

NOTICE OF DRAFT MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

pursuant to Section 31 A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) relating to the Eastern and Midland Region Assembly (EMRA)

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031

The RSES provides a spatial strategy for the future physical, economic and social development of the Eastern & Midland Region, which covers the nine counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly.

Whereas on 7th August, 2019 the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government issued the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) with a Notice of Intent to Issue a Direction, pursuant to section 31A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), relating to the EMRA Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031. The Minister has formed the provisional opinion that -

- (i) The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly in making the RSES has ignored or has not taken sufficient account of the submissions made by the Minister on 23 January and 12 April 2019 and
- (ii) the RSES is not in compliance with the requirements of sections 23(7)(a) and 23(7)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

and therefore, the Minister is of the opinion that section 31A(1)(a), (b), (c) & (d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) apply.

The reasons given for the draft Direction, are that a breach of legislative requirements has occurred with Material Amendments (MAs) no. 69 and no. 113 of the RSES, as made on 28th June 2019, due to the following;

1. These adopted MAs represent a significant departure from the advice contained in submissions made by the Minister at Draft and Material Amendment stages.
2. The adopted material amendments are not consistent with the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, as required under Section 23 (7) (c) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) as additional rail, metro and luas infrastructure and wording have been included which fall outside the scope of the current Transport Strategy.
3. These amendments also go beyond the scope of the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan 2018 - 2027, specifically National Strategic Outcome 4 (NPF) and National Strategic Outcome 4 (NDP), as required under Section 23 (7) (a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) as additional rail, metro and luas infrastructure have been included which fall outside the scope of the current Transport Strategy.
4. These adopted MAs conflict with objectives as contained within the RSES, particularly RPO 8.4.
5. No overall evidence-based rationale has been put forward for the inclusion of the additional rail, metro and luas projects, which would require billions of euro of investment and cause significant time delays to other projects that are set out in the GDA Transport Strategy.

A copy of the draft Direction and appendices, and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031 for the Eastern and Midland Region are now placed on public display and may be inspected during normal office hours **between Tuesday 20th August 2019 and Monday 2nd September 2019** (both dates inclusive) at the following locations:

- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, 3rd Floor North, Ballymun Civic Centre, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin, D09 C8P5
- The Planning Counter in all of the twelve constituent local authorities of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, please check locally with your Council regarding opening hours
- The documents may also be inspected online at www.emra.ie

Written submissions or observations in respect of the **draft Direction only** may be made to the Regional Assembly during the stated period and will be taken into consideration by the Minister before he directs the Regional Assembly, as the case may be, pursuant to this section. The Director will prepare a report on any submissions or observations received which shall be furnished to the Minister.

Any such submissions or observations should be received by the Regional Assembly no later than 5.00 p.m. on **Monday 2nd September 2019** through one of the following media:

- Email: rses@emra.ie
- Post: Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, 3rd Floor North, Ballymun Civic Centre, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin, D09 C8P5

Submissions should only be made in one format, i.e. either electronic copy (email) or hard copy (post). All submissions will be acknowledged but it will not be possible to issue individual responses. Please include your name and address as part of your submission, and if you are representing another person, company or organisation, their name and address. Please note that public submissions may be published on our website and subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Please note that only those parts of the RSES, which are the subject of this draft Direction shall be taken not to have come into effect until the section 31A procedure has been completed. All other aspects of the RSES are considered to have been made, as of 28th June 2019.