

## Board Order 25.KA0036

Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960

Housing Act, 1966

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2017

**Planning Authority: Westmeath County Council** 

**Application** received by An Bord Pleanála on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017 from Westmeath County Council pursuant to section 76 of, and the Third Schedule to, the Housing Act, 1966 as extended by section 10 of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 (as substituted by section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966) and the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2017, for confirmation of a compulsory purchase order authorising compulsory acquisition of lands and entitled **Westmeath County Council Compulsory Purchase (No. 1) Order, 2017 Athlone Pedestrian and Cycleway Bridge.** 

## Decision

CONFIRM the above compulsory purchase order based on 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.

Member of An Bord Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate the seal of the Board.

Dated this day of 2017

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