



29th November 2019

Adrian Hughes
Senior Planner,
Monaghan County Council,
County Offices,
The Glen,
Co. Monaghan.

Re: Proposed Variation No. 1 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

A Chara,

Thank you for your authority's work on proposed variation no. 1 to the Monaghan County Development Plan. The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) has evaluated and assessed the proposed variation to the development plan, above, under the provisions of Section 31AM(1) and (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act).

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.

In the case of assessments under Section 31AM (1) and (2), the Office is statutorily obliged to ensure it addresses the legislative and policy matters relating to development plans including:

- a. Matters generally within the scope of Section 10 of the Act, in particular subsection (2)(n) of that section, in relation to climate change;
- b. Consistency with the development plan and National Planning Framework and regional spatial and economic strategies;
- c. Relevant guidelines for planning authorities made under Section 28 of the Act, including any specific planning policy requirements specified in those guidelines;
- d. Policy directives issued under Section 29 of the Act; and
- e. Such other legislative and policy matters as the Minister may communicate to the Office in writing, the effect of which shall be published on the website of the Office.

Assessment

The Office has considered the proposed variation in the context of the general requirements under Sections 31 AM(1) and (2) of the Act.

The purpose of the variation no. 1 is to include policy NRP 7 which states 'To protect the selected route of the N2 upgrade road scheme between Ardee and Castleblayney and the selected route between Clontibret and the border with Northern Ireland, and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery.'

The Office notes that the proposed variation does not provide for the development of or improvement / upgrading of the N2 national road, rather it provides for the protection of the selected routes for road improvements.

Given the nature of the proposed policy, which is to ensure that development will not prejudice the improvements proposed to the N2 national road, the Office has no specific comments to make on the proposed policy NRP 7.

The Office considers that the proposed variation no. 1 will complement existing policies in the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, National Planning Framework and draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy relating to the upgrading of the N2 national road.

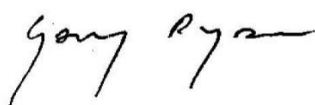
Summary

Accordingly, the Office welcomes the proposed variation and urges your authority to finalise same and has no specific recommendations to make under the provisions of Section 31AM(3)(a) of the Act above.

Your authority is required to notify this Office within 5 working days of the making of the variation and send a copy of the written statement and maps as made.

Please feel free to contact the staff of the OPR in the context of any queries in relation to the above, which we would be happy to facilitate. Contact can be initiated through the undersigned or at plans@opr.ie.

Is mise le meas,



Gary Ryan

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