Proposed Variation No. 7 to Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023

Planning Department
November 2020
1. Requirement under the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended

Galway City Council proposes a variation to the Galway City Development Plan (GCDP) 2017-2023 under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Public consultation is required on any proposed variation. In this regard notice of the Proposed Variation to the Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023 issues on Thursday 26th November 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. The general public and prescribed bodies including the Office of the Public Regulator, the Regional Assembly and the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage are invited to make submissions on the Proposed Variation. All submissions will be taken into consideration by the City Council before deciding whether or not to make the Variation. The period for public display extends from Thursday 26th November 2020 to Tuesday 5th January 2021, corresponding with the statutory period required for these purposes.

The Chief Executive (CE) is obliged after this public consultation process to prepare a CE Report on the Proposed Variation and to include details of any Submissions/Observations received and to give the response of the CE to each submission. The CE Report is prepared in the context of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, taking account of the statutory obligations of the Planning Authority and all relevant national and ministerial policies and objectives.

The Elected Members on receipt of the CE Report are obliged to consider the Proposed Variation and the CE Report. This has to be completed not later than 6 weeks after the submission of the CE Report to the Members. The Members may then by resolution make the Variation with or without modification, or they may refuse to make the Variation.

In advance of a decision on the Proposed Variation, it is a statutory requirement to determine if a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or an Appropriate Assessment (AA) are required. SEA and AA screening reports have been carried out and accompany the proposed variation.
2. The Public Notice of the Proposed Variation

Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)
Notice of Proposed Variation of the Galway City Development Plan 2017 – 2023

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Galway City Council, being the Planning Authority for the City, propose to make a variation of the Galway City Development Plan 2017 – 2023 in respect of the following:

Proposed Variation No. 7

Amend Land Use Zoning and Specific Objectives Map to Extend the existing Specific Objective – Bus Route (GTS) to provide for a link through RA zoned lands from College Road to Lough Atalia Road.

Amend Section 3.10 Specific Objectives to provide additional text that further supports the Galway Transport Strategy projects including Public Transport measures, the City Centre Access Network, the Cross City Link, and the Cycle Network.

It is necessary to vary the Development Plan to facilitate these changes.

A copy of the Proposed Variation, SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and AA (Appropriate Assessment) screening reports and determinations are available for inspection at the Planning Department, Galway City Council, College Road, Galway during normal opening hours from Thursday 26th November 2020 to Tuesday 5th January 2021 and on the website at www.galwaycity.ie.

Submissions or observations in relation to the Proposed Variation and associated environmental assessments may be made in writing within the above specified time period and should be addressed to the Senior Planner, Planning Department, City Hall, College Road, Galway or by e-mail to devplan@galwaycity.ie. These will be taken into consideration by the City Council before any decision is made with regard to the Proposed Variation.

Documentation will be available for inspection at the Planning Department during normal opening hours by prior appointment. Please contact (091) 536473 if you have any queries or wish to arrange an appointment.

In order to comply with health & safety of both the public and staff and to ensure compliance with social distancing measures currently in place, please note that members of the public visiting the Planning Department will be asked to provide information for the purposes of contact tracing.

Please note that all valid submissions received by the Council shall be published on the Galway City Council website and will form part of the Chief Executive’s Report on submissions and observations received and will be referenced /included in the minutes of Council meetings. Any submission or observation should state your name, address and where relevant, the body or organisation represented.

GCC is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, the Data Protection Act, 2018 and to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Data will only be processed in accordance with the aforementioned legislation. The Privacy Statement for the
management of submissions made during this Public Consultation Process can be found here on this Portal – https://www.galwaycity.ie/planning-privacy-statement

Galway City Council’s privacy Policy is available here - https://www.galwaycity.ie/privacy-policy

Signed: Ruth McNally, Director of Services for Transportation, Planning, Physical Development and Human Resources.
3. Proposed Variation No. 7

Amend Land Use Zoning and Specific Objectives Map to Extend the existing Specific Objective – Bus Route (GTS) to provide for a link through RA zoned lands from College Road to Lough Atalia Road.

This relates to the Galway Transport Strategy Bus Route objective, the route of which is mapped on the City Development Plan Land Use Zoning and Specific Objectives Map.

The following extracts from the Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023 Land Use Zoning and Specific Objectives Map shows the modification to the Bus Route (GTS) which constitutes the Proposed Variation highlighted in Yellow.
Map of Extract of Land Use Zoning and Specific Objectives Map showing proposed Variation – Proposed Bus Route (GTS)
Amend Chapter 3, Section 3.10 Specific Objectives (additional text highlighted in red):

Traffic and Road Network

Implement the traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the provision of the City Centre Access Network as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated route and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the City Centre Access Network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes.

Public Transport

Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the provision of the ‘Cross City Link’ as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the Cross City Link and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes.

Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the development of a public bus network in accordance with the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the public bus network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes.

Cycling

Implement traffic management and infrastructural changes to facilitate the development of a cycle network including for a core, secondary and feeder network in accordance with the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and support any additional land requirements where deemed necessary through design along the associated routes and acknowledge that the objective to deliver the cycle network and associated traffic management and infrastructural changes has priority over other objectives including land use zoning objectives along identified routes.
3.  Reason for Proposed Variation No. 7

The purpose of the proposed variation to the Land Use and Specific Objectives Map is to accommodate a minor realignment of the bus route which is proposed to be routed through RA zoned lands located at the junction of College Road and Lough Atalia Road. The change proposed has been brought about as a result of the continuing design process of the Cross City Link project. The Cross City Link will support improvements to public transport routes with high frequency bus services linking the eastern and western suburbs of the city through the city centre. It will also provide for high quality pedestrian and cyclist facilities.

The modification to the Bus Route objective at this location will enable detailed plans for the Cross City Link to advance to consent application stage. The Cross City Link is a key project of the Galway Transport Strategy and is reflected in the City Development Plan Policy 3.4 “Support the GTS proposals to prioritise public transport movements in the city centre through the implementation of a designated public transport route, the Cross-City Link”. It is also supported by the National Transport Authority (NTA) through the Galway BusConnects programme. This realignment will also have the potential to allow the redundant road space to be used for amenity purposes.

The changes proposed in the written statement, Chapter 3, Section 3.10 Specific Objectives have been brought about as a result of the continuing design and implementation process of key Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) projects namely the City Centre Access Network, the Cross City Link, the Public Bus Network and the Cycle Network. The amended wording extends support for these projects.

Notwithstanding this, many of the associated projects by their nature will need to go through the planning consent process which will include for all associated detailed design and supporting environmental assessments, a specific public consultation period and a consequent assessment and decision making stage.