



At a meeting held on 25th October 2017, the Board considered:

- (a) the objections made to the Compulsory Purchase Order,
- (b) the report of the Inspector who held the oral hearing and
- (c) the documents and submissions on file generally.

The Board decided to confirm the Order without modification for the reasons and considerations set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

Having considered the objections made to the compulsory purchase order, the report of the person who conducted the oral hearing into the objections, the purpose of the compulsory purchase order and also having regard to:

- (a) Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020
- (b) the National Cycle Policy Framework 2009,
- (c) the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Midland Region 2010-2022 which supports the National Cycle Policy Framework in creating a strong culture of walking and cycling,

- (d) the provisions of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020 and the policies and objectives stated therein,
- (e) the provisions of the Athlone Town Development Plan 2014-2020 and the policies and objectives stated therein,
- (f) the congestion in Athlone Town Centre and the desirability of providing a separated cycle and pedestrian crossing of the River Shannon,
- (g) the community need, public interest served and overall benefits to be achieved by the compulsory purchase order of the lands and the extinguishment of the right of way for the purpose identified in the order, and the proportionate design response to the identified need,
- (h) the submissions and observations made at the oral hearing, and
- (i) the report and recommendation of the Inspector,

it is considered that the acquisition by the local authority of the lands in question, and the extinguishment of the public right of way, as set out in the compulsory purchase order and on the deposited maps, are necessary for the purpose stated, and that the objections cannot be sustained having regard to the said necessity.

Board Member

Date: 26th October 2017

Eugene Nixon