



**STATEMENT OF REASONS
WITH REGARD TO A FINAL DIRECTION
IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 31
OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)
ATHENRY LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030**

31st May 2024

As Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 ('the Act') and having carefully considered a recommendation from the Office of the Planning Regulator ('the Office') under section 31AP(4) of the Act, I advise that:

- (1) I have issued a Direction on the Athenry Local Area Plan 2024-2030 to effect Recommendation (2)(a)i – insofar as it relates to Material Alterations MA46 and MA49, Recommendations (2)(a)ii, (2)(a)iii, and (2)(a)iv of the Office, received on 23rd April 2024.
- (2) I have decided not to issue a Direction in relation to Recommendation (2)(a)i – insofar as it relates to Material Alteration MA47, and Recommendation (2)(a)v of the Office (which relates to Material Alteration MA48), and which would have required the subject lands not to be zoned, contrary to the decision of the elected members of Galway County Council.

In accordance with section 31AP(4A) of the Act, my reason(s) for not issuing a Direction in respect of the recommendations relating to Material Alterations MA47 and MA48 are set out below:

1. The subject lands are contiguous to existing residential development and to zoned and serviced lands with the result that these lands may be considered to be serviced and may be developed for housing within the lifetime of the Local Area Plan.

Accordingly, the zoning of these lands for residential development is reasonable in the circumstances.

Alan Dillon TD

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning