

## **Galway City Council**

### **BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road**

#### **Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination**

**As required under Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as amended**

Galway City Council (“GCC”) is proposing to carry out the development of BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road (the “**Proposed Development**”).

The Proposed Development is a public transport priority corridor, encompassing the provision of dedicated bus lanes, segregated cycle lanes and footpaths on both sides of the Dublin Road. The Proposed Development has an overall length of approximately 3.9km commencing at the Moneenageisha Junction in the west and tying into the Doughiska Junction in the east with junctions at Renmore Park, Renmore Road, Michael Collins Road, Ballyloughane Road, Skerritt Junction, Merlin Park Hospital, Lios an Uisce (Galway Crystal), Rosshill Road, Coast Road and Doughiska Road. The Proposed Development will tie in directly with the Galway BusConnects: Cross City Link scheme at the western extremity.

GCC appointed APEM Ireland to prepare an Appropriate Assessment (“AA”) Screening report for the Proposed Development to consider, analyse and assess whether in view of best scientific knowledge and objective information and the conservation objectives of the European Site(s) (which are discussed further below), if the Proposed Development individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site(s).

GCC has received and read the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and has considered its content and its conclusions and recommendation set out therein. Having done this, GCC agrees with the conclusions and recommendation set out in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report.

## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination**

GCC has determined that an AA of the Proposed Development is required as it cannot exclude, in view of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective scientific information, following the AA screening that GCC has carried out, that the Proposed Development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in the absence of mitigation, will have a significant effect on the following two European Sites (1 SPA and 1 SAC) in view of the conservation objectives of those site(s):

- Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268);
- Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031).

GCC has made this determination on the basis of having considered the baseline ecological environment; the extent and characteristics of the Proposed Development and having identified the following potential impacts:

- Potential impacts of Non-Native Invasive Species on the Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA;
- Hydrological connectivity of the Proposed Development and the Galway Bay SAC;
- Adverse effects due to atmospheric emissions from the proposed works on Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA during construction.

## **Conclusions of Screening Assessment Process**

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of all relevant information, in view of best scientific knowledge, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that there is the possibility for significant effects on the following European sites, in the absence of mitigation, either arising from the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects, as a result of hydrological connectivity and non-native invasive species impacts:

- Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268); and
- Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031).

In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the project and its potential relationship with all European Sites within the zone of influence, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.

GCC has requested that APEM Ireland prepare and finalise a Natura Impact Statement which will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála with an application for approval for the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 51 Roads Act 1993.

This Determination is available for inspection at the Galway City Council Office, City Hall, Collage Road, Galway, and on its website at [www.galwaycity.ie](http://www.galwaycity.ie).

Signed: James Russell

James Russell,

Senior Planner,

Galway City Council

Dated: 11/12/2024