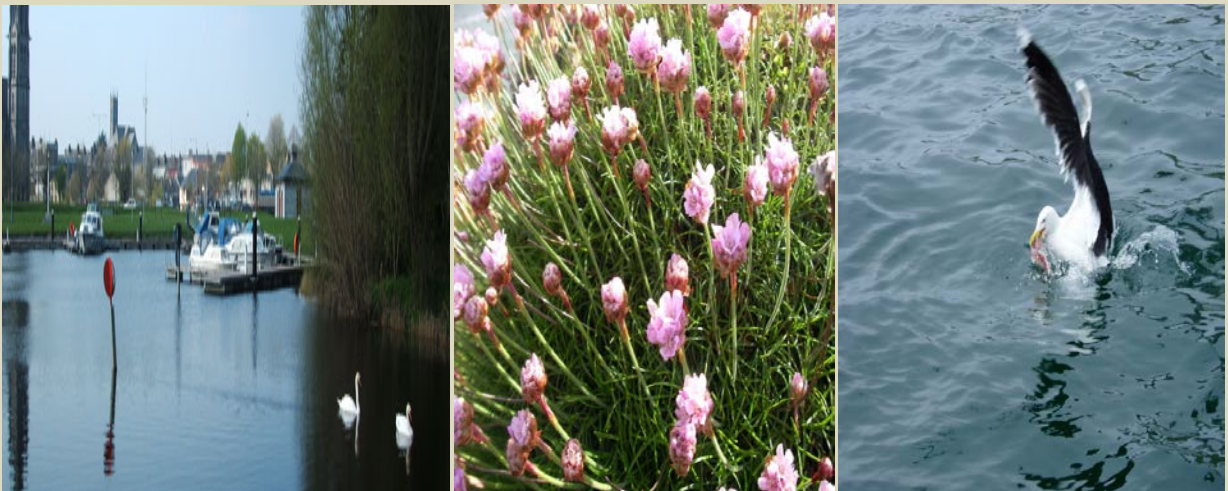


SEA STATEMENT **of the** Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021



Forward Planning
Galway County Council

November 2015



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	3
1.2 SEA DEFINITION	3
1.3 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT	3
1.4 CONTENT OF THE SEA STATEMENT.....	3
1.5 IMPLICATIONS OF SEA FOR THE LOCAL AREA PLAN	4
1.6 PRODUCTION OF THE SEA.....	4
SECTION 2.....	5
HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO THE.....	5
LOCAL AREA PLAN	5
2.1 CONSULTATIONS	5
2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	5
2.2.1 <i>Identification and Mapping</i>	5
2.2.2 <i>Early communication</i>	5
2.2.3 <i>Overlay mapping</i>	5
2.3 EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES	6
2.4 MITIGATION.....	7
2.4.1 <i>Introduction</i>	7
SECTION 3.....	14
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND SUBMISSIONS & OBSERVATIONS	14
3.1 INTRODUCTION	14
3.2 SEA SCOPING SUBMISSIONS	14
3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS.....	16
3.3.1 <i>Chief Executives Report on Draft Plan (June 2015)</i>	16
3.3.2 <i>Chief Executives Report on Material Alterations to the Draft Plan (September 2015)</i>	17
SECTION 4.....	18
ALTERNATIVE PLAN SCENARIOS CONSIDERED	18
4.1 INTRODUCTION.....	18
4.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS	18
4.2.1 <i>Development Option 1 – Haphazard Development with a refined plan boundary</i>	18
4.2.2 <i>Evaluation</i>	18
4.2.3 <i>Development Option 2 –Consolidation of Existing Development with Sequential Development around Consolidated Areas with a refined plan boundary</i>	18
4.2.4 <i>Evaluation</i>	18
4.2.5 <i>Development Option 3 – Bi-Nodal Development with a refined plan boundary</i>	19
4.2.6 <i>Evaluation</i>	19
4.3 EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE PLANS.....	20
4.3.1 <i>Methodology</i>	20
4.4 REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE PLAN IN LIGHT OF THE OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES DEALT WITH	23
4.5 THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.....	24
4.5.1 EFFECTS OF AMENDMENTS ON THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	24
4.5.2 EFFECTS OF MATERIAL ALTERATIONS ON PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.....	24
SECTION 5 MONITORING MEASURES	25
5.1 INTRODUCTION.....	25

5.2	INDICATORS AND TARGETS	25
5.3	SOURCES	25
5.4	REPORTING	25
5.5	RESPONSIBILITY.....	25
5.6	THRESHOLDS	25
SECTION 6	SUMMARY OF INFLUENCE OF THE SEA PROCEDURE ON THE PLAN	29

List of Tables

TABLE 2.1	MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED AS A RESULT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES	8
TABLE 3.1	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES IN RELATION TO THE SEA SCOPING	16
TABLE 4.1	COMPATIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVES WITH SEA ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS	21
TABLE 4.2	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES	22
TABLE 5.1	MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAMME	28

List of Figures

FIGURE 2.1	ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES AND OVERLAY MAPPING	6
FIGURE 4.1	PREFERRED DEVELOPMENT OPTION	20
FIGURE 4.2	BASELINE MAP OF ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	23

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment 'Statement' for the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021 prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 of 2004).

1.2 SEA Definition

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan, or other strategic action, in order to insure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

1.3 Legislative Context

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning. The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21 July 2004. The SEA Directive and the instruments transposing it into Irish Law require that after the adoption of a plan or programme, the plan or programme making authority is required to make a Statement available to the public, the competent environmental authorities and, where relevant, neighbouring countries. This Statement is referred to as a SEA Statement (DEHLG, 2004)¹.

1.4 Content of the SEA Statement

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

a) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Local Area Plan

b) How:

- the Environmental Report,
- submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the proposed Local Area Plan and Environmental Report, and
- any transboundary consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Local Area Plan.

c) The reasons for choosing the Local Area Plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and

d) The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Local Area Plan.

¹ Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2004) Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities Dublin:Government of Ireland.

1.5 Implications of SEA for the Local Area Plan

As a result of the aforementioned legislation, the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan (LAP) 2015-2021 was required to undergo SEA. The findings of the SEA were expressed in an Environmental Report, which was submitted to the Elected Members alongside the proposed Draft Local Area Plan. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of adopting the Local Area Plan. Changes made to the proposed Draft LAP were evaluated for their environmental consequences and the Environmental Report was updated to become the final Environmental Report.

The Draft LAP and the associated Environmental Report were placed on public display on Thursday 2nd April 2015 to Thursday 14th May 2015. Further to the display of the Draft LAP the elected members resolved to make amendments to the LAP. On assessment of the proposed amendments, there were a number of amendments that were considered to be 'material' and therefore required to be placed on public display, which occurred from the 7th August 2015 to the 5th September 2015. The proposed amendments to the Draft LAP were evaluated for their environmental consequences. Addendum to the Environmental Report² was published alongside the proposed Material Alterations.

Following the consultation period on the proposed Material Alterations and associated Addendum to the SEA Environmental Report of the Material Alterations, the Chief Executive prepared his second report. The Chief Executive's Report was circulated to the Elected Members for their consideration.

In the adoption of the Local Area Plan, the Elected Members made a number of 'Further Modifications' to the proposed Material Alterations³. No further analysis of these 'further modifications' was necessitated as Sections 13 (6)(c)(i) and 20 (3)(q)(i) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) precludes the making of any further changes at this stage of plan making / plan variation other than minor changes that are not likely to have significant effects on the environment or adversely affect the integrity of a European site. On adoption of the Draft Local Area Plan, the Addendum to the Environmental Report was used to update the original Environmental Report into a final Environmental Report, which accompanies the adopted Plan. At each stage of the process the Elected Members took into account the findings of the Environmental Report and/or the Addendum as appropriate.

1.6 Production of the SEA

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021 was undertaken internally in the Council.

² Which provided an environmental assessment of the proposed amendments

³ These 'further modification' were in addition to or in lieu of those recommended by the Chief Executive in his second report.

Section 2

How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Local Area Plan

2.1 Consultations

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG), the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) and the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) were all sent a preliminary SEA 'scoping report' indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Galway County Council. Written submissions were then received on the scope of the SEA from the EPA, the DAHG, and Geological Survey of Ireland.

Further information on the aforementioned submissions is provided under Section 3.2.

2.2 Environmental Sensitivities

2.2.1 Identification and Mapping

Environmental 'sensitivities' in the area in question were identified and mapped in order to identify which areas of the plan area would be most vulnerable, under threat or sensitive to development and would suffer the most adverse effects if future development were to be accommodated in those areas unmitigated.

The sensitivities considered included the following:

- Designated ecological sites;
- Land cover;
- Soil Type;
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) Risk Assessments for Rivers, Lakes, Ground Waters;
- WFD Register of Protected Areas;
- EPA River Water Quality Monitoring;
- GSI Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity;
- Flooding Data;
- Waste Water Treatment capacity and demand;
- Drinking water supply;
- Drinking water quality;
- Archaeological Heritage;
- Architectural Heritage;
- Landscape Character Areas; and,
- Protected Views and Prospects.

2.2.2 Early communication

The 'sensitivities' were communicated to the Plan-making team on a regular basis from the outset of the Plan preparation process. Identifying areas with the most limited carrying capacity within the Plan area helped future growth to be diverted away from these areas.

2.2.3 Overlay mapping

A Geographical Information System (GIS) was used in order to weight the above sensitivities with a thematic map overlaid with each sensitivity - this allowed the identification of where most sensitivities occur. Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours, which range from low environmental sensitivity (light yellow) to high environmental sensitivity (red). Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration (See Figure 2.1).

2.3 Early Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives

A range of potential alternative scenarios for the future development of the plan area were identified at an early stage in the process and evaluated for their likely significant environmental effects (see Sections 6 & 7 of the ER).

The environmental sensitivities and overlay mapping shown in Figure 2.1 were used in order to predict and evaluate the environmental effects of implementing the alternatives. Communication of the findings of this evaluation helped the Plan-making team to make an informed choice as to which alternative was to be put before the Elected Members as the proposed Plan. Communication of this evaluation to the Elected Members through the Environmental Report helped the Elected Members to make an informed choice with regard to the making of the Local Area Plan. Mitigation measures which arose from the evaluation and which were integrated into the Local Area Plan are detailed under Section 2.4 of this report.

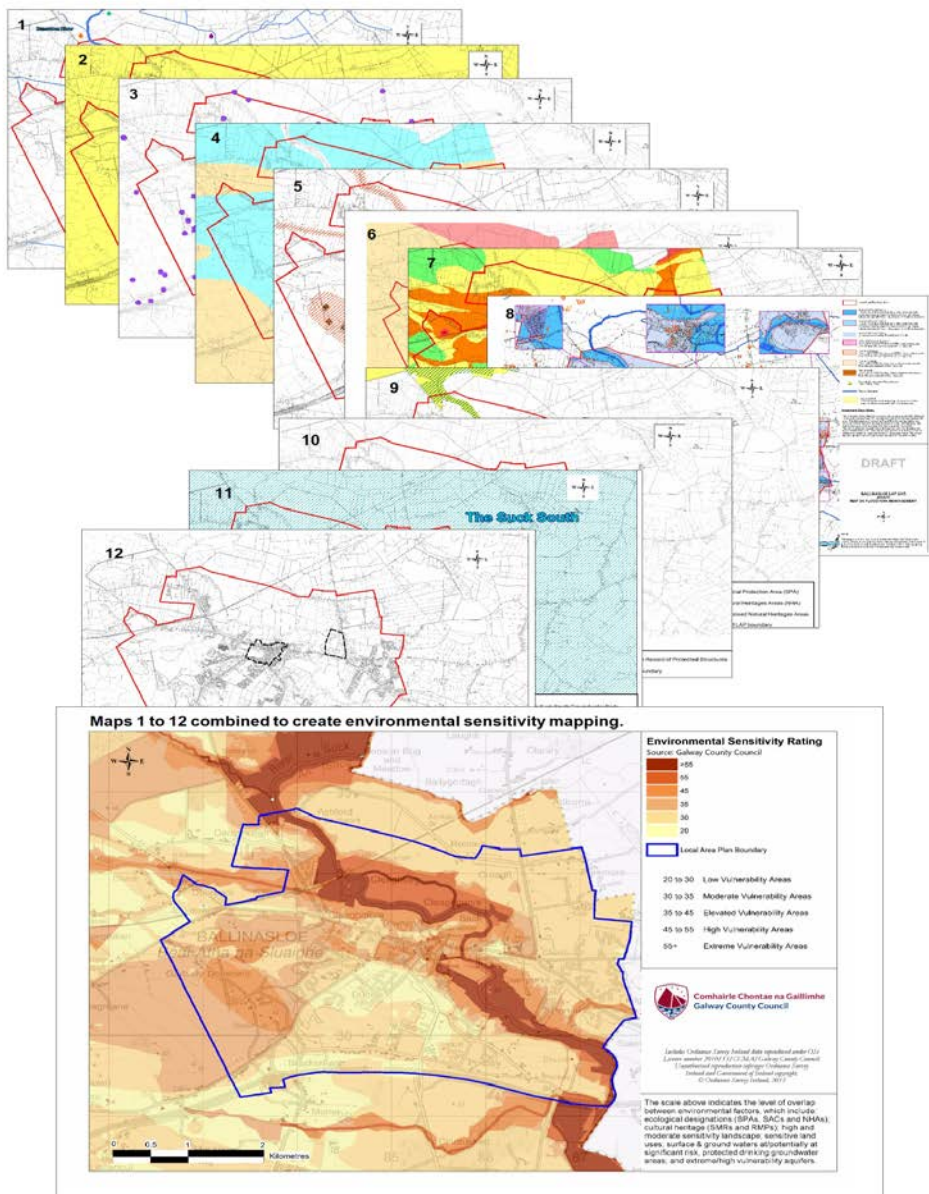


Figure 2.1 Environmental Sensitivities and Overlay Mapping

2.4 Mitigation

2.4.1 Introduction

In order to comply with various statutory requirements and in order to comply with the requirements of the statutory consultees, mitigation measures⁴ were recommended to be integrated into the Plan.

As the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan must conform to the policies and objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 the plan does not include a repetition of the policies, objectives or strategies as set out in the CDP. Where standards or objectives for a particular development are not included in the Local Area Plan the provisions of the CDP are to apply.

Taking this into consideration there are a wide range of mitigation measures/objectives within the County Development Plan that are applicable to the plan area.

The wide range of topics that these mitigation measures cover include:

- Designated Ecological Sites;
- Ecological Connectivity;
- Human Health;
- Brownfield Development;
- Tourism Development;
- Greenhouse gas emissions and car dependency;
- Landscape.

Mitigation measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of surface water resources could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, drinking water resources, human health and provision of appropriate waste water treatment infrastructure.

The mitigation measures are identified in Section 9 of the Environmental Report and this identification is reproduced in Table 2.1. As set out above, the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan must conform to the policies and objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.

⁴ Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: prevent effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effect; repair effects after they have occurred, and; compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones. Where there are likely to be significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing these effects or, where this is not possible, to reducing the effects.

Table 2.1 Mitigation Measures Proposed as a Result of Environmental Assessment of Policies and Objectives	Change to the Local Area Plan through the plan making process.
Environmental Recommendations and Suggested Mitigation measures	
Section 2	
<p>In relation to the Land Use Matrix Table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for Consideration for Take-Aways in the Residential Areas. This should be “Not Normally Permitted”. 	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective LU 1 – Town Centre/Commercial (C1) (Refer to Maps 1A/1B) Promote the sustainable development of the Town Centre as an intensive, high quality, well-landscaped, human-scaled and accessible environment with an appropriate mix of uses, including residential, commercial, service, tourism, enterprise, public and community uses as appropriate, that provide a range of retail services, facilities and amenities to the local community and visitors to the town. The town centre and associated main streets will remain the primary focus for retail and service activity in Ballinasloe.</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective LU 2 – Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) (Refer to Maps 1A/1B) Promote the sustainable development of commercial and complementary mixed uses, on suitable lands that can provide focal points for the provision of services to surrounding neighbourhoods/areas and opportunities for commercial enterprises, retail developments and employment creation and which do not undermine the vitality and viability of the town centre.</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective LU 3 – Residential (R) (Refer to Maps 1A/1B and Objective RD1) Promote a phased, sequential approach on Residential zoned lands, with a strong emphasis on consolidating existing patterns of development, encouraging infill opportunities and promoting sustainable transport options. It is an objective to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the development of appropriate and serviced lands to provide for high quality, well laid out and well landscaped sustainable residential communities with an appropriate mix of housing types and densities, together with complementary land uses such as community facilities, local services and public transport facilities, and sustainable transport options to serve the residential population of the area and the surrounding environment; Protect existing residential amenities and facilitate compatible and appropriately designed new infill development, in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. <p>A Phasing Scheme shall apply to residential uses on Residential (R) zoned lands, as set out under Objective RD1 in Section 3.2.2.</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective LU 5 – Business & Technology (BT) (Refer to Maps 1A/1B) Promote the sustainable development of high value business and technology uses to reinforce Ballinasloe's potential as a growth centre for medium - large, innovative, companies in sectors including, science and technology based industry in life sciences, bio-pharma, IT, internationally traded services and Research and Development. This zoning shall also provide for office park developments, storage facilities and logistics that are ancillary to the primary uses outlined above. Appropriate training facilities, such as Third Level Outreach facilities, may also be considered.</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.

<p>The development of inappropriate or non-complementary uses, and which would be more appropriately located on lands zoned as Industrial, Business & Enterprise and Town Centre/Commercial, Commercial/Mixed Use will not normally be permitted within this zoning.</p>	
<p>Objective CF 13 – Amenity Network (Refer to Objective DS9 and to DM Guideline NH2) (a) Support the establishment of an accessible and sustainable network of greenway linkages and amenities that provide safe and attractive circulation routes for pedestrians and cyclists and for the enjoyment and recreational use of the entire community.</p> <p>(b) Galway County Council will also seek to promote the functioning of greenway networks as wildlife corridors and habitats to enhance the biodiversity and the natural environment.</p>	<p>Wording accepted as proposed.</p>
<p>Objective CF 14 – Linear Park (Indicative Route) (Refer to Maps 2A/2B)(Refer to Objective DS9 and to DM Guideline NH2) (a). Support the sustainable development of a Linear Park including recreational facilities and activities that will benefit the local community and visitors to the area and enhance the tourism infrastructure in an environmentally sustainable manner. (b). Ensure that in particular that all such developments shall not adversely affect habitats and species protected by Article 10 Habitats Directive and any other sites that may be considered as stepping stones in support of European sites.</p>	<p>Majority of the wording accepted, however a further modification to the wording was made.</p>
<p>Objective CF 15 – Cycle and Pedestrian Networks(Refer to Objective DS9 and to DM Guideline NH2) (a). Encourage and support the development of a series of cycle and pedestrian routes in the Ballinasloe area and in accordance with the Galway to Dublin Cycle Route and the Townspark Relief Road where feasible and in a sensitive manner, incorporating the streams, rivers, woods, and canal. Indirect impacts on built heritage, natural heritage and designated conservation areas arising from such recreational activities should be duly considered and addressed as part of any proposal. (b). Ensure that in particular that all such development shall not adversely affect habitats and species protected by Article 10 Habitats Directive and any other sites that maybe considered as stepping stones in support of European sites.</p>	<p>Majority of the wording accepted, however a further modification to the wording was made.</p>
<p>Objective ED 7 – Tourism Development Encourage and facilitate the sustainable development of the tourism potential of Ballinasloe and its environs in a manner that respects, builds on, protects and enhances the cultural, built and natural heritage of the town and the local amenities within the Plan area including natural heritage and biodiversity. Key projects and initiatives that will be supported in this plan shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Facilitate the sustainable development of East Galway as a cultural and tourist destination while simultaneously safeguarding its integrity. Promote active collaboration between all stakeholders both in County Galway and adjoining counties and region. b) Collaborate with the Ballinasloe Town Twinning Committee and other tourism agencies in the enhancement and increased economic value of Ballinasloe's town twinning linkages and to create a broader tourist offer within the concept of the 'Fair Towns'. c) Ensure that in particular that all such development shall not adversely affect habitats and species protected by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and any other sites that maybe considered as stepping stones in support of European sites. 	<p>Majority of the wording accepted, however a further modification to the wording was made.</p>

<p>Objective ED 8 – Water-Based Tourism (Refer to Maps 2A/2B) (Refer to Objective DS9 and to DM Guideline NH2) The Council will support, subject to meeting the requirements of relevant Irish Planning and European environmental legislation including the Habitats Directive, the development of the necessary infrastructure and amenities to support water-based tourism within the plan area. The Council shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Collaborate with Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, other Local Authorities and other relevant agencies in the implementation of ‘<i>The Mid Shannon and Lough Ree Product Development Study</i>’ which involves waterways and waterside tourism potential and to enhance water-based tourism product along the Shannon Navigation System including Ballinasloe in order to make the town a more attractive inland water tourism destination; b) Continue to promote and enhance the public marina at Slí na hAbhainn as a sustainable marina resource including ancillary facilities and services as appropriate; c) Ensure that in particular that all such development shall not adversely affect habitats and species protected by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and any other sites that maybe considered as stepping stones in support of European sites. 	<p>Majority of the wording accepted, however a further modification to the wording was made.</p>
<p>Objective ED 12 – Town Centre Viability, Vitality and Vacancy Ensure a balance of development in the town centre of Ballinasloe so as to revitalise Dunlo Street, Market Square, Society Street and Main Street, and to reduce vacancies and avoid an unbalanced retail pull from these core shopping streets/side streets and the town centre.</p>	<p>Wording accepted as proposed.</p>
<p>Objective ED 13 – Brownfield Development & Vacancy Encourage the redevelopment of existing brownfield sites within the plan area in order to maximise the sustainable regeneration of underutilized/vacant lands and/or buildings for potential commercial, retail and residential developments.</p>	<p>Wording accepted as proposed.</p>
<p>Objective UD 4 – Green Network and Landscaping (Refer to Objective DS 9 and to DM Guideline NH 2) Support the sustainable development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management. Any proposed development having potential biological or hydrological connectivity with European sites will be subject to AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment if required under the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Wording amended.</p>
<p>Green Infrastructure Green infrastructure can be defined as networks of green areas that provide multiple environmental, social, educational and economic benefits to society and can include open spaces, woodlands, parks, farmland and private gardens. The environmental benefits of identifying a green infrastructure network cannot be underestimated as the protection of natural features like flood plains, wetlands, woodlands and hedgerows provide far reaching benefits, e.g. in climate change adaptation. Developing a green infrastructure approach can assist with the loss of biodiversity while enhancing an environment in which we live and thereby creating a high quality environment. Comhar Sustainable Development Council publication (2010) ‘<i>Creating Green Infrastructure for Ireland: Enhancing Natural Capital for Human Wellbeing</i>’ sets out how a network of green spaces can be developed to benefit natural heritage and biodiversity as well as the greater economy and society.</p>	<p>Wording accepted as proposed.</p>

<p>Invasive Species Non-native species both animal and plants can represent a major threat to local, regional and global biodiversity. Terrestrial and aquatic habitats can be negatively affected, resulting in significant damage to conservation and economic interests such as agriculture, forestry and civil infrastructure. The <i>Third Schedule of European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011</i> lists restricted non-native species and Regulation No.49 and No. 50 specifically relate to recognised invasive species.</p> <p>Development proposals must ensure that the presence or absence of invasive alien species has been addressed in accordance with the new European Regulation-Regulation (EU) No.1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of Invasive Alien Species. Where invasive alien species are present on a development site an Invasive Alien Species Management Plan will be required.</p>	
<p>Objective NH 9 - Control of Invasive and Invasive Alien Species Seek to prevent the spread of invasive, and alien-invasive alien species and noxious weeds and require a landscaping plan to be produced for developments near water bodies and ensure that such plans do not include invasive species.</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective NH 12 – Eskers (Refer to Specific Objectives Maps 2A/2B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess applications for quarrying and other proposed developments that are in close proximity to eskers that are located within the plan area that have the potential to impact on their landscape, scientific or amenity value; • Recognise that the Eskers in the plan area have unique landscape, scientific and amenity values and ensure that any development proposals should not detract from these values; • Maintain ridge tops of eskers to the south and northwest of the town as areas of open space. 	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Refer to Objective DS 9-Appropriate Assessment Screening/Appropriate Assessment and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites and to DM Guideline NH2-Construction Management Plans/Environmental Operating Plan and Project Specific Mitigation measures to each of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective DS 3 – Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment European Sites • Objective CF 4 - Lands for Community Facilities and Amenities • Objective CF 5 - Educational Facilities (Refer to Maps 1A/1B and to Maps 2A/2B) • Objective CF 13 – Amenity Network; • Objective CF 14 – Linear Park • Objective CF 15 – Cycle and Pedestrian Networks; • Objective CC 2–Climate Change & Green Infrastructure; • Objective UD 4 – Green Networking and Landscaping; • Objective ED 8 – Water-Based Tourism; • Objective TI 7- Walking and Cycling Strategies; • Objective TI 12 – Rail Facilities/Services & Dualing of the Rail Tracks; • Objectives TI 13 – Amenity/Walking Cycling Network. • Objective NH 1 – Natura 2000 Sites European Sites • BAC3-Bridleways in Ballinasloe 	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective DS 9 – Appropriate Assessment Screening/Appropriate Assessment and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.

<p>It is an objective of Galway County Council to ensure that Appropriate Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment, if required, is undertaken in view of the Conservation Objectives of the European sites that may be affected by any proposed development that:</p> <p>a) the AA process will be a scientific assessment that will present relevant evidence where required, including data and analysis as available from the most up to date Article 17 reports on the conservation status of the natural habitats and species in the Habitat Directive Annexes and the most up to date Article 12 reports on status and trends of bird species, in addition to, data on ecological features in or near the Plan area available from other sources e.g. National Biodiversity Data Centre, Bird Watch Ireland, Bat Conservation Ireland and other sources as appropriate.</p> <p>b) similarly that all habitats and species protected by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and any other sites that may be considered as stepping stones in support of European sites will be addressed as part of the AA process.</p>	
<p>Objective FL 4 - Management of Flood Risk in relation to Natura Sites European Sites In circumstances where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or Natura 2000 European sites, the new developments and such these measures will undergo environmental assessment and Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate.</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective FL 7 - Protection of Water Bodies and Watercourses with the inclusion of new text as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that any new development proposals within or near the 10m buffer are adequately assessed, undergo Appropriate Assessment and the preparation of an NIS, should screening show that this is necessary and where the PA consider that such screening/assessments are required. 	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective NH 6 – Biodiversity and Ecological Networks (Refer to Maps 2A/2B) with the inclusion of new text under new part e) as follows:</p> <p>e) Ensure that any new development proposals within or near the 10m buffer are adequately assessed, undergo Appropriate Assessment and the preparation of an NIS, should screening show that this is necessary and where the PA consider that such screening/assessments are required.</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective NH 13 – Consultation with Environmental Authorities Screening for Appropriate Assessment Ensure that all development proposals are screened to determine whether they on their own or in combination with other plans and projects are likely to have a significant direct, indirect or cumulative effect on the integrity or conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 a European site in view of its conservation objectives. and, wWhere significant effects are likely or uncertain; an NIS will be required in accordance with the Habitats Directive. there will be a requirement for consultation with the relevant environmental authorities as part of any Habitats Directive Assessment that may be required.</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.
<p>Objective NH 14 – NPWS & Integrated Management Plans Galway County Council shall seek to engage with and support the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) at their request where appropriate, to ensure facilitate the preparation of Integrated Management Plans (should such plans be programmed by the NPWS in the future) are prepared for all Natura European sites within the sphere of influence of the Ballinasloe LAP area and ensure that such plans prioritise achieving the conservation objectives of European sites, that they are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and</p>	Wording accepted as proposed.

<p>economic considerations and with special regard to the local community.</p>	
<p>Objective NH 1/Objective DS3 – Natura 2000 European Sites Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network 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 including a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Appropriate Assessment if necessary, Habitats Directive Assessment 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 European 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 European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) <p>The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 European site (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species)</p>	<p>Wording accepted as proposed.</p>
<p>Objective DS 10 – Future Developments and EU Directives Ensure that all future developments within the plan area fully take into account the requirements of the EIA, Habitats, Birds, Water Framework and Flood Directives respectively, as relevant and as appropriate.</p>	<p>Wording accepted as proposed.</p>

Table 2.1 Mitigation Measures Proposed as a Result of Environmental Assessment of Policies and Objectives

Section 3

Environmental Report and Submissions & Observations

3.1 Introduction

This section details how both the Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Environmental Report and into the SEA process generally have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan.

3.2 SEA Scoping Submissions

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG), the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF), the Department of the Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) were all sent SEA scoping reports indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Galway County Council. A written response was received on the scope from the EPA, the DAHG and Geological Survey of Ireland (through DCENR). The following written submissions were received from the Environmental Authorities with specific reference to the SEA process and the production of the Environmental Report. The content of these submissions were taken into account in formulating the environmental report.

Submission	Comment
Environmental Protection Agency(EPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision should be made in the Plan for the incorporation of the specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies set out in the Shannon International River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures (POM). The Plan should not be in conflict with promoting the achievement of these specific objectives at water body level; • Ensure that there are adequate and appropriate critical water/wastewater infrastructure is in place to cater for existing and future development in the Plan area; • A strong commitment to collaborate with Irish Water in the provision, maintenance and enhancement of water services should be included in the plan; • A policy/objective should be included for the protection of groundwater resources and associated habitats and species; • While there is no dedicated surface water sewer network servicing Ballinasloe. It should be ensured that future development proposals incorporate appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) into development proposals as relevant and appropriate; • It is considered that there may be merits in considering a review/update of the Landscape Character Assessment 2003 (GCC); • Key biodiversity features such as ecological corridors/linkages, hedgerows and wetlands should be identified and measures put in place to ensure protection/replacement/enhancement; • A habitat map should be included in the plan; • A commitment to ensuring that the Plan will be consistent with the <i>Biodiversity Action Plan for County Galway 2008-2013</i>; • A commitment to implementing the environmental monitoring

	<p>programme over the lifetime of the Plan in the context of ensuring any proposed mitigation measures are robust enough to mitigate for likely significant adverse environmental impacts identified;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In considering and assessing alternatives, the alternatives proposed should be reasonable and realistic and should be set at the appropriate strategic level at which the Plan will be implemented operating within the national planning hierarchy; • The alternatives should be assessed against the relevant environmental objectives established for the key environmental aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected; • Clear justification should be provided for the selection of the preferred alternative/ combination of alternatives. Environmental sensitivities such as flood risk, biodiversity and critical infrastructure should be taken into account in the assessment of suitable alternatives.
<p>Geological Survey of Ireland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Geological Heritage and Planning Programme would like to propose the addition of the County Geological Sites (CGS) in the Local Area Plan in order to protect them from inappropriate development and to ensure that they are given due consideration in any proposed plan that might adversely affect them; • There are 5 sites located near Ballinasloe. A Summary Table and a map are attached; • It is suggested that Policy NHB-5 and Objective NHB-4 that are contained in the County Development Plan should be re-iterated in the Local Area Plan.
<p>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is considered that 'SEO Objectives' for biodiversity, flora and fauna (page 44) need to be expanded to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1). Sites that are not Natura 2000 (or European) sites, e.g. NHAs and pNHAs; (2). Habitats and species that are covered by the Birds and Habitats Directives but are not listed on annexes (e.g. some regularly occurring migratory species covered by Birds Directive Article 4(2)); (3). Habitats and species that are not covered directly by the Birds and Habitats Directives and that may or may not be protected by wildlife legislation; • It is suggested that a natural heritage chapter should be included with objectives to conserve, protect and restore nature conservation sites, biodiversity and ecological networks in and around the plan area, including as listed below. In addition, there should be integration of ecological considerations and concerns into all other elements of the plan to ensure proper planning, sustainable development, and compliance with European Directives and national legislation; • The Council is advised to consult the National Parks and Wildlife Service website (www.npws.ie) as a key source of data, information and publications on nature conservation sites and biodiversity issues of relevance to the plan and any associated environmental assessments; • Objectives to conserve and restore a number of key <i>ecological/natural heritage areas</i> should be included in the plan, taking into account the wider aims and obligations of the Habitats Directive (e.g. Article 6(2), 10, 12-16), and the Birds Directive (e.g. Article 4(4)) into account; • In relation to Appropriate Assessment this should be carried out with

	<p>respect to the conservation objectives of relevant sites, bearing in mind the full scope of generic conservation objectives; conservation condition of a habitat or species is linked to conservation status as defined in Article 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive. The Council is advised that the scientific analysis and reasoning underpinning the findings and decisions reached should be presented;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the plan area includes and drains towards a European site, it is considered likely that an appropriate assessment and the preparation of an NIR will be required. This must include a determination under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether the proposed development would adversely affect the integrity of a European site; • The Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna section of the SEA should be undertaken by or in conjunction with a suitably qualified ecologist, and in conjunction with the NIR to ensure full integration of biodiversity issues and concerns, particularly in relation to nature conservation sites, rare and protected species, habitats that are rare or of high ecological value, and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The EPA's <i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment</i> best practice guidance is of relevance in this regard; • The Environmental Report is required to contain information on the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be affected significantly by the plan; • The Environmental Report is required to contain environmental protection objectives. For biodiversity, flora and fauna, these should integrate with the objectives and obligations of other directives such as the Habitats and Birds Directives, the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive, and with the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, National Biodiversity Plan and the aims and objectives of the county's own Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan; • Strategic Environmental Objectives should be included for all nature conservation sites (not just European sites), protected species and ecological corridors and stepping stones.
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Table 3.1 Summary of Submissions from Environmental Authorities in relation to the SEA Scoping

3.3 Environmental Report Submissions and Observations

3.3.1 Chief Executives Report on Draft Plan (June 2015)

The Chief Executives Report (June 2015) dealt with submissions received from prescribed authorities and members of the public on the Draft Plan. Within this report reference was made to the specific comments from the Environmental Protection Authority on the SEA Environmental Report. The following is a summary of the issues raised:

- The Authority welcomes the inclusion of Table 8.1 In-Combination effects with other Plans and Programmes and the mitigation measures outlined in 8.4.3 Assessment of Cumulative Effects in the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021;
- It is suggested that there would be merits in summarising how the assessment of cumulative/in combination effects has been considered in the plan and to include this summary in the plan and the non-technical summary as appropriate;
- It is suggested that there would be merits in summarising the monitoring requirements and monitoring programme in the plan and in the Non-Technical Summary as appropriate;
- It is considered that there would be merits in linking the SEA and the Plan related monitoring. It is suggested that the Monitoring Programme would be flexible in order to take account of environmental issues as they arise during the lifetime of the plan.

The policies and objectives proposed in the Chief Executives Report and agreed by the Elected Members at the Council Meeting on the 20th July 2015 were also assessed and incorporated into the amended plan. The motions by the Elected Members were also assessed.

It was considered that the contents of the SEA Environmental Report and the Non-Technical Report are considered sufficient and that changes were not warranted in the environmental reports.

3.3.2 Chief Executives Report on Material Alterations to the Draft Plan (September 2015)

The Chief Executives Report (September 2015) dealt with submissions received from prescribed authorities and members of the public on the Material Alterations on the Draft Plan.

Within this report reference was made to the specific comments from the Environmental Protection Authority on the SEA Addendum Report which published alongside the Material Alterations (August 2015)

The following is a summary of the issues raised by the prescribed authorities:

- Determination in relation to the SEA has been noted
- It is a matter for Galway County Council to determine whether or not any future amendments/Variations would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. This assessment should take account of Schedule 2A Criteria S.I No. 436 of 2004
- Notice should be given to the SEA Statutory Authorities Notice should be given to the relevant SEA Statutory Authorities.

The policies and objectives proposed in the Chief Executives Report and agreed by the Elected Members at the Council Meeting on the 19th October 2015 were also assessed and incorporated into the amended plan. The motions by the Elected Members were also assessed.

It was considered that no change to the Environmental Report was necessary, except updating the wording amendments to policies and objectives contained in SEA Matrix table.

Section 4

Alternative Plan Scenarios Considered

4.1 Introduction

This section describes the alternative scenarios considered for the Draft Local Area Plan. It summarises the evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of each scenario that is contained in the Environmental Report and identifies the reasons for choosing the plan, as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives examined.

4.2 Description of the Alternative Scenarios

4.2.1 Development Option 1 – Haphazard Development with a refined plan boundary

This alternative Scenario 1(see Figure 4.1) may potentially lead to ‘leapfrogging’ over serviced and zoned sites to more remote areas where existing essential services/facilities including transportation may require upgrading. This scenario may also potentially facilitate pockets of development at peripheral locations within the Local Area Plan area including a proliferation of ribbon development.

4.2.2 Evaluation

Growth would be managed but there would be a lack of integration and structure to grow due to the un-coordinated manner of this alternative. Growth would become more sporadic and potentially lead to ribbon development on the approaches into the town. By allowing this to occur services and facilities like local shops, community facilities etc will become more sporadic in that there will be a weak settlement and community focus in which to target specific growth. This option will also lead to a lack of cohesion in the approach to town centre activity; competition with out of town retailing opportunities for existing businesses to relocate from the town centre out will continue to threat the vitality and viability of the town centre. Rural areas would be under greater risk from development and servicing growth with infrastructural services like wastewater and water supply would become more challenging and would not be cost-effective as areas closer to the town have sufficient infrastructural capacity. In relation to flood risk the areas that have been identified as Flood Zone A and B will be zoned “Open Space/Recreational Uses” and development would only be considered subject to the justification test for areas at flood risk. In addition areas that are developed but find themselves in a flood risk areas will have the “Constrained Land Use” applied to their lands which requires them to comply with the Flood Risk Assessment. This option is likely to have potential significant adverse impacts on all elements of the environment but in particular, biodiversity, water quality, landscape and in relation to the quality of life for the residents of the plan area.

4.2.3 Development Option 2 –Consolidation of Existing Development with Sequential Development around Consolidated Areas with a refined plan boundary

This Alternative Scenario No.2 (See Figure 4.1) option provides for the consolidation of existing development, sequential development around the established urban core and controlled expansion mainly at Dunlo to the south of the Town Centre and limited sequential expansion around existing developed areas at Kilgarve/Glentaun. Densities will be proposed at appropriate locations, while also supporting the redevelopment of existing brownfield, derelict, backland sites and existing laneways within the urban core and adjacent areas.

Development within the remainder of Ballinasloe 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.

4.2.4 Evaluation

This alternative favours meeting the development needs of the Draft Local Area Plan through consolidation of the existing development and the appropriate expansion around these areas in order the

meet the needs of the plan area and the Core Strategy requirements. This option will ensure the availability of optimal and serviceable lands in order to accommodate the anticipated growth. Consolidation of development would focus on the utilisation of vacant and underutilised lands. This strategy would focus on the principles of sustainable living and creating sustainable communities. This would be achieved by identifying specific areas that will have identified growth strategies in accordance with capacity and demand for growth. Consolidation of the urban form would facilitate and promote sustainable mobility. In order to ensure that adequate supply of land is available for a range of economic uses including business and technology, industrial greenfield sites on the periphery of the developed areas will be required resulting in expansion of the defined settlement areas. Environmental sensitivities within the draft plan would inform potential land-uses and the nature and scale of development. Where expansion is required any potential environmental impacts would be mitigated against in the plan preparation process (policies and objectives identified in the plan as a result of the SEA, AA and SFRA process). Integration of sustainable mobility, protection of amenity areas would all have potential positive cumulative effects in relation to human health and quality of life, air quality and climate change. The positive cumulative effects are achieved as a result of consequences relating to sustainable travel patterns, protection of the natural heritage and the protection of soil through minimising development of greenfield sites and the enhancement of the built environment. Impacts on wildlife, habitats and designated sites would all have positive impacts as a result of this development option. This option will also avoid significant environmental impacts in relation to identified flood risk areas and ensure compliance with the Flood Risk Guidelines 2009 and the associated circular PL2/2014.

4.2.5 Development Option 3 – Bi-Nodal Development with a refined plan boundary

This scenario provides (See Figure 4.1) for the intensification and extension of new development both within the Town Centre and the development of a second neighbourhood centre on the eastern bank of the River Suck. Development under this option would result in an increase in ribbon development on the main eastern inward routes specifically to the north and south of the R446 and R357 with associated impacts in terms of poor environmental quality, increased traffic and congestion along these approach roads, increasingly peripheral car based development and would militate against easy walking distance to the town centre. This option may also lead to the unsustainable management of some development in relation to flood risk areas as well as sensitive environmental areas especially areas adjacent to the River Suck and associated flood zones, the continuance of urban sprawl and the improper management of development pressures at main transportation interchanges.

4.2.6 Evaluation

This alternative favours meeting the development needs of the draft plan area by adopting a bi-nodal approach and creating a second neighborhood centre on the eastern side of the River Suck. This approach poses challenges in relation to the feasibility of encouraging sustainable travel options and implementing measures to encourage modal shift. The social cohesion of the existing settlements would suffer as consequences of the strategy of bi-nodal development. The potential with which the existing built environment and areas immediately surrounding has to offer in providing for the future needs of the draft plan would not be prioritised and therefore not fully realised if a second neighborhood was developed. This option would also have an impact on the quality of the built environment and possible loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna if development of a new settlement centre was to proceed. With the creation of the neighbourhood centre to the east of the River Suck this may have a direct impact on the ecological networks and flood risk management of the area which could have a direct impact on the quality of life for the local residents.

all the SEOs which have been developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives.

The SEOs and the alternative scenarios are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions –if any– would cause impacts on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies a likely conflict with the status of a SEO the relevant SEO code is examined. As can be seen in the table below Alternative 1 and 3 results in a number of conflicts.

The Alternatives have been evaluated at a strategic level, through an assessment that measures the compatibility of each alternative with the environmental goals. The findings of this assessment are summarised in table 4.1 and is described as follows:

Table 4.1 Compatibility of Alternatives with SEA Environmental Goals

Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Population, Human Health	Soil & Geology	Water	Air and Climatic Factors	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	Landscape
1.Haphazard Development with a refined plan boundary	Red	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Red
2.Consolidation of Existing Development with Sequential Development around Consolidated Areas with a refined plan boundary	Light Green	Dark Green	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow
3.Bi-Nodal Development with a refined plan boundary	Red	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Red	Red	Dark Green	Red

Table 4.1 Compatibility of Alternatives with SEA Environmental Goals

	Alternative is consistent with environment goal
	Alternative is in conflict with environment goal
	Alternative is both consistent and in conflict with environmental goal
	Neutral/No Impact

Table 4.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives

SEA Topics	SEO Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>B1: To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive with regard to the protection of European sites and Annexed habitats and Species⁵</p> <p>B2: To ensure the protection, conservation to avoid the loss of diversity and integrity of a broad range of habitats, species and ecological and wildlife corridors and networks (non-designated sites) which provide connectivity between areas of local biodiversity within the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan.</p> <p>B3: Conserve and protect other sites of Nature conservation including NHAs and pNHAs.</p>
Population, Human Health	<p>PHH: To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses.</p>
Soil & Geology	<p>SG1: To prevent pollution and/or contamination of soil.</p> <p>SG2: Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites</p>
Water	<p>W1: To maintain and improve, where possible, the status of surface waters.</p> <p>W2: To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.</p> <p>W3: To comply as appropriate with the Provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG,2009) and associated Circular PL 2/2014.</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<p>AC: To reduce travel related greenhouse emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport.</p>
Material Assets	<p>M1: To serve new development with adequate and appropriate waste water treatment.</p> <p>M2: To serve growth areas with drinking water that is both wholesome and clean.</p> <p>M3: Make the best use of existing road and transportation infrastructure.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>CH1: To protect the archaeological heritage of the town including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context and Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>CH2: To preserve and protect the special interest and character of the town's architectural heritage.</p>
Landscape	<p>L: To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and most sensitive to change and protected focal points and views.</p>

Table 4.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives

⁵ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

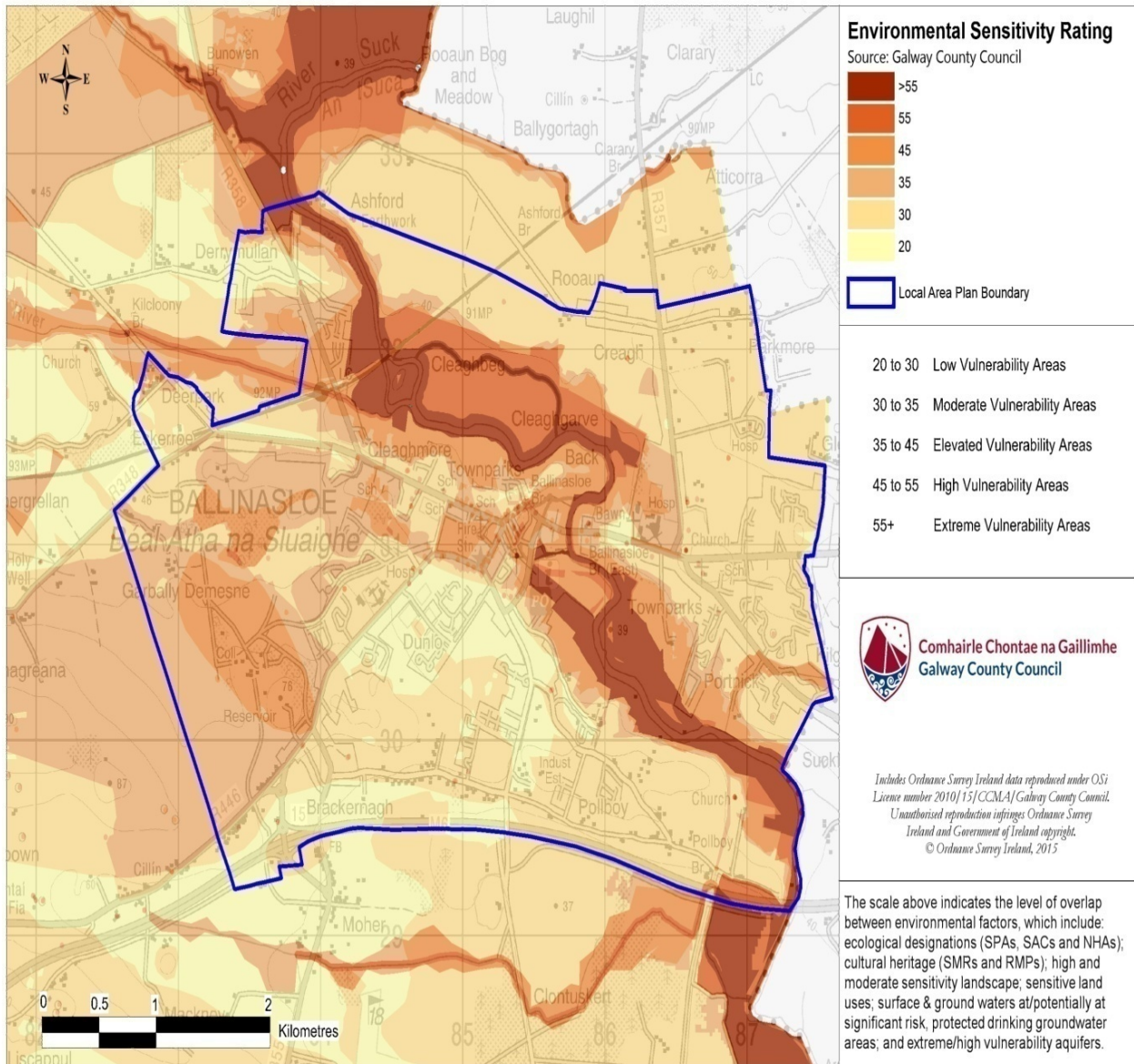


Figure 4.2-Baseline Map of Environmental Sensitivities

4.4 Reasons for choosing the Plan in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with

- If not mitigated Alternative 1 and 3 would be likely to result in more environmental impacts than Alternative 2;
- Alternative 1 and 3 are the scenarios with the greatest amount of development along the fringe of the town.

4.5 The preferred Alternative

The preferred Alternative as proposed under the development strategy for the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan is Alternative 2. The Alternative chosen within the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan is in accordance with preferred alternative scenario as prepared in this Environmental Report. This alternative scenario would meet a large number of the objectives of the plan as it supports the consolidation of existing developed areas and will ensure the availability of optimal residential lands to accommodate anticipated growth requirements. This Alternative also encourages the development of vacant and under-utilised sites in the town and ensures that those lands close to the town are the primary focus for development, thereby placing future residents within reasonable walking and cycling distance from the town centre services and thus reducing or minimising the demand for car generated trips by providing a more sustainable and integrated transport and land-use structure. Rural housing provision on lands in this Alternative will be provided for through specific objectives tailored to accommodate such developments within the immediate environs of the town.

4.5.1 Effects of Amendments on the Preferred Alternative

The amendments to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan made by the Elected Members at the Council Meeting on the 20th July 2015, as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report with further modifications by the Elected Members, resulted in a number of changes to the policies and objectives proposed within the Plan. The changes are likely to have a positive impact on the environment and on the preferred Alternative. The proposed re-zonings that were outlined in the Chief Executives Report were assessed from an environmental perspective and concluded that the preferred Alternative would not be significantly impacted upon.

4.5.2 Effects of Material Alterations on Preferred Alternative

It was determined that The Material Alterations agreed by the Elected Members, at the Council meeting on the 19th October 2015, would generally have a positive impact on the preferred Alternative. The Material Alteration which resulted in the rezoning from Agriculture to Residential Phase 2 lands (which was already assessed from an environmental perspective at the Material Alteration Stage) would result in sporadic residential development which could conflict with the preferred alternative as outlined in the Chief Executive Report. However the subject land was identified as having a low environmental sensitivity and due to the size of the site in question and the requirement to adhere to Objective RH2 in relation to residential units on R2 lands it was considered that the further modification to this one Material Alteration would have a neutral impact on the preferred Alternative.

Section 5 Monitoring Measures

5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section and Section 10 of the Environmental Report puts forward proposals for monitoring the impacts of implementation of the Local Area Plan. Monitoring enables, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

In addition to this, monitoring can also play an important role in assessing whether the LAP is achieving its environmental objectives and targets-measure which the LAP can help work towards whether these need to be re-examined and whether the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented.

5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around the indicators, which were chosen earlier in the process. These indicators allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives used in the evaluation. Focus will be given to indicators, which are relevant to the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the LAP and primarily to existing monitoring arrangements in order to monitor the selected indicators. Each indicator to be monitored will be accompanied by the relevant target(s) measures which the LAP can help work towards which were identified with regard to the relevant legislation.

5.3 Sources

In compliance with the SEA Directive and the DEHLG Guidelines, measurements for indicators come from existing monitoring sources and no new monitoring should be required to take place. Existing monitoring sources exist for many of the indicators and include those maintained by Galway County Council and the relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office. The Development Management Process in Galway County Council will provide additional monitoring of certain indicators and targets on an application by application basis. Where significant adverse effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect are likely to occur upon, for example, entries to the RMP, entries to the RPS or ecological networks as a result of the undertaking of individual projects or multiple individual projects such instances will be identified, assessed and recorded and will feed into the monitoring evaluation.

5.4 Reporting

The ongoing monitoring of the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan and its implications on the environment is paramount to ensure that the environment of the Plan area is not adversely affected by the implementation of the Plan. A coordinated approach from all relevant sections within Galway County Council will be used to gather data for future plan reviews and the associated SEA process. Indicators, targets, assessments and corrective and remedial actions will be reviewed during the preparation of the preliminary monitoring evaluation report.

5.5 Responsibility

Galway County Council are responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of a monitoring report, the publication of this report and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

5.6 Thresholds

Thresholds at which corrective action will be considered by the relevant authority are as follows:

- Fish kills;
- Court cases taken by the DEHLG regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; and,
- Complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts resulting from development, which is granted permission under the CDP;
- Boil notices on drinking water.

Environmental Component	SEO Objectives	Target	Indicator	Source/Responsibility
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>B1: To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive with regard to the protection of European sites and Annexed habitats and Species⁶;</p> <p>B2: To ensure the protection, conservation to avoid the loss of diversity and integrity of a broad range of habitats, species and ecological and wildlife corridors and networks (non-designated sites) which provide connectivity between areas of local biodiversity within the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan;</p> <p>B3: Conserve and protect other sites of Nature conservation including NHAs and pNHAs.</p>	<p>B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan⁷;</p> <p>B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for in the Plan;</p> <p>B3: No net loss of habitat and species.</p>	<p>B1:No significant negative impacts on designated habitats and species of the SPA;</p> <p>B2:Habitat Loss e.g. loss of hedgerow, loss of mature trees, treelines, wooded areas and stone walls; No loss of locally rare species/habitats; No net loss of green linkages/ecological networks especially rivers;</p> <p>B3: Habitat quantity and quality of species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Council; National Parks and Wildlife'.
Population, Human Health	<p>PHH To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses.</p>	<p>PHH: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.</p>	<p>PHH: Number of newly constructed developments Population Equivalent input to WWTP;</p> <p>Also see Water and Biodiversity Indicators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Council.
Soil & Geology	<p>SG1:To prevent pollution and/or contamination of soil;</p> <p>SG2: Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.</p>	<p>SG1 & SG2: To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity;</p> <p>SG1 & SG2: Limit residential development to phase 1 lands.</p>	<p>SG1 & SG2: Area of soil where function and quality is compromised e.g. where soil sealing occurs;</p> <p>SG1 & SG2: Limit net loss of groundwater recharge capability through loss of permeable soil resource.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Council; Environmental Protection Agency.
Water	<p>W1: To maintain and improve, where possible, the status of surface waters;</p> <p>W2: To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water;</p>	<p>W1 To improve Biotic Quality Rating (Q Values) and Risk Assessment of Water Bodies;</p> <p>W2 No reductions in the Q</p>	<p>W1:The Biotic Quality Rating;</p> <p>W2 Risk Assessment. Implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Council/Irish Water; Environmental Protection Agency.

⁶ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

⁷ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

(a) no alternative solution available;

(b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and

(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

	<p>W3: To comply as appropriate with the Provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG,2009) and associated Circular PL 2/2014.</p>	<p>value in relevant water courses; No change or Improvement in groundwater quality associated with development;</p> <p>% increase in waters achieving “good status” as defined by WFD;</p> <p>W3 No new development in Flood Zone A Developments proposed with Flood Risk Zones to comply with Floods Directive;</p> <p>SUDS in all new developments.</p>	<p>of the Programme of Measures identified under the SERBD River Basin Management Plan; Ensure wastewater collection system capacity is provided either prior to construction of new development or is developed in parallel;</p> <p>W3 Number and area of developments within Flood Risk Zones Ensure that there is no development granted on lands which are outlined in the flood risk assessment as not suitable for development.</p>	
Air and Climatic Factors	<p>AC: To reduce travel related greenhouse emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport.</p>	<p>AC Reduce Greenhouse gas emissions in line with 2020 commitments;</p> <p>% Increase in number of people travelling to work and school via public transport.</p>	<p>AC All new development applications within areas at risk of flooding to be accompanied by Flood Risk Assessment;</p> <p>Increase access by households to public transport, including bus and rail services;</p> <p>Increase number of people travelling to work and school via public transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Council.
Material Assets	<p>M1: To serve new development with adequate and appropriate waste water treatment;</p> <p>M2: To serve growth areas with drinking water that is both wholesome and clean;</p> <p>M3: Make the best use of existing road and transportation infrastructure.</p>	<p>M1: % Compliance in wastewater discharges from municipal treatment;</p> <p>M2: % Compliance in potable water quality monitoring;</p> <p>M3: Increase in population in urban areas.</p>	<p>M1: % compliance in wastewater discharges from municipal treatment;</p> <p>M2:% compliance in potable water quality monitoring;</p> <p>M3:Maximise development potential within urban envelope in order to reduce travel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Council/Irish Water TII
Cultural Heritage	<p>CH1: To protect the archaeological heritage of the town including entries to the Record of Monuments and</p>	<p>CH1:Ensure that the culture heritage of the town is maintained and protected from</p>	<p>CH1: % of Protected Structures ‘at risk’; No. of archaeological sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Council; Buildings at Risk Register, Heritage Council Ireland.

	<p>Places and/or their context and Architectural Conservation Areas;</p> <p>CH2: To preserve and protect the special interest and character of the town's architectural heritage.</p>	<p>damage and deterioration;</p> <p>CH1: Number of monuments on the RMP, impacted by granted planning permissions;</p> <p>CH1:Number of protected structures impacted by development granted planning permission;</p> <p>CH1 & CH2: Number of protected structures that have been demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.</p>	<p>Investigated;</p> <p>No impact on the fabric or setting of monuments on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) by development granted planning permission;</p> <p>No impacts on the architectural heritage value or setting of protected structures by development granted planning permission;</p> <p>CH2: No. of ACAs Protect and preserve features of special interest as included in the RPS, RMP and ACA;</p> <p>CH2: Protect and enhance physical features and areas that contribute to the town's special character and setting.</p>	
Landscape	<p>L: To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and most sensitive to change and protected focal points and views.</p>	<p>L: Minimal negative impacts on designated landscapes and scenic views, landscape features of local value;</p> <p>L: Number of protected views impacted by development.</p>	<p>L: Number of developments impacting on designated landscapes and scenic views, routes and landscape features of local value;</p> <p>L: No planning permission granted within special qualities of landscapes that materially contravene the policies or objectives of the plan, within the lifetime of the plan;</p> <p>L:No negative alteration to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected views. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Council.

Table 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting Programme

Section 6 Summary of Influence of the SEA Procedure on the Plan

Overall, the influence of the SEA process on the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan has been positive. The early identification of the important environmental issues within the plan area and refinement of those issues during the scoping process and production of the Environmental Report allowed for the adoption of meaningful strategic environmental policies and objectives into the LAP. The continual assessment of policies, objectives and motions, as well as submissions and observations from interested parties also resulted in modification of policies and objectives for the benefit of the environment of Ballinasloe