



Planning Offices
Monaghan County Council,
1 Dublin Street,
Monaghan
H18 X982

8th October 2020

Re: Proposed Variation 2 Monaghan CDP 2019-2025

To whom it may concern,

The Department of Education welcomes the opportunity to input to the above proposed variation and notes that the purpose of the variation is to respond to the recent changes in national and regional policy, namely the publication of Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (NPF), the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework and the North Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

The Department has analysed the Proposed Variation No. 2 report and notes the proposed textual change identified for section 1.12, Chapter One of the Development Plan. The Department accepts that the report considers that population projections as outlined in the County Development Plan have been aligned with RSES forecasts. However, it is worth noting that the RSES provides future population projections to 2031. In this regard, the ramifications for any future educational requirements extend beyond the life of this plan. Therefore, in an effort to identify future education requirement within the county, it is vitally important that ongoing and future engagements between the Department and the Council take into consideration both the short term and the longer term population projections that are being proposed.

It is also worth noting that Individual variations or planning developments may not of themselves result in a requirement for significantly increased educational provision but when taken cumulatively there could be a need for increased provision that will not be identified in a timely manner without collaboration. This further endorses the need for a regular structured engagement to take place between our respective organisations so that we can work together proactively to ensure that adequate educational provision is available in the appropriate locations in order to meet the needs of the increased population.

**An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna**
Department of
Education and Skills



The Department will continue to work closely with the Council in relation to the provision of new schools and the development of existing schools and emphasises the critical importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient and appropriate land is zoned for this purpose. The Department would welcome the opportunity to engage and work closely with the Council any future review of the current County Development Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Hanlon
Statutory Plans,
Forward Planning Section