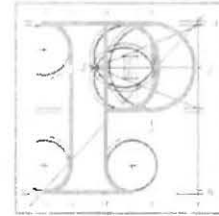


Our Case Number: PA0033



An
Bord
Pleanála

Northern and Western Regional Assembly
c/o David Minton
The Square
Ballaghaderreen
Co. Roscommon

Date: 06 February 2025

Re: Galway Harbour Extension
Renmore and Townparks Townlands, Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

PA04

Teil
Glaó Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Riomhphost

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Thursday 6 February 2025 13:04
To: ftimoney@nwra.ie
Subject: RE: NWRA Submission Galway Harbour Extension

A Chara,

The Board acknowledges receipt of your email, official correspondence will issue in due course.

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: Fiona Timoney <ftimoney@nwra.ie>
Sent: Thursday 6 February 2025 09:25
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: NWRA Submission Galway Harbour Extension

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

A Chara,

Please find attached letter from Director, Denis Kelly in relation to the Galway Harbour Extension, Renmore and Townparks Townlands, Galway.

We would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt.

Mise le meas,

Fiona Timoney

Northern & Western Regional Assembly
Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, F45 WY26, Ireland
Mobile – 087 103 9950
Phone - 094 986 2970
Website www.nwra.ie



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An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Rotunda
Dublin D01V902
Via email : laps@pleanala.ie

06/02/2025

RE: AN BORD PLEANÁLA REFERENCE NO.: 61.PA0033 - SUBMISSION ON FURTHER INFORMATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA FOR THE EXTENSION OF GALWAY HARBOUR AT RENMORE AND TOWNPARKS TOWNLANDS AND ON LANDS TO BE RECLAIMED FROM THE FORESHORE AND THE SEA IN GALWAY BAY TO THE SOUTH OF THE EXISTING GALWAY HARBOUR ENTERPRISE PARK, WHICH CONTAINS A SEVESO SITE

A Chara,

I refer to the further information that has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the extension of Galway Harbour and to your correspondence dated 6 December 2024 inviting a submission/observation on the same.

It is noted that submissions / observations can only be made in relation to the further Information submitted and relating to:

- The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development,
- The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out, and
- The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site, if carried out

Having reviewed the further information submitted and taking the above into consideration, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly focus is on the content relating to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region 2020-2032.

It is noted that the in the *Response to An Bord Pleanála Sept. 2024 EIS Addendum Chapter 2 Planning & Policy Context*, Section 2.5.3.1 includes the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region 2020-2032.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region 2020-2032 transposes the relevant National Policy Objectives of the NPF to the Region by way of Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs). The RSES also includes the Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (GMASP) in which the proposed development is located.

In relation to the proposed development, there are several Regional Planning Objectives (RPOs) that are either directly or indirectly relevant when considering this planning application and the further information submitted, as set out in Appendix 1.



While there is reference to regional development goals in Section 2.10 Conclusion of the *Response to An Bord Pleanála Sept. 2024 EIS Addendum Chapter 2 Planning & Policy Context*, it should be noted that the enhancement of Galway Harbour has been and continues to be supported at regional level.

The upgrade and extension of the Port of Galway continues to represent a key strategic priority for the Western Region, crucial to the economic, environmental and social advancement of the entire Region, which continues to suffer from significant infrastructural deficits. The current port facility is restricted and contributing to reputational damage as a location of choice to invest, live and visit. Delivery of this project will significantly contribute to the future development of Galway, the Region and help achieve balanced regional growth. In view of this, and the clearly stated aims of National and Regional Policy in respect of the Northern and Western Region and Galway City, the Assembly wish to state its support for the timely decision and delivery of a sustainable extension to the Port of Galway.

In summary, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly is satisfied that the further information submitted reflects the current status of regional policy updates. However, An Bord Pleanála may wish to consider the additional Regional Policy Objectives in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region 2020-2032 as outlined in Appendix 1.

It should also be noted that pursuant to the approval by Government of a revised National Planning Framework, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly will, within 6 months of that date, commence a review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region 2020-2032.

I trust that the above is of assistance. If you have any queries in respect of the above, then do not hesitate to revert.

Mise le meas



Denis Kelly
Director



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APPENDIX 1- RELEVANT REGIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGION 2020-2032

RPO No.	Regional Planning Objective
RPO 3.2 (a)	Deliver at least 50% of all new city homes targeted in the Galway MASP, within the existing built-up footprint of Galway City and suburbs.
RPO 3.6.2	The Assembly supports the proposition that 50% of new homes for the population targets will be constructed within the existing city development envelope, 40% of these shall be located on infill and/or brownfield sites.
RPO 3.6.1	It is an objective to establish a collaborative approach between the Regional Assemblies (NWRA & SRA), the local authorities and other stakeholders to enable all their metropolitan areas to collaborate to harness their combined potential as an alternative to Dublin.
RPO 3.6.4	The Assembly support the regeneration and development of city centre sites at Galway Harbour, Ceannt Station and Headford Road (S/M).
RPO 3.6.13	The Assembly supports the delivery of a strategic Greenway Network for the GTS to include National Dublin to Galway Cycleway, Oranmore to Bearna Coastal Greenway and the Galway to Clifden Greenway (S/M).
RPO 4.5	To enhance access to our tourist assets, including the development of a Coastal Walking/Cycling Route along the Western Seaboard, which extends generally along the Route of the WAW, and incorporates existing resources, such as beaches, ports, harbours, piers and marinas. This coastal route to be subject to a route option analysis, and feasibility study in Counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal. Stakeholders will include Fáilte Ireland, NWRA, the relevant local authorities and the public.
RPO 4.35	To support the ongoing upgrade and improvement of the region's harbours and ports and ensure the sustainable development of this infrastructure to enable aquaculture and seafood industry expansion responsively.
RPO 4.36	To support the sustainable expansion and upgrade of Galway Harbour and Galway Port as part of the overall vision to grow Galway as a City Region, subject to visual, transport and economic viability considerations and in compliance with the EU Habitats Directive (which may necessitate consideration of IROPI*). *At the project consent stage if it appears that it cannot be implemented without adverse impacts which cannot be adequately mitigated then the proposals will only make provision for the level and location of development for which it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effect. If this is not possible then negative implications for a European site must meet the requirements of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive by demonstrating an absence of alternative solutions and imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature, if a consent is to be granted.
RPO 3.9	Identify suitable development opportunities for regeneration and development that are supported by a quality site selection process that also addresses environmental constraints and opportunities.
RPO 3.10	Ensure flood risk management informs development by avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SUDS, non-porous surfacing and green roofs) to create safe places. Development plans should assess flood risk by implementing the recommendations of the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).



RPO 3.11	Local Authorities, DHPLG, OPW, and other relevant Departments and agencies to work together to implement the recommendation of the CFRAM programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.
RPO 8.18	Ensure the protection and improvement of all waters – rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries (transitional waters), coastal waters and their associated habitats and species throughout the region and implement measures to achieve at least Good Status in all water surface bodies.
RPO 8.19	Implement the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I.No.9); the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No.101), the Bathing Water Quality Regulations, 2008 (S.I.79) and EC (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 and amendment Regulations.

OVERARCHING ENVIRONMENTAL REGIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES

1. The Assembly supports the process whereby applications for development consents for projects emanating from any policies that may give rise to likely significant effects on the environment will need to be accompanied by one or more of the following, as relevant:
 - i. An Ecological Impact Assessment Report (EclA);
 - ii. Environmental Report (ER);
 - iii. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) if deemed necessary under the relevant legislation (statutory document);
 - iv. Natura Impact Statement (NIS) if deemed necessary under the relevant legislation (statutory document).
2. The Assembly supports the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and support measures to control and manage the spread of invasive and alien species within the region.
 
3. The Assembly will coordinate the core objectives of the EU Flood Directive and statutory plans across the planning hierarchy, including national guidance on the relationship between the planning system and flood risk management.
 
4. The Assembly supports the use of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (e.g. EPA ESM Webtool) to investigate optimum and integrated land use management with particular emphasis on cumulative impacts.
 
5. The Assembly supports the integration of biodiversity considerations in a positive, proactive and precautionary way and promotes the protections of the environment and biodiversity conservation as key principles of this strategy.
 



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