

5th January 2021

Senior Planner,
Planning Department,
City Hall,
College Road,
Galway.

Re: "Variation no.7 Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023"

A chara,

Thank you for your authority's work in preparing proposed "Variation no.7 Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023" (the variation).

The Office of the Planning Regulator (the Office) wishes to acknowledge the work your authority has put in to the preparation of the draft variation plan against the backdrop of an evolving national and regional planning policy and regulatory context, which included taking account of the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) area and the establishment of the Office.

As your authority will be aware, one of the key functions of the Office includes assessment of statutory plans and strategies to ensure consistency with legislative and policy requirements relating to planning. This includes a requirement to make submissions on statutory plans including any observations or recommendations the Office considers necessary to ensure the effective coordination of national, regional and local planning requirements.

Recommendations issued by the Office will typically relate to clear breaches of the relevant legislative provisions, of the national or regional policy framework and/or of the policy of Government as set out in the Ministerial guidelines under section 28. There is an obligation on the planning authority to implement or address any recommendation included in submissions.

Observations may take the form of a request for further information, justification on a particular matter, or clarification regarding particular provisions of a plan on issues that are required to ensure alignment with policy and legislative provisions.

On adoption of the variation, the Office will consider whether the variation has been made in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the Office and whether the plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and development of the area concerned.

The Office has evaluated and assessed the variation, under the provisions of sections 31AM(1) and (2) of the Act.

In this instance the Office welcomes the overall approach of the planning authority to the implementation of sustainable transport through the statutory development plan, and has no recommendations or observations to make.

Your authority is, however, required to notify this Office within five working days of the decision in relation to the draft variation.

Please feel free to contact the staff of the Office if you have any queries. Contact can be initiated through plans@opr.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Marie O'Connor

Deputy Regulator and Director of Plans Evaluations