

Board Direction BD-014768-23 ABP-317848-23

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 01/12/2023.

The Board determined that the development proposed of a neighbourhood centre and social housing scheme would not be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of the identified European Sites, and Galway City Council be advised that the submission of a Natura Impact Assessment report in respect of the development is not required by the local authority, based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to: -

- (a) the nature and scale of the proposed development,
- (b) the proximity of the proposed development site to Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA,
- (c) the hydrological connection between the site and the European sites,
- (d) the Appropriate Assessment Screening Assessment prepared on behalf of Galway City Council,
- (e) The Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 which zones the land for residential use,
- (f) the report and recommendation of the person appointed by the Board to make a report and recommendation on the matter,

it is considered reasonable to conclude that on the basis of the information available, which is considered adequate to issue a screening determination, that the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on Galway Bay Complex SAC or Inner Galway Bay SPA, in view of the conservation objectives of these sites and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement for the proposed development is not therefore, required.

Board Member Una Crosse

Date: 01/12/2023