quality design and public spaces and streets through the following: Policy UD1 – Urban Design and Landscape Objective UD 2 – Public Spaces and Streets</p>	
<p>Various submissions regarding current zonings and request for changes or retention of existing landuse zonings.</p>	<p>All landuse zonings were assessed against the EPOs. Annex A of the SEA ER shows the assessment of the draft Landuse zonings, whilst Annex C of the SEA ER assesses any landuse changes as part of the material alteration process.</p>	<p>Assessed against all EPOs</p>

2.3 SEA Scoping and Consultation

Following the screening process, a scoping exercise was undertaken by Minogue and Associates. This established the scope and extent of the Environmental Report and facilitated consultation with the designated statutory consultees. One submission was received on the scope of the SEA, from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a

statutory consultee. Again the following table shows the key environmental issues for Oranmore highlighted by this consultee and is accompanied by a summary of where and how in the plan these issues are addressed.

Table 2b: SEA Scoping – Key Environmental Issues Raised.

Environmental Issue Raised	Addressed in Final Oranmore Local Area Plan	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
Consideration of Alternatives in particular reasonable alternatives	Please see Chapter Six of the Final SEA ER for additional information on the consideration of alternatives. Section 2.2.2 Development Options in the Final LAP discusses these alternatives.	All EPOs
Ensure the following issues addressed:		
It should be ensured that a preliminary flood risk assessment is carried out in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (OPW/DoEHLG). Zoning and development of lands within the Plan area should take into account the risk of flooding. Where undeveloped lands are currently zoned in areas at risk of flooding, consideration should be given to rezoning/dezoning to remove flood risk for future developed lands.	New landuse zoning EM Environmental Management and Open Space/Recreation and Amenity addresses zonings and landuse in areas identified as Flood Risk Zone A or B through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment undertaken and integrated into the LAP.	Pop 2 Mat 1
You are referred to the Shannon CFRAMS, which is currently undergoing SEA. The findings of the Shannon CFRAMS should be incorporated into future versions of the Plan when finalised. In addition, you are referred to the Western River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures, which should also be incorporated into the Plan	Noted. Western River Basin District Management Plan is specifically addressed through the following: Objective UI 7 – Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters	Bio 6 Wat 1,Wat 2, Wat 3
Consideration should also be given to including policies/objectives in the Plan, promoting the development of green infrastructure and SUDS measures	Please see the following: Section 3.6 Utilities and Environmental Infrastructure discusses and promotes SUDS. In addition Objective NH6 – Water Resources promotes SUDS for new developments. A number of policies and objectives promote green networks including: Policy UD1 – Urban Design and Landscape Objective UD 4- Green Network and Landscaping Objective NH5 –Biodiversity and Ecological Networks.	Bio 1 Mat 1

The Pollution Reduction Programmes and associated Characterisation Reports for the adjacent designated Shellfish Waters at Clarinbridge/Kinvarra Bay, Bay at Aughinish and Ballyvaughan/Poul-naclough Bay should be taken into account in the policies and objectives of the Plan.	Objective NH 6 – Water Resources refers to designated shellfish waters.	Bio 5, Bio 6 Wat 1, Wat 2
The potential for cumulative/in-combination effects on Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the Plan should be assessed.	Key Objectives regarding protection of Natura 2000 sites include: Objective DS3 -Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment and Objective NH1- Natura 2000 Sites. Objective NH 2 – Protected Habitats and Species Objective NH 4 – Impact Assessments Please also see Final Natura Impact Report.	Bio 1, Bio 2
The potential for cumulative/in – combination effects resulting from this Plan and other relevant on-going Plans and Programmes within and adjacent to the Plan area should also be assessed	Please see Chapter Seven SEA ER.	-
It should be ensured that adequate and appropriate drinking water and waste water treatment infrastructure and capacity are in place prior to any further development within the Plan area.	Key objectives are as follows: Objective UI 1 – Water Supply & Water Conservation Objective UI 2 – Galway Main Drainage Scheme Objective UI 3 – Wastewater Disposal	Wat 3 Mat 2 Mat 4
Your attention is brought to the new SEA Regulations, which should be referenced and integrated into the Plan and SEA process	Noted and included in LAP and SEA ER.	-

2.4 Public Submissions on the Draft LAP, SEA ER and NIR

The draft LAP, SEA ER and Natura Impact Report were put on public display from 16th March to 31st April 2012. A total of 32 submissions were received during the statutory consultation period. The submissions include submissions from statutory bodies, service providers, the general public and other stakeholders. A Manager's Report was prepared which summarised the issues raised in each of the written submissions received, together with the Manager's opinion on the issues raised and recommendations in relation to the proposed local area plan, whilst taking account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area, and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government. Environmental considerations were integrated into the Manager's Opinions through the SEA and HDA processes.

Table 2c below summarise the key environmental issues raised in these submissions and again, shows where in the plan and how amendments were made to further enhance environmental protection in the Final Plan.

Table 2c: Submissions made on the draft LAP, SEA or NIR – Key Environmental Issues Raised. Additional text for policies or objectives as suggested by consultees is shown in yellow highlight. Please see Annex C of the SEA ER for further details.

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
<p>The Draft Plan should be more explicit with regard to the strategic settlement context of Oranmore/Garraun and that the preferred strategy should be reviewed to provide for the strategic growth of Garraun/Oranmore/Ardaun in the life of the plan through, appropriate zoning of land at Garraun, and the inclusion of an objective to prepare a LAP for the Ardaun/Garraun area in co-ordination with Galway City Council</p> <p>The development of an integrated transportation hub at Garraun, which would have widespread benefit for a significant commuter catchment, should receive greater emphasis, particularly with regard to the Smarter Travel initiative</p>	<p>The following objectives were amended through the material alteration process to reflect this comment. Objective DS 7 – Strategic Reserve Area Objective RD 9 – Strategic Reserve Area</p> <p>Objective TI 3 – Public Transport amended to reflect this comment.</p>	<p>Pop 1, Pop 2 Mat 7</p>
<p>Concerns about the proposed Oranhill distributor road and its potential impacts on the Oranhill Estate, the safety of children and increased traffic volumes</p>	<p>Please see Policy TI 2 – Roads, Streets and Parking In addition a number of other policies and objectives would assess any future planning applications in relation to this proposed distributor road such as Objective DS 3 -Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment , and Objective NH 4 -Impact Assessments</p>	<p>Pop 1, Pop 2 Mat 7</p>
<p>The Plan should refer to and incorporate the following where appropriate: 'Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009' 2009 (S.I. No 272 of 2009). 'Water Quality in Ireland 2007 – 2009' (EPA, 2011) EU's Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) – Guidance Document No. 20, in particular</p>	<p>These are referenced in Final SEA ER. Please note Guidance Document No.20 was not found on the following WFD Website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/objectives/implementation_en.htm</p>	<p>Bio 6 Wat 1, Wat 2, Wat 3</p>

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
Section 3.5 Key Issues for Article 4.7.		
Provisions should be included in the Plan to ensure that any proposed land use zoning or development associated with the Plan is not in breach of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.	The following policy and objectives in particular address the Water Framework Directive: Policy UI 2 – Water Quality Objective UI 7 – Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters Objective UI 8 – Groundwater & Aquifer	Bio 1 Wat 1, Wat 2, Wat 3 Pop 1, Pop 2 Mat 2, Mat 4
Waste Water Treatment The Plan should include as appropriate measures to ensure that trade effluent in the area covered by the Plan is managed properly and discharged to sewer in accordance with relevant discharge licences where appropriate.	The following policy and objective in the LAP addresses both wastewater infrastructure generally and all new developments: Policy UI 1 – Water Supply, Wastewater And Surface Water Infrastructure Objective UI 3 – Wastewater Disposal.	Bio 1 Wat 1, Wat 2, Wat 3 Pop 1, Pop 2 Mat 4
Where not already available, the Plan should promote the development of a Groundwater Protection Scheme for the relevant local authority areas covered by the Plan.	Please see Objective UI 8 – Groundwater & Aquifer	Wat 1, Wat 3
Consideration should also be given, where relevant and appropriate, to promotion of the inclusion of Policies and Objectives in the Plan for the following: Enforcement of Planning Conditions related to installation, operation and maintenance of on-site wastewater treatment / septic tank systems. Connection of all remaining houses within Town Boundary to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.	It is considered that the following policies and objectives provide adequate provision in relation to wastewater: Objective UI 4- Development not connecting to Public Sewer - restricts development with septic tanks. Policy UI 1 – Water Supply, Wastewater And Surface Water Infrastructure supports connection to public wastewater systems.	Bio 5, Bio 6, Wat 1, Wat 2, Wat 3 Pop 2 Mat 4
The development of a wastewater leak detection programme. The use of a strategic metering system to aid in leak detection should be considered. The implementation and enforcement of the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 and associated European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters) Regulations 2010- S.I.610 of 2010.	It is considered more appropriate for a wastewater leak detection programme to be undertaken at County rather than LAP level. Policy UI 2 -Water Supply, Wastewater And Surface Water Infrastructure and Objective NH6 Water Resources were amended to make reference to all waters and all EU Directives and this was considered appropriate for the Oranmore LAP.	- Bio 5, Bio 6, Wat 1, Wat 2, Wat 3 Mat 2, Mat 4

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
<p>Water Conservation The Plan should include measures to promote conservation of water.</p>	<p>Please see Objective UI 1 – Water Supply & Water Conservation</p>	<p>Bio 5, Bio 6 Wat 1</p>
<p>Water Framework Directive You are referred to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas (www.wfdireland.ie), and in particular those protected areas relating to biodiversity. The Plan should include policies/objectives for the protection of these areas occurring within and adjacent to the Plan area.</p>	<p>Section 3.6 Utilities and Environmental Infrastructure and Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, refer to this Register. In addition, protected areas in relation to biodiversity are identified and protected under the following: Objective DS 3 -Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment , and Policy NH 1 – Natural Heritage, Landscape and Environment</p>	<p>Bio 2, Bio 5, Bio 6 Wat 1, Wat 2, Pop 2</p>
<p>Fisheries The Plan should promote the protection designated shellfisheries adjoining the Plan area, including in particular the Clarinbridge/Kinvara Bay Shellfish Waters, the Bay at Aughinish Shellfish Waters and the Ballyvaughan/Poul-na-clough Bay Shellfish Waters are located in close proximity to the Plan area</p>	<p>Included in the Final SEA ER</p>	<p>Bio 5, Bio 6 Wat 1, Wat 2 Pop 1, Pop 2</p>
<p>Habitat Mapping Plans with landuse zoning should be supported/informed by available habitat information and maps (including wetland mapping) and other ecological surveys, including the Galway Biodiversity Action Plan. Where these are not available, consideration should be given to including a policy/objective in the Plan for carrying out future habitat mapping</p>	<p>Available habitat mapping was utilised in the SEA and HDA.</p>	<p>Bio 1, Bio 2, Bio 3</p>
<p>The Plan should highlight that under the EIA and Planning and Development Regulations certain projects that may arise during the implementation of the Plan may require an Environmental Impact Assessment</p>	<p>Objective NH 4 – Impact Assessments addresses this point.</p>	<p>All EPOs</p>
<p>The development of a coastal walkway/cycle route and ancillary developments, as set out in Objective CF 11, should be subject to Appropriate Assessment screening in accordance with the Habitats Directive</p>	<p>Objective CF 11- Coastal Walkway/Cycleway clearly references that any such development will only be facilitated where it will not result in a likely significant effect to the integrity of the SAC/SPA. In addition Objectives DS 3- Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment and Objective NH 1 - Natura 2000 Sites would also</p>	<p>Bio 1, Bio 2, Bio 3, Bio 4, Bio 5 Pop1, Pop 2, Mat 7</p>

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
	apply.	
Where new road connections and infrastructure are being proposed, these should be subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Floods and EIA Directives where relevant. The National Roads Authority report entitled "Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads" should also be referenced and taken into account in the development of new roads.	Please see the following objectives in the plan DS 3 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment , Objective DS 8 – Flood Risk Management and Assessment Objective NH 4 Impact Assessments and Objective NH 12 Control of Invasive and Alien Species	All EPOs
There would also be merits in including a requirement to carry out summer habitat surveys, including wetland surveys, for all Environmental Management zones, as part of Objective LU9. Consideration should be given to having the proposed survey(s) co-ordinated by the local authority and undertaken as a once off integrated survey, as appropriate, rather than being the responsibility of developers in the context of individual proposals.	There is merit in this item. However it is noted that detailed survey information should be available for the Environmental Management zone from the NPWS as these areas would have been surveyed as part of the designation process for the European Sites located within the Environmental Management zone.	Bio 1, Bio 2
There would be merits in drafting an Environmental Management Plan for lands highlighted in Map 1a and zoned as Environmental Management.	Note that Conservation Management Objectives for the European Sites are already drafted by the NPWS. The Environmental Management zone is dominated by European Sites so the NPWS objectives should satisfy this item	Bio 1, Bio 2
The Plan should include a section outlining how the SEA, AA and FRA have influenced the Plan.	Section 1.4 Plan Informants outlines the strategic planning context for the plan preparation process. In addition Section 2.2.2 Development Options also outlines how these factors influenced the development considerations.	-
Consideration should be given to amending Policy ED1 as follows: "It is the policy of Galway County Council to support sustainable economic development and employment..."	Policy ED 1- Economic Development was amended to reflect this comment.	Pop 1, Pop 2
Objective ED5 should be amended as follows: "Encourage and assist the sustainable development of the tourism potential within Oranmore..."	Policy ED5- Tourism Development was amended to reflect this comment.	Pop 1, Pop 2 CH1
Consideration should be given to de zoning/re zoning options for some areas of land associated with	All the lands identified as Flood Risk A or B around Frenchfort are rezoned for open space/recreation and amenity and potential uses	Wat 1 Pop 1, Pop2 Mat 1

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
Objective UI16, to the north of Frenchfort Stream. In the context of Objectives UD4, NH5 and NH8, there may be merits in rezoning this land as Environmental Management, to provide for green infrastructure and biodiversity/ecological corridor uses. The potential for future effects of climate change including flood risk should also be taken into account for these lands.	would be subject to application of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009. In addition other objectives are considered relevant and include: Objective UI 12 – Flood Risk Management and Assessment Objective UI 13 – Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses (Refer to Map 3A/3B) Objective UI 16 – Lands North of Frenchfort Stream.	
Section 3.9.1. – pNHAs whilst not legally protected but offered some protection through land use plans and may act as Stepping Stones under Article 10 of the EU Habitats Directive	Section 3.9.1 amended in the final LAP	-
Objectives DS 3 and NH1 – remove ‘significant’ in point one	As outlined in the European Court of Justice Judgement for Case 127/02 the trigger for Appropriate Assessment is whether there is a “mere probability” that a significant effect is attached to a plan or project. Furthermore, the meaning of significant is defined in Section 2.1 of the NIR which states that “significant” means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the Site’s conservation objectives.	Bio 1, Bio 2
Objective NH 2 –suggest change to support the protection of habitats and species listed on the annexes to the Habitats and Birds Directives, and regularly occurring-migratory birds and their habitats, and species protected under the Wildlife Acts”.	Objective NH2- Protected Habitats and Species was amended to reflect this point.	Bio 1, Bio 2
Objective NH4: refer to ‘screening for appropriate assessment’ report.	NH 4 has not been amended as a Habitats Directive Screening Report is synonymous with a Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report and reference is made in Objective NH4 – Impact Assessments to a Natura Impact Statement.	-
Objective NH12: reword ‘prevent and promote measures to prevent ...’	This was not amended in the Final LAP as it was considered that GCC can only seek to prevent and promote measures at policy and development control level.	Bio 4
Objective NH13: screening is carried out to establish whether there are	The required changes for NH 13 are unclear and therefore the wording has not been amended	-

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
<p>risks of adverse effects on European sites in view of their conservation objectives resulting from the project alone and in combination with other plans and projects. Where significant effects are likely or uncertain, the obligation is to undertake appropriate assessment. The project proponent submits a Natura Impact Statement; the Council undertakes the appropriate assessment. This Department offers advice on the scope of such assessments if contacted (via the Department's Development Applications Unit). This Department, in reviewing planning applications, also advises the Council on the adequacy of the assessment submitted, the significance of impacts likely to arise (alone and in combination), and on other significant ecological or other issues.</p>		
<p>A number of comments were also made on the SEA ER by statutory agencies. Key comments include the following: Non-Technical Summary (NTS) A summary of the evolution of the environment in the absence of the Plan should be included for each of the environmental parameters set out in the NTS. It should be ensured that the NTS effectively summarises the contents of the Environmental Report.</p>	Included in Final SEA ER NTS	All EPOs
<p>Chapter 1 Draft Environmental Report. Where possible, consideration should be given to updating Section 1.3 Oranmore LAP Area to include relevant 2011 Census data.</p>	Noted.	-
<p>All of the relevant data outlined in Section 2.5 Baseline Data and inputted into the GIS should be included in the sensitivity mapping for the area.</p>	Noted, however the sensitivity mapping is based on a ranking system and it was not possible to integrate non ranked datasets into the GIS modelling undertaken for the environmental sensitivity.	-
<p>Chapter 3 Relationships to Key Plans, Policies and Programmes Consideration should be given to including the Western CRFAMS</p>	Western CRFAMS referenced in Table 3c Regional Plans and Programmes of Final SEA ER	Mat 1

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
(currently undergoing SEA) in Table 3c Regional Plans and Programmes		
<p>Chapter 6 Consideration of Alternatives</p> <p>Consideration should be given to including in this section a reference to Annex A – Assessment of Policies, Objectives and Guidelines of the Draft Oranmore LAP 2012-2018, which assesses each of the policies and objectives of the LAP against the SEO's. In the context of clarity, there would also be merits in presenting the maps of the alternatives in this section.</p> <p>It is noted from Table 6a Evaluation of Alternatives that Option 1 has less potential to conflict with SEO's than the preferred option, Option 3. Further information should be provided on the environmental performance of Option 3 in the context of it being selected as the preferred option.</p>	<p>Reference to Annex A included.</p> <p>Maps of alternatives now included in this Chapter</p> <p>Further explanation of selection of Option 3 in light of the environmental assessment is now provided in the Final SEA ER.</p>	All EPOs
<p>Chapter 7 Likely Significant Effects of the Draft Oranmore LAP</p> <p>The information regarding the methodology and the parameters used for the environmental sensitivity mapping is noted. It is unclear however, the extent to which landscape sensitivity has been taken into account in the combined sensitivity mapping and in the zoning strategy for the Plan area. It should also be clarified how the sensitivity mapping has informed the zoning strategy reflected in the Plan.</p>	<p>Noted. Landscape sensitivity was not included in this particular modelling; as much of the LAP Area is ranked Class 3 (high sensitivity) with pockets of coastal area Class 4 (special) – this frequently correlated with designated sites particularly around the coastal zone.</p> <p>Clarification has been provided in the Final SEA ER.</p>	All EPOs
<p>The inclusion of Map 7b Zoning Changes, which outlines the locations where zoning objectives have been changed for the Draft LAP 2012-2018, is noted and acknowledged. This map highlights where the SEA has influenced the zoning strategy for the Plan area, and aids transparency in the Plan making process. Consideration should be given to including this map in the Plan.</p>	<p>It was not considered appropriate to include this map in the Final LAP.</p>	-

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
Consideration should be given to reassessing the interrelationships between environmental parameters set out in Table 7k.	Noted and reassessed in Final SEA ER	All EPOs
Chapter 8 Mitigation Measures Table 8a - Existing and Suggested Policies/Objectives in the Draft LAP, which highlights how the SEA mitigation measures have influenced the phrasing of the policies and objectives of the LAP, is noted and acknowledged. There would be merits in including a similar table in the Plan.	It was not considered appropriate to include this table in the Final LAP.	-
It should be clarified in the SEA and Plan, whether the new objectives/mitigation measures proposed at the end of Table 8a were incorporated into the Plan.	Section 1. 3.2 Statutory Process of the Final LAP confirms this. This is also clarified in the Final SEA ER.	All EPOs
Chapter 9 Monitoring Consideration should be given to clearly defining the targets and to ensuring that the targets are closely linked with the indicators and SEOs. Consideration should be given to the following: The inclusion of monitoring frequencies. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects, where they occur	Noted. This was already provided in the SEA ER, please see Section 9.1.1 Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting.	All EPOs
A number of submissions making specific reference to land use zonings and request to change or retain.	All landuse zonings were assessed against the EPOs. Annex A of the SEA ER shows the assessment of the draft Landuse zonings, whilst Annex C assesses any landuse changes as part of the material alteration process	Assessed against all EPOs
During the meeting of Galway County Council on 13 th July 2012, a number of material alterations not in accordance with the Manager's Report and Recommendations were proposed by elected members on the draft Oranmore LAP. These alterations, together with addendum reports on the SEA and HDA were put on public display for the period Thursday the 2 nd August to Thursday 30 th August 2012. A total of 6 Submissions were received on the material alterations. Please see Annex C of the Final SEA ER for detailed response on these submissions from the SEA and NIR perspective. Below are the landuse zoning changes arising from these material alterations.		
MA 2 Zoning change from Transport and Infrastructure to Open Space/Recreation and Amenity	This confirms the existing landuse on site ie: small area of amenity grassland within an established residential area. No interaction with EPOs in this instance as it confirmed existing land use. This was accepted by the elected members and is in the Final LAP.	-
MA 21 Zoning change from Agriculture to Existing Residential	The rezoning of part of these lands to existing residential confirms the current land use and	Pop 2, Mat 1

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
and partly to Open Space/Recreation and Amenity	was identified as having neutral impacts on most EPOs. The rezoning of part of these lands to Open Space/Recreation and Amenity supported the integration of the SFRA findings into the LAP and was identified as generating positive impacts for Pop2 and Mat 1 in particular. For other EPOs the impacts were identified as likely to be mitigated through development management. This was accepted by the elected members and is in the Final LAP.	
MA 23 On foot of submission No.23 the Members decided not to accept the Manager's Recommendation but to alter the Local Area Plan boundary to eliminate the parcel of land subject of the submission. This alteration is reflected in all of the maps i.e zoning, flood risk management, specific objectives and the designated sites map. This has also reduced the total plan area to 704.9ha.	This land adjoins the Inner Galway Bay European Site and is partly located within a flood risk zone. The decision to remove these lands from the LAP boundary means they are outside the zoning framework for Oranmore LAP and revert to the rural area as covered by the County Galway Development Plan 2009-2015. This reduces potential intensive land use activities and as it is outside the plan area is likely to result in no interactions with EPOS. The amended LAP boundary is in the Final LAP	-
MA 24 The Members decided not to accept the Manager's Recommendation and to alter the zoning of the subject lands from CF and OS to C1-this land was zoned OS given its partial location within Indicative Flood Zone A & B and to accord with Flood Risk Guidelines.	Submission no. 24 concerned a small area of land within the established town centre. The proposed re-zoning from OS to Town Centre/Commercial (C1) was not generally in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Guidelines as it introduced a vulnerable land use onto lands which have clearly been indicated in the PFRA as being partially in Flood zones A and B. Therefore, at a strategic level the SEA did not recommend or advice the rezoning for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not in line with the methodology and approach to Flood Risk Management as undertaken by Galway County Council in the compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, preparation of the LAP, SEA and HDA. • The proposed zoning and infilling of these lands would also set an undesirable precedent for the zoning of lands for inappropriate uses and the infilling of lands at risk of flooding, which is not advocated by the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. • As can be seen in Annex C of the SEA ER, and concurred by the SFRA consultants, the rezoning fails the plan justification test and should not be 	The SEA did not recommend this rezoning as outlined in the adjacent column.

Environmental Issue Raised	Included in Final LAP	Relevant Environmental Protection Objective
	<p>considered at plan making stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (Section 2.3) highlight the uncertainties associated with climate change and recommend the application of the precautionary principle and approach in relation to flood risk assessment. Please also note that forthcoming guidance is due from the Environmental Protection Agency reaffirming the need to fully consider and adhere to recommendations with the SEA and is as important as the Habitats Directive Assessment Process <p>This was not accepted by the elected members and the rezoning from CF and OS to C1 is in the Final LAP.</p>	
<p>MA 30 The Members decided not to accept the Manager's Recommendation and to alter the zoning matrix for Strategic Reserve lands under 'Residential' from 'Not Normally Permissible' to 'Open For Consideration' subject to the included foot note for consideration only to be given to an application for a dwelling house for their own use by a son or daughter of a landowner within the Strategic Reserve Area subject to meeting all Development Management requirements and subject to any such proposal not negatively impacting on the strategic development of that area.</p>	<p>The test for dwelling house is quite strict in relation to the Strategic Reserve Zone and the SEA assessed this material alteration as generating impacts that can be mitigated at project level through development control. The insertion of the footnote is now in the Final LAP.</p>	<p>Pop 1</p>

2.5 Summary of key environmental issues and how they were addressed through SEA process

This section summarises the mitigation measures developed through the plan preparation and SEA process. In addition to a range of specific mitigation measures developed for policies, objectives or landuse zonings, there are also a number of overarching policies and objectives that are provided in the Final LAP and these will ensure that any project level applications are assessed against these policies and objectives. The principal ones are as follows:

Objective DS3: Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment
Objective DS4: Development Management Standards and Guidelines
Policy RD1: Residential Development

Objective T11: Integrated Land Use and Transport
 Objective UI1: Water Supply and Water Conservation
 Policy UI4: Flood Risk Management and Objective UI 12: Flood Risk Management and Assessment
 Objective UI 7- Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters
 Policy NH1: Natural Heritage, Landscape and Environment
 Objective NH2: Protected Habitats and Species
 Objective NH3: Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas
 Objective NH4: Impact Assessments
 Objective NH5: Biodiversity and Ecological Networks
 Objective NH6: Water Resources

In addition, the following Table 2d shows how mitigation measures were included between the draft and final plan. Mitigation measures are presented in green and italic bold font. This section concludes with a summary table showing how the Strategic Environmental Protection Objectives have been addressed through the Final LAP.

Table 2d: Mitigation Measures proposed between Draft and Final LAP

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
Objective DS 3 – Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment Protect Natura 2000 sites, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with the requirements in the EU <i>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</i> , <i>EU Birds Directive 1979 79/409/EEC</i> , the <i>European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No 94 of 1997)</i> , the <i>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010</i> , the <i>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)</i> (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the <i>Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010</i> (and any subsequent or updated guidance). A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the Plan Area will only be authorised after the	Additional number point as follows: <i>3. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of a priority qualifying habitat or species any Natura 2000 site (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but interest. there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, relating to human health or public safety, or where the proposed plan or project is of beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other</i>	To strengthen and detail requirements of Habitats Directive Assessment	Objective DS3 – Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment 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 <i>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</i> , <i>EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</i> , the <i>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010</i> , the <i>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011)</i> (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the <i>Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010</i> (and any updated/superseding guidance). A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the Plan Area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence and a Habitats Directive Assessment

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
<p>competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific knowledge and a Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <p>1.The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</p> <p>2.The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site 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 undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>		<p>where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 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 3. <i>The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (that hosts 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, 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</i>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
			<i>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.</i>
Objective DS 5 – Service Led Development Development under the Plan shall be preceded by sufficient capacity in the public waste water infrastructure	Objective DS 5 – Service Led Development Development under the Plan shall be preceded by sufficient capacity in the public waste water <i>and potable water infrastructure</i>	To ensure lands are serviced for both wastewater and potable water in advance of development.	Objective DS 5 – Service Led Development Development under the Plan shall be preceded by sufficient capacity in the public waste water infrastructure <i>and potable water infrastructure</i>
Objective DS 7 – Strategic Reserve Area Protect and safeguard the lands within the designated Strategic Reserve Area from any development that would prejudice their potential as a reserve for the future, longer term strategic growth of Oranmore.	Objective DS 7 – Strategic Reserve Area Protect and safeguard the lands within the designated Strategic Reserve Area from any development that would prejudice their potential as a reserve for the future, longer term strategic growth of Oranmore. <i>Ensure that any future proposals within the Strategic Reserve that have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the environment and/or Natura 2000 Sites are identified and undergo environmental and/or Habitats Directive assessments. Cumulative/in combination effects of such future developments should be evaluated as part of such assessments.</i>	This will highlight the need to undertake cumulative/in combination assessment of developments within the Strategic Reserve Area, including the access road. This is required as there is a hydrological connection between the Strategic Reserve Area and the Galway Bay SAC	Objective DS 7 – Strategic Reserve Area Protect and safeguard the lands within the designated Strategic Reserve Area from any development that would prejudice their potential as a reserve for the future, longer term strategic growth of Oranmore, the County or the Region. <i>Ensure that any future plan or project within the Strategic Reserve that has the potential to result in likely significant effects to the environment and/or Natura 2000 Sites undergo environmental and/or Habitats Directive assessments, including the evaluation of the cumulative/in combination effects.</i> Any future plan or project within the Strategic Reserve Area will be subject to the requirements of <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009</i> , as appropriate.

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
<p>Objective LU 8 – Open Spaces/Recreation & Amenity (OS) Promote the development of open spaces and recreational activities in accordance with best practice on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community and retain existing open space and recreational facilities, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that these uses are no longer required</p>	<p>Objective LU 8 – Open Spaces/Recreation & Amenity (OS) Promote the development of open spaces and recreational activities in accordance with best practice on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community and retain existing open space and recreational facilities, unless it can be clearly demonstrated <i>to the satisfaction of Galway County Council</i> that these uses are no longer required <i>by the community</i>.</p>	<p>To ensure GCC can determine open space retention and provision</p>	<p>Objective LU 8 – Open Spaces/Recreation & Amenity (OS) Promote the development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice, on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community and retain existing open space and recreational facilities, unless it can be clearly demonstrated <i>to the satisfaction of Galway County Council</i> that these uses are no longer required <i>by the community</i> and ensure that any flood risk areas within the OS zone are appropriately managed to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate, the risk and potential impact of flooding.</p>
<p>Objective LU 9 – Environmental Management (EM) Promote the sustainable use and management of lands with high biodiversity value and/or environmental sensitivity, including flood risk and those with natural heritage designations such as Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation.</p>	<p>Objective LU 9 – Environmental Management (EM) Promote the sustainable use and management of lands with high biodiversity value and/or environmental sensitivity, including flood risk and those with natural heritage designations. <i>Support the conservation management objectives of natural heritage designations such as Special Protection Areas and Special Area Conservation.</i></p>	<p>To provide greater clarity in terms of Habitats Directive requirements and function of Environmental Management Areas</p>	<p>Objective LU 9 – Environmental Management (EM) Protect lands and sites with high biodiversity value and/or environmental sensitivity <i>and promote their sustainable management and use. This will include</i> the protection of the integrity of European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in particular Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, in accordance with the conservation management objectives of these sites <i>and the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).</i></p>
<p>Objective LU 15 – Residential Densities Promote a range of residential densities within the Plan Area appropriate to the prevailing development pattern, supporting infrastructure, urban character and heritage</p>	<p>Objective LU 15 – Residential Densities Promote a range of residential densities within the Plan Area appropriate to the prevailing development pattern, supporting</p>	<p>Surface run off, water extraction, soil disturbance and inadequate wastewater infrastructure could all impact</p>	<p>Objective LU 15 – Residential Densities Promote a range of residential densities within the Plan Area appropriate to the prevailing development pattern, supporting infrastructure, urban character and heritage resources in</p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
<p>resources in accordance with the guidance in ‘<i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009</i>’ (or as updated within the lifetime of this plan). Higher residential densities should be encouraged at locations where it is appropriate to the existing context and density of the Plan Area, for example around the town centre and within convenient walking distance of public transport facilities, and where it will not unduly impact on built or natural heritage</p>	<p>infrastructure, urban character and heritage resources in accordance with the guidance in ‘<i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009</i>’ (or as updated within the lifetime of this plan). Higher residential densities should be encouraged at locations where it is appropriate to the existing context and density of the Plan Area, for example around the town centre and within convenient walking distance of public transport facilities, and where it will not unduly impact on built, natural heritage <i>or impact adversely on integrity of Natura 2000 sites.</i></p>	<p>on Cregganna Marsh and Galway Bay Natura 2000 sites</p>	<p>accordance with the guidance in ‘<i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009</i>’ (or as updated within the lifetime of this plan). Higher residential densities should be encouraged at locations where it is appropriate to the existing context and density of the Plan Area, for example around the town centre and within convenient walking distance of public transport facilities, and where it will not unduly impact on built or natural heritage <i>or impact adversely on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.</i> The density of residential developments will generally be in accordance with the guidance set out under DM Guideline LU1, although the Planning Authority may consider higher residential densities where this is considered appropriate to the context and necessary to secure the urban design or other objectives of the Plan. Development will only be permitted where there is capacity and/or adequate services can be made available</p>
<p>Objective RD 9 – Strategic Reserve Area Protect and safeguard the lands designated as the Strategic Reserve Area from any development that would prejudice their potential as the land reserve for the future strategic growth of Oranmore. The development of these lands shall be realised in a plan led manner and must be subject to master planning, prior to their development being considered.</p> <p>It is an objective of Galway County Council to bring forward a master plan for a new development area, centred on the proposed rail</p>	<p>Objective RD 9 – Strategic Reserve Area Protect and safeguard the lands designated as the Strategic Reserve Area from any development that would prejudice their potential as the land reserve for the future strategic growth of Oranmore. The development of these lands shall be realised in a plan led manner and must be subject to master planning, prior to their development being considered.</p> <p>It is an objective of</p>	<p>As this area has hydrological connections to the Galway Bay SAC and will be subject to a masterplan, it is recommended reference be made to the relevant Habitats Directive Assessment and SEA Regulations.</p>	<p>Objective RD 9 – Strategic Reserve Area Protect and safeguard the lands designated as the Strategic Reserve Area from any development that would prejudice their potential as the land reserve for the future strategic growth of Oranmore and the wider Garraun and Ardaun area. It is an objective of Galway County Council to bring forward a Master Plan and Local Area Plan for a new development area, centred on the proposed rail stop and any future integrated transport hub at Garraun, which will assist in realising the full long-term potential of the Ardaun and Garraun area, in a plan led manner. Planning for the</p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
<p>stop and any future integrated transport hub at Garraun, which will assist in realising the full long-term potential of the Ardaun/Garraun area, in a plan led manner. Any masterplan undertaken shall be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, as appropriate</p>	<p>Galway County Council to bring forward a master plan for a new development area, centred on the proposed rail stop and any future integrated transport hub at Garraun, which will assist in realising the full long-term potential of the Ardaun/Garraun area, in a plan led manner. Any masterplan undertaken shall be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, <i>and SEA Regulations 2004-2011</i>, as appropriate</p>		<p>development of the Garraun area will commence within the lifetime of this Local Area Plan with development of these lands realised in a plan led manner, through the preparation of a Master Plan which will subsequently inform the Local Area Plan process, prior to development being considered in this area. Any Local Area Plan undertaken shall be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive and <i>Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004-2011</i>, as appropriate.</p>
<p>Objective CF 9 – Riverside Networks Encourage and support the development of riverside walkways and cycleways throughout the plan area where feasible and ensure that such proposals are considered or incorporated into the development of adjacent lands, as appropriate. Refer to Map 2 - Specific Objectives.</p>	<p>Objective CF 9 – Riverside Networks Encourage and support the development of riverside walkways and cycleways throughout the plan area where feasible and ensure that such proposals are considered or incorporated into the development of adjacent lands, as appropriate. <i>Impacts on natural heritage and designated conservation area arising from recreational activities will be considered as part of any proposals.</i></p>	<p>Potential disturbance to bird and mammal species may arise along riverside habitats so requirement to highlight this as a potential consideration.</p>	<p>Objective CF 9 – Riverside Networks Encourage and support the development of riverside walkways and cycleways throughout the plan area where feasible and ensure that such proposals are considered or incorporated into the development of adjacent lands, as appropriate. <i>Impacts on natural heritage and designated conservation areas arising from recreational activities will be considered as part of any proposal.</i></p>
<p>Objective CF 10 – Coastal Park Encourage and support the development of a coastal park in Oranmore for the purpose of passive and active recreation, having regard to flood risk. Refer to Map 2 - Specific Objectives.</p>	<p>Objective CF 10 – Coastal Park Encourage and support the development of a coastal park in Oranmore for the purpose of passive and active recreation, having regard to flood <i>risk and requirements</i></p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Objective CF 10 – Coastal Park Encourage and support the development of a coastal park in Oranmore for the purpose of passive and active recreation, having regard to flood risk <i>and requirements under the Habitats Directive. Such developments will be</i></p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
	<p><i>under the Habitats Directive. Such developments will be encouraged and supported by the Plan where they will not result in likely significant effects to the integrity of Galway Bay cSAC and SPA.</i></p> <p>Refer to Map 2 - Specific Objectives.</p>		<p><i>encouraged and facilitated where they will not result in likely significant effects to the integrity of Galway Bay cSAC and SPA.</i></p>
<p>Objective CF 11 – Coastal Walkway/Cycleway Facilitate the development of a coastal amenity walkway/cycle route and ancillary development along Galway Bay (or in close proximity to the coast) towards Galway City. This walk/cycle way will link to the town centre and other recreation/amenity/community facilities, and shall be carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Objective CF 11 – Coastal Walkway/Cycleway Facilitate the development of a coastal amenity walkway/cycle route and ancillary development along Galway Bay (or in close proximity to the coast) towards Galway City. This walk/cycle way will link to the town centre and other recreation/amenity/community facilities, and shall be carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. <i>Such developments will only be facilitated where they will not result in likely significant effects to the integrity of the Galway Bay SAC and SPA.</i></p>	As above	<p>Objective CF 11 – Coastal Walkway/Cycleway Facilitate the development of a coastal amenity walkway/cycle route and ancillary development along Galway Bay (or in close proximity to the coast) towards Galway City. This walk/cycle way will link to the town centre and other recreation/amenity/community facilities, and shall be carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. <i>Such developments will only be facilitated where they will not result in likely significant effects to the integrity of Galway Bay SAC and SPA.</i></p>
<p>Objective TI 32– Access Road to Rail Station Provide for a new access road with pedestrian and cycling facilities, from the R338 Coast Road to serve the rail stop, which makes provision to pass/cross the rail line and which continues north to the R446 linking to the proposed road interchange on the R446.</p>	<p>Objective TI 32– Access Road to Rail Station Provide for a new access road with pedestrian and cycling facilities, from the R338 Coast Road to serve the rail stop, which makes provision to pass/cross the rail line</p>	As above	<p>Objective TI 32– Access Road to Rail Station Provide for a new access road with pedestrian and cycling facilities, from the R338 Coast Road to serve the rail stop, which makes provision to pass/cross the rail line and which continues north to the R446 linking to the proposed road interchange on the R446.</p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
Route considerations will be informed by ecological impact assessment/ habitats directive assessment as appropriate	and which continues north to the R446 linking to the proposed road interchange on the R446. <i>Route considerations will be informed by ecological impact assessment/ habitats directive assessment as appropriate</i>		<i>Route considerations shall be informed by an ecological impact assessment or Habitats Directive Assessment, as appropriate.</i>
<p>Objective UI 9 – Climate Change & Air Quality Continue to implement Galway County Council's <i>Energy Action Plan</i> regarding energy efficiency and conservation in existing and future buildings, in energy use and procurement activities and in raising awareness and stimulating action within local communities. Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development throughout the Plan Area by seeking to protect and maintain the regulatory standards contained with the EPA's <i>Air Quality in Ireland 2009 Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality</i> (Environmental Protection Agency 2010, or any superseding document).</p>	<p>Objective UI 9 – Climate Change & Air Quality Continue to implement Galway County Council's <i>Energy Action Plan</i> regarding energy efficiency and conservation in existing and future buildings, in energy use and procurement activities and in raising awareness and stimulating action within local communities. Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development throughout the Plan Area by seeking to protect and maintain the regulatory standards contained with the EPA's <i>Air Quality in Ireland 2009 Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality</i> (Environmental Protection Agency 2010, or any superseding document) <i>and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as set out in statutory</i></p>	Reference to recent 2011 Statutory Instruments strengthens air quality protection and makes reference to specific standards.	<p>Objective UI 9 – Climate Change & Air Quality Continue to implement Galway County Council's <i>Energy Action Plan</i> regarding energy efficiency and conservation in existing and future buildings, in energy use and procurement activities and in raising awareness and stimulating action within local communities. Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development throughout the Plan Area by seeking to protect and maintain the regulatory standards contained with the EPA's <i>Air Quality in Ireland 2009 Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality</i> (Environmental Protection Agency 2010, or any superseding document) <i>and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as set out in statutory regulations, namely SI 180/2011 Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011</i></p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
	<i>regulations, namely SI 180/2011 Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011.</i>		
<p>Objective UI 15 – Coastal Flooding Require development proposals in the coastal zone identified in the Flood Risk Assessment as vulnerable to flooding, to consider the implications of predicted sea-level rise and prohibit development that will be at risk from coastal erosion or inundation in the future, or that may result in an increase in coastal erosion or increase the risk of inundation, either at the subject site or at another location in the vicinity.</p>	<p>Objective UI 15 – Coastal Flooding Require development proposals in the coastal zone identified in the Flood Risk Assessment as vulnerable to flooding, to consider the implications of predicted sea-level rise and prohibit development that will be at risk from coastal erosion or inundation in the future, or that may result in an increase in coastal erosion or increase the risk of inundation, either at the subject site or at another location in the vicinity. <i>Adherence to the following will be a requirement:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Planning Guidelines for Flood Risk Management</i> • <i>Habitats Directive Assessment</i> • <i>Water Framework Directive</i> 	<p>Oranmore has a history of tidal flooding, therefore in addition to highlighting application of flood management guidelines, associated legislative provision is highlighted including Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive</p>	<p>Objective UI 14 – Coastal Flooding Ensure that any development proposals within/near areas at risk of coastal flooding, assess the implications of predicted sea level rise, and prohibit development that would be at unacceptable risk from coastal erosion or inundation, or that may result in an increased risk in coastal erosion or inundation elsewhere.</p> <p><i>Adherence to the following will be a requirement:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document)</i> • <i>Habitats Directive</i> • <i>Water Framework Directive</i>
<p>Objective NH 7 – Wetlands, Springs, Rivers and Streams Seek to preserve the wetlands of Oranmore, identify and protect natural springs, streams/rivers, where possible</p>	<p>Objective NH 7 – Wetlands, Springs, Rivers and Streams Seek to preserve the wetlands of Oranmore, identify and protect natural springs, streams/rivers, where possible <i>and ensure that any plans/projects with the potential to adversely affect groundwater, springs, streams or rivers, identify the presence of these features and</i></p>		<p>Objective NH 7 – Wetlands, Springs, Rivers and Streams Seek to preserve the wetlands of Oranmore, identify and protect natural springs, streams/rivers, where possible <i>and ensure that any plans/projects with the potential to adversely affect groundwater, springs, streams or rivers, identify the presence of these features and adequately assess the impacts to them.</i> Protect springs identified on Ordnance Survey mapping <i>or any springs newly identified during</i></p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
	<p><i>adequately assess the of impacts to them.</i> Protect springs identified on Ordnance Survey mapping <i>or any springs newly identified during project development assessments</i> so that they are not impeded</p>		<p><i>project development assessments</i> so that they are not impeded.</p>
<p>Objective NH 8 – Frenchfort Stream Ecological Corridor Protect land for an Ecological Corridor linking two disjoint parts of the Galway Bay Complex cSpecial Area of Conservation and proposed Natural Heritage Area, along Frenchfort Stream (and require a Ecological Management Plan to be produced for any new development along this area). Refer to the Map 2 - Specific Objectives Map.</p>	<p>Objective NH 8 – Frenchfort Stream Ecological Corridor Protect land for an Ecological Corridor linking two disjoint parts of the Galway Bay Complex cSpecial Area of Conservation and proposed Natural Heritage Area, along Frenchfort Stream (and require a HDA and Ecological Management Plan to be produced for any new development along this area, <i>The Ecological Management Plan will ensure no disruption to the conservation management objectives of the N2K Sites and pNHA</i></p> <p>Refer to the Map 2 - <i>Specific Objectives Map.</i></p>	<p>To strengthen overall protection and management of Natura 2000 sites</p>	<p>Objective NH8 –Frenchfort Stream Ecological Corridor Protect land for an Ecological Corridor linking two disjoint parts of the Galway Bay Complex candidate Special Area of Conservation and proposed Natural Heritage Area, along Frenchfort Stream (and require a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and/or Natura Impact Statement and an Ecological Management Plan to be produced for any new development along this area). <i>The Ecological Management Plan will ensure no disruption to the conservation management objectives of the Natura 2000 sites and pNHAs.</i> Refer to the Map 2A/2B - <i>Specific Objectives</i></p>
<p>Objective NH 1 – Natura 2000 Sites Protect European 2000 sites, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with the requirements in the EU <i>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</i>, EU <i>Birds Directive 2009/147/EC</i>-codified version of Directive) the <i>Planning and Development</i></p>	<p>Additional number point as follows: <i>3.The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of a priority qualifying habitat or species any Natura 2000 site (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species)but interest. there are no alternative solutions</i></p>	<p>To strengthen overall protection and management of Natura 2000 sites and adherence to Habitats Directive Assessment</p>	<p>Objective NH1 – Natura 2000 sites. 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 <i>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</i>, EU <i>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</i>, the <i>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010</i>, the <i>European Communities (Birds and Natural</i></p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
<p><i>(Amendment) Act 2010, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the <i>Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010</i> (and any subsequent or updated guidance). A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the Plan Area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence and a Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary, that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plan or project will not give rise to adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 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 	<p><i>and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, relating to human health or public safety, or where the proposed plan or project is of 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.</i></p>		<p><i>Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the <i>Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010</i> (and any updated/superseding guidance). A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the Plan Area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence and a Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary, that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 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 3. <i>The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative</i>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
<p>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</p>			<p><i>solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of 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.</i></p>
<p>Objective NH 10 – Geological and Geomorphological Systems Protect and conserve geological and geomorphological systems, sites and features from inappropriate development that would detract from their heritage value and interpretation</p>	<p>Objective NH 10 – Geological and Geomorphological Systems Protect and conserve geological and geomorphological systems, sites and features from inappropriate development that would detract from their heritage value and interpretation and <i>ensure that any plan or project affecting karst formations are adequately assessed with regard to their potential geophysical, hydrological, hydrogeological or ecological impacts on the environment.</i></p>	<p>To strengthen overall protection of such features and systems</p>	<p>Objective NH 10 – Geological and Geomorphological Systems Protect and conserve geological and geomorphological systems, sites and features from inappropriate development that would detract from their heritage value and interpretation and <i>ensure that any plan or project affecting karst formations are adequately assessed with regard to their potential geophysical, hydrological, hydrogeological or ecological impacts on the environment</i></p>
<p>New Objectives proposed for LAP from SEA and HDA process</p>			
<p><i>Objective NH 11 – Summer Botanical Survey for Lands at Moneyduff</i> <i>Ensure that a Summer Botanical Survey is undertaken and submitted</i></p>		<p>Moneyduff, beside Cregganna Marsh SPA was formerly proposed for</p>	<p><i>Objective NH 11 – Summer Botanical Survey for Lands at Moneyduff</i> <i>Ensure that a Summer Botanical Survey is undertaken and submitted as</i></p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
<p><i>as part of any planning application for development of lands beside the SAC/pNHA designated site in Moneyduff.</i></p>		<p>NHA designation, though this is no longer the case. Nonetheless, the area was surveyed in 2006 and the survey suggested a mosaic of possible Annex I habitats occurring in this area. Although not designated, it remains an area of high ecological value, therefore the following mitigation measure is recommended prior to any future development in this area.</p>	<p><i>part of any planning application for development of lands beside the cSAC/pNHA designated site in Moneyduff.</i> Refer to the Map 2A/2B - Specific Objectives.</p>
<p>Objective NH 12 – Best Practice Methodologies & Appropriately Qualified Professionals. <i>Ensure that Natura Impact Statements and any other ecological impact assessments submitted in support of proposals for development are carried out by appropriately qualified professionals and that any necessary baseline assessments are carried out in line with best practice methodologies.</i></p>		<p>To ensure appropriately qualified and experienced professionals with sufficient ecological knowledge prepare such assessments and follow best practice</p>	<p>Please note the mitigation measure has now been incorporated into the following:</p> <p>Objective NH4 Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Ensure full compliance with the requirements of the EU <i>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</i>, <i>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</i> and <i>EIA Directive 2011/92/EU</i> and associated legislation/regulations, including the associated <i>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011)</i>, <i>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004-2011</i>, <i>Planning and Development (Strategic</i></p>

Original Draft Policy/Objective	Recommended change	Reason	Policy or Objective in <i>Final LAP</i>
			<p><i>Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004-2011 and the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989-2011 (or any updated/superseding legislation). Planning applications for proposed developments within the Plan Area that may give rise to likely significant effects on the environment may be need to be accompanied by one or more of the following: an Environmental Impact Statement, an Ecological Impact Assessment Report, a Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report or a Natura Impact Statement, as appropriate. Ensure that Natura Impact Statements and any other environmental or ecological impact assessments submitted in support of proposals for development are carried out according to best practice methodologies and contain all necessary baseline assessments.</i></p>
<p>Objective NH 13 – Consultation with Environmental Authorities Galway County Council will consult with the relevant Environmental Authorities when considering plans and projects which are likely to affect Natura 2000 sites.</p>		<p>To facilitate adequate and sufficient consultation with relevant Environmental authorities as appropriate</p>	<p>Objective NH13 Ensure that all development proposals are screened to determine whether they are likely to have a significant direct, indirect or cumulative effect on the integrity or conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site and, where significant effects are likely or uncertain, there will be a requirement for consultation with the relevant environmental authorities as part of any Habitats Directive Assessment that may be required</p>

Table 2e: Summary Table EPOs and Mitigation Measures

Strategic Environmental Objective	Principal Mitigation Measures Policies and Objectives
Biodiversity	
Bio 1: Protect, conserve and avoid loss of the diversity and range of habitats, species and wildlife corridors.	New Environmental Management Zoning See Landuse zoning map and Objective LU 9 Environmental Management area and a number of other policies and objectives including: Objective DS3 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment Policy NH1 Natural Heritage, Landscape and Environment. Objective NH5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks
Bio 2: Protect designated sites including Natura 2000 (SACs and SPAs) under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Conserve and protect, or maintain and restore Natura 2000 sites and the Natura 2000 network.	Principally addressed through Objectives DS3 and NH1 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment and a range of interrelated and supporting policies and objectives.
Bio 4: Promote the protection of habitats (terrestrial and aquatic) from invasive species.	Objective NH12 Control of Invasive and Alien Invasive Species
Bio 5: Protect the inland aquatic environment.	Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Policies and Objectives, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy UI1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure • Objective UI1 Water Supply and Water Conservation • Objective UI3 Wastewater Disposal • Objective UI5 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems
Bio 6: Meet the requirements of the WRD and the RBMP	Objective UI7 – Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters
Water	
Wat 1: Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow) .	Policy UI 2 Water Quality and Objective UI 7 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters.
Wat 2: Maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive, WRBM and POMS.	Policy UI 2 Water Quality and Objective UI 7 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters
Wat 3: Prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater by adhering to aquifer protection plans.	Objective UI 8 Groundwater and Aquifer and Objective UI 7 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters
Geology and Soil	
Soil 1: Encourage the use of derelict, disused and infill sites rather than Greenfield sites where appropriate.	Objective LU3 Residential(R) Objective HC 6 Vernacular Architecture and Structures of Local Interest.
Soil 2: Protect, improve and maintain the	Objective NH5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks.

Strategic Environmental Objective	Principal Mitigation Measures Policies and Objectives
quality of soils.	
Soil 3: Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	Principally addressed through Objectives DS3 and NH1 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment. Also Objective NH10 Geological and Geo-morphological systems.
Population and human health	
Pop 1: Protect, enhance and improve people's quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.	Policy DS1 Development Strategy and alignment of Land use zonings with Core Strategy requirements and current statutory provisions across a range of topics including social inclusion and sustainable transport.
Pop 2: To protect human health from risks or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.	Objective UI10 Air Purification and UI11 Radon. In addition, Objective LU3 Residential and a range of flood risk management policies, objectives and zonings.
Cultural heritage	
Cult 1: Protect and conserve the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and recorded monuments), architectural (protected structures, architectural conservation areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g.: field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).	Policy HC1 Built Heritage and Objective HC1 Architectural Heritage and Protected Structures. A number of supporting objectives including: Objective UD1 High Quality, Context Sensitive Design Objective HC8 Monuments and Places
CH2 To ensure the restoration and reuse of existing uninhabited and derelict structures where possible as opposed to demolition and new build (as opposed to demolition)	Objective HC2 Protected Structures Objective HC 6 Vernacular Architecture and Structures of Local Interest.
Landscape	
Land 1: Protect designated landscapes and scenic views, routes and landscape features of local value.	Objective UD7 Landscape Character, Values, Sensitivity and Views/Prospects Objective NH9 Trees and Hedgerows
Land 2: Conserve and protect cultural landscapes including archaeological and architectural landscapes.	Policy HC1 Built Heritage and Policy HC2 Cultural Heritage and supporting objectives.
Land 3: Minimise visual impacts through appropriate design, assessment and siting.	Objective UD7 Landscape Character, Values, Sensitivity and Views/Prospects Objective UD4 Green Network and Landscaping Objective NH4 Impact Assessments
Air Quality and Climate	
AQ1 Seek to avoid air pollution and maintain/improve ambient air quality.	Objective UI 10 Air Purification Policy UI3 Climate Change and Air Quality
AQ 2: Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy.	Objective UI22 Renewable Energy Objective UI21 Energy Conservation and Efficiency and a range of sustainable transport objectives.
Material Assets	
Mat 1: Reduce risk of flooding through avoidance of development in flood plains or	In addition to zonings informed by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, a range of other policies, objectives and

Strategic Environmental Objective	Principal Mitigation Measures Policies and Objectives
in areas at risk of flooding and manage the risk of flooding.	<p>development management guidelines were included in the Final Plan. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective LU13 Flood Risk Areas and Land Use Zones • Policy UI4 Flood Risk Management • Objective UI12 Flood Risk Management and Assessment, and • Objective UI3 Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses. <p>DM Guideline UI1 Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses is another additional development management guideline in the Final LAP.</p>
Mat 2: Ensure that drinking water supplies are free from contamination.	<p>Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Policies and Objectives, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy UI1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure • Objective UI1 Water Supply and Water Conservation • Objective UI3 Wastewater Disposal • Objective UI5 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems
Mat 3: To protect residents from adverse noise levels.	<p>Objective RD7 Compatible Development Objective TI 22 Noise.</p>
Mat 4: To ensure that all zoned lands are sufficiently serviced in advance to EPA standards prior to discharge.	<p>Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Policies and Objectives, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective DS5 Service Led Development • Objective UI3 Wastewater Disposal
Mat 5: Implement the waste pyramid and encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible.	<p>Policy UI 5 Waste Management and Objective UI17 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling and Objective UI18 Bring Bank Facility.</p>
Mat 6 Reduce waste of energy, promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives.	<p>Objective UI 22 Renewable Energy Objective UI21 Energy Conservation and Efficiency</p>
Mat 7: Maximise sustainable modes of transport and provide for ease of movement for all road users and to promote development patterns that protect and enhance road safety.	<p>Policy DS1 Development Strategy Policy TI1 Sustainable Transport, Walking and Cycling plus a suite of supporting objectives within this section including Objective TI1 Integrated Landuse and Transport Objective TI2 Sustainable Transportation</p>

3 Reasons for choosing the recommended LAP in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered

3.1 Introduction

This section describes the alternatives considered in the development of the LAP. The consideration of alternatives and the evaluation of their likely environmental impacts is a key function of the SEA process. Each alternative was assessed against the Environmental Protection Objectives. For development strategy Options 2 and 3 additional text was inserted through the material alteration process and this is shown below in yellow highlight. In addition to the broad alternative scenarios, objectives, policies and zonings were also subject to refinement as the SEA and HDA processes identified potential significant impacts, these areas in turn were avoided or mitigation measures advanced. The following presents an outline of the alternatives considered during the SEA process.

Table 3a: Alternatives Considered

Development Option	Comment on environmental implication of Development Option
<p>Development Option 1 – LAP informed solely by environmental assessments. Informed solely by the statutory environmental assessments required for Local Area Plans, including a Habitats Directive Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and flood risk considerations, this option would likely direct future development away from areas of low lying land and lands with ecological sensitivity. In implementing the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan and ensuring the provision of the required level of zoned lands for future residential use, future growth would be directed towards the development and consolidation of appropriate sites from the town centre outwards, with the likely focus for new residential neighbourhoods on lands towards the north and northwest of Oranmore. This option would exclude consideration of the planned railway station at Garraun further northwest of Oranmore and the potential contribution it can make to the future sustainable development of the town.</p>	<p>This option would likely direct future development away from areas of low lying land and lands with ecological sensitivity. It would exclude the planned railway at Garraun and the opportunity to integrated landuse and transport for the Oranmore area and environs and would direct future residential development to the north and northwest of Oranmore. .</p> <p>In this regard, whilst this option would improve many of the EPOs, it may act as an unbalanced check on many development proposals. Considering the significant growth of Oranmore and its desirability as a place to live and work, there is likely to be continued demand to facilitate certain development activities. The ongoing viability of the town centre and recognition of its strategic role in the wider Galway Region is an important consideration in terms of spatial planning. This option may also result in indirect negative impacts regarding the viability of the town centre, increased traffic and transport issues in light of not facilitating the potential of Garraun in terms of public transport proposals and integrated land use.</p>
<p>Development Option 2 – New development area at Garraun This option proposes a new development area around the rail station at Garraun, capitalising on the potential of new public transport infrastructure and the availability of lands for anticipated population growth in Oranmore, as outlined in the Core Strategy. It also progresses the Regional Planning Guidelines objective</p>	<p>Whilst this option recognises the importance of the public transport potential it would require a detailed masterplan and as outlined in the adjoining column this is not within the scope of the LAP. In addition, this option would not encourage reuse of existing buildings within the existing town centre with subsequent dereliction and unviability of the town centre; in turn this would result in a declining</p>

Development Option	Comment on environmental implication of Development Option
<p>of future expansion of the Garraun area. This approach recognises the area as a prime development quarter in terms of integrating land use and public transportation and directs all new development to this area. However, given its strategic importance, a detailed master plan and/or Local Area Plan would be necessary to guide development to ensure that it does not progress in an ad hoc and piecemeal manner.</p> <p>Focussing on the growth of a new quarter could have the potential to shift the focus away from the established town of Oranmore, which would compromise the sustainable development of the overall area. Developing a detailed master plan and/or Local Area Plan for a new development quarter would be beyond the scope of this Local Area Plan process and therefore this option is not considered the most suitable approach to be pursued, at this time</p>	<p>urban realm, potential increased private transport reliance, and may unnecessarily promote greenfield development above infill or consolidated development.</p>
<p>Development Option 3 Consolidation of the Town Centre and Surrounding Areas with a Future Strategic Development Area, Informed by Environmental Assessments</p> <p>Informed also by environmental assessments, this option focuses primarily on the established town of Oranmore, seeking to consolidate the existing town centre and emerging commercial centres and examining the residential provision to meet the requirements of the Core Strategy. Town centre consolidation is achievable through promoting appropriate densities at the right location and supporting the redevelopment of brownfield, derelict and back land sites within the urban core.</p> <p>Development within the remainder of the town is encouraged in a sequential manner, in order to maximise return on investment in services and to ensure the availability of optimal, residential lands to accommodate anticipated growth. Refinement and amendments to existing zonings are required to align with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>This option also takes cognisance of the planned railway station at Garraun. It protects the associated surrounding lands through identifying a Strategic Reserve Area subject to future master planning and/or a Local Area Plan, when high level decisions are made regarding the infrastructural investment necessary to open up the Ardaun and Garraun areas for joint Local Authority Development and so as to ensure that the opportunities associated with the development of same are planned in a sustainable and coordinated manner. In the interim, strong sustainable transportation connections between the railway station, the town centre and remainder of the town are key in establishing important connectivity between the areas, ensuring they are linked and</p>	<p>This development option would promote a managed and co-ordinated approach on a case by case basis to town centre & residential type developments from the centre outwards, based on infrastructure /service provision but in a more flexible manner than Option 2.</p> <p>The recognition of the new railway station and the opportunity it offers in terms of integrating land use and public transport is in line with national policy including <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020</i>.</p> <p>The attractiveness and on-going viability of Oranmore is dependent on its coastal location, relatively compact urban form and proximity to Galway City. Therefore recognising these issues - promoting the town centre whilst planning for longer term expansion towards the northern part of the LAP area which is less environmentally sensitive than the southern or western parts (both these areas are largely designated as European Sites) is an important strategic consideration.</p> <p>In addition, the new LAP and preferred development option increases overall protection of environmental resources principally through the new landuse zoning EM and a range of supporting policies and objectives.</p> <p>This approach appears to be the most sustainable and practical for the long term development of the town. This approach is evaluated to be the most sustainable and balanced strategy for the long term development of Oranmore.</p>

Development Option	Comment on environmental implication of Development Option
complement each other. This approach appears to be the most sustainable and practical for the long term development of the town.	

3.2 Preferred Alternative

Development Option 3 Consolidation of the Town Centre and Surrounding Areas with a Future Strategic Development Area, Informed by Environmental Assessments is the development scenario adopted by Galway County Council as it allows for planned development and represents a sustainable approach to planning in the Oranmore LAP area. Development will be focused within zoned and serviced areas. This alternative is based on the principles of sustainable development which means that the Plan is promoted in accordance with International, National, Regional and County guidelines and the entire Plan area is also covered by the objectives and policies of the Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015 and the mitigation measures proposed in such. The SEA assessed all the options under consideration and Option Three was determined to generate positive impacts on biodiversity, material assets, population and human health, and cultural heritage. Whilst Option 1 would generate more positive direct impacts on biodiversity parameters, it is considered likely that a number of negative indirect impacts would arise including lack of viability of the town centre, increased greenfield development away from the centre in less environmentally sensitive areas, and moreover the loss of opportunity to facilitate integrated landuse and public transport at Garraun. In conclusion, a planned approach to the further development of the area incorporating the principles of sustainable development is the option best suited to Oranmore.

4 Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting

4.1 Introduction

It is proposed, in accordance with the 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 quality. Monitoring will focus on the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly impacted upon by the implementation of the Oranmore LAP. The targets and indicators are derived from the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) discussed in Chapter Five of the SEA ER. The target 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.

4.1.1 Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting

It is proposed that the SEA monitoring reporting should go parallel with the reviewing of the draft LAP. However, in some cases as data becomes available, the Planning Authority may prepare an additional SEA Monitoring Report. In particular, should new data or the following occur, additional monitoring will be required:

- Significant unauthorised development (either large scale or cumulative small scale)
- Illegal waste activity
- Water pollution incidents (not resulting from oil spills).

In turn this list below is subject to review to reflect new data. Should the monitoring regime identify significant impacts (such as impacts on designated sites) early on in the LAP implementation, this should trigger a review of the LAP and monitoring regime. In addition, the identification of positive impacts from monitoring should also be reported as this will assist in determining successful environmental policies, objectives and landuse zonings over the course of the LAP and inform future LAP preparations for Oranmore.

It is recommended that data arising from planning applications, particularly in terms of environmental constraints mapping and Environmental Impact Statements be integrated into the 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 should they arise.

Table 4a: Monitoring Table

Topic and SEA Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
Biodiversity				
Bio 1: Protect, conserve and avoid loss of the diversity and range of habitats, species and wildlife corridors	Habitat Loss	- No net habitat loss	NPWS/ Local Authority	Local Authority
Bio 2: Protect designated sites including Natura 2000 (SACs and SPAs) under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Conserve and protect, or maintain and restore Natura 2000 sites and the Natura 2000 network.	Habitat loss Compliance with Conservation Site Objectives for Natura 2000 sites	- Total area of designated sites (Natura 2000 and pNHA's) - Total area of Conservation Areas	NPWS/Local Authority	Local Authority
Bio 3 - Conserve and protect other sites with nature conservation sites (NHAs, pNHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries).	Habitat loss	Total area of designated sites -	NPWS/Local Authority	Local Authority
Bio 4: Protect habitats (terrestrial and aquatic) from invasive species	Spread of invasive species	- Survey and monitor extent and distribution of invasive species	NPWS/Local Authority	Local Authority
Bio 5: Protect the inland and coastal aquatic environment.	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Values) and Risk assessment	- Improve Q value status for river bodies in plan area and zone of influence - Aim to achieve Q4 value in line with Water Framework requirements by 2015. - No reductions in Q value in relevant watercourses	WFD/RMMP/ Local Authority	Local Authority
Bio 6 – Meet the requirements of the WFD and the RBMP	Status of waterbodies Compliance with RBMP	Aim to achieve WFD requirements by 2015. Comply with RBMP	WFD/RMMP/ Local Authority	Local Authority
Water				
Wat 1 - Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Values) and Risk assessment	- Improve Q value status for river bodies in plan area	WFD/RMMP/ Local Authority	Local Authority

Topic and SEA Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow)		and zone of influence - Aim to achieve Q4 value in line with Water Framework requirements by 2015. - No reductions in Q values in relevant watercourses		
Wat 2 - Maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive, WRBM and POMS	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Values) and Risk assessment	- No severe pollution incident - Appropriate WWT Infrastructure in plan area	WFD/ Local Authority/ Western RBD Project	Local Authority
Wat 3 - Prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater by adhering to aquifer protection plans	Risk Assessment	-No change or improvement in groundwater quality associated with development	EPA / WRBD Project	Local Authority
Geology and Soil				
Soil 1: Encourage the use of derelict, disused and infill sites rather than Greenfield sites where appropriate	Number of developments granted for brownfield sites (or area)	-Infill developments on brownfield sites over lifetime of the plan.	Local Authority	Local Authority
Soil 2: Protect, improve and maintain the quality of soils	Specific soil management plans for large developments as part of construction management plans.	- No recorded soil contamination incidents - No invasive species due to poor soil management or topsoil	EPA and Local Authority	Local Authority
Soil 3: Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	Impacts to designated geological sites and their sustaining resources	- No impacts on such sites associated with the implementation of the LAP	Local Authority	Local Authority and GSI
Population and human health				
Pop 1: Protect, enhance and improve people's	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Authority
	- Drinking Water Sources to	- Status of drinking water and drinking	Local Authority	Local Authority

Topic and SEA Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.	<p>comply with the EC (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations, 2007 and EC (Quality of Surface Water Intended for the Abstraction of Drinking Water) Regulations, 1989</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All water bodies to achieve good status, or maintain high status, by 2015 as required by the EU WFD 2000/60/EC - Increase population and average net densities in new residential / mixed-use schemes. While also promoting employment opportunities and the development of Oranmore in line with Core Strategy - Reduce social exclusion. - Increase participation and accessibility of education to all levels of society 	<p>water sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecological status of water bodies - Average density of new residential development - Average of densities in new developments - Live register figures - Implementation of Social Inclusion measures as proposed in National Anti-Poverty Strategy Census data / - Population figures Education Participation rates - Crime rates 	Health Service Executive	
Pop 2: To protect human health from risks or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments	- No. of complaints relating to noise, odour, water quality and visual issues.	- Promote compatible land use where possible	Local Authority/ HSA	Local Authority
Cultural heritage				
CH1: Protect and conserve the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and unrecorded monuments), architectural (Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % of Protected Structures 'at risk' - No. of ACAs - No. of archaeological sites investigated 	- Ensure that the cultural heritage of the town is maintained and protected from damage and deterioration	Local Authority	Local Authority

Topic and SEA Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).				
CH2: To ensure the restoration and reuse of existing uninhabited and derelict structures where possible, as opposed to demolition and new build	- No. of buildings restored over lifetime of the plan	- To ensure a positive increase in such development over lifetime of LAP.	Local Authority	Local Authority
Landscape	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Responsible Authority
Land 1: Protect designated landscapes and scenic views, routes and landscape features of local value.	- Developments impacting on scenic views and routes	Promote, enhance landscape character through policy implementation	Local Authority	Local Authority
Land 2: Conserve and protect cultural landscapes including archaeological and architectural landscapes	- Number of developments requiring landscape impact assessment	Maintain cultural landscapes associated with Oranmore	Local Authority	Local Authority
Land 3: Minimise visual impacts through appropriate design, assessment and siting	- Number of developments requiring a visual impact assessment	Minimal negative visual impacts from new developments	Local Authority	Local Authority
Air Quality and Climate	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
AQ1: Seek to avoid air pollution and maintain/improve ambient air quality	Maintenance of air quality standards and values	No decline in overall air quality	Local Authority	Local Authority
AQ2: Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy	Average energy consumption of new residential housing stock Tonnes of CO2 /capita/year	Decrease Greenhouse gas emissions in line with 2020 commitments	EPA, Local Authority, SEAI	Local Authority
Topic and SEA Objective Material Assets	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	
Mat 1: Reduce risk of flooding through avoidance of inappropriate development in flood plains or in areas at risk of flooding and manage the risk of flooding	Number of planning permissions compliant with the Floods Directive and OPW / DoEHLG's 'Flood Risk Management in the Planning Process'	Compliance with the Floods Directive and with OPW / DoEHLG 'Flood Risk Management in the Planning Process'	Local Authority	Local Authority

Topic and SEA Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
	standards Number of planning permissions incorporating flood risk assessment and conditions requiring appropriate flood resilient measures for new developments Number of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and flood defence features required in new planning applications	standards Flood Risk Assessment be carried out for all new Developments within flood risk zones Identify Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (and features which are identified as having a flood defence function) in all new developments		
Mat 2: Ensure that drinking water supplies are free from contamination	% compliance in potable water quality monitoring % compliance in wastewater discharges from municipal treatment	100% compliance with water quality monitoring	Local Authority /EPA	Local Authority
Mat 3: To protect residents from adverse noise levels	% complaints re; noise	Targets as set out in Draft Noise Action Plan	Local Authority	Local Authority
Mat 4: Ensure that all development is adequately serviced to EPA standards prior to discharge	% compliance in wastewater discharges from municipal treatment	Improved % compliance	Local Authority	Local Authority
Mat 5: Implement the waste pyramid and encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible	% of waste recycled Tonne of waste per capita per year Tonnes of (methane producing) organic waste diverted from landfill Landfill gas capture rates	% recycling from regional waste strategy	Local Authority	Local Authority
Mat 6: Reduce waste of energy, promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives	Average energy consumption of new residential housing stock Tonnes of CO2 /capita/year	Decrease Greenhouse gas emissions in line with 2020 commitments	EPA, Local Authority, SEAI	Local Authority
Mat 7: Maximise sustainable modes of	% change in modal split	Extension and improvement of	Local Authority	Local Authority

Topic and SEA Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
transport and provide for ease of movement for all road users and to promote development patterns that protect and enhance road safety.		the cycling and walking network		

4.2 Conclusion

The Oranmore LAP sets out an overall strategy, policies and objectives for the period 2012 to 2018 which seeks to provide for the long term planning and overall benefit of the town. This SEA Statement summarises how environmental considerations have been addressed in the LAP preparation process. Consultation was undertaken at predraft stage, SEA Scoping Stage and through submissions on the draft LAP and material alterations. Policies, objectives and land use zonings were assessed in terms of the impacts on the environment and mitigation measures proposed through rewording of the policies/objectives or rezoning where necessary. The mitigation measures proposed for the policies/objectives through the SEA and HDA process have been incorporated into the Final LAP.

The SEA and HDA has been undertaken in line with the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2010, Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 to 2011 (as amended) and the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. **Subject to the full and proper implementation of the mitigation measures and adherence to policies, objectives and landuse zonings contained in the Oranmore LAP 2012 to 2018, including appropriate site level investigations, it is considered that significant adverse impacts on the environment will be avoided.**