



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

Louth County Council submission on
proposed Variation No.2 Monaghan
County Development Plan 2019 -2025



Introduction

Louth County Council (LCC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in relation to proposed Variation No. 2 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025.

Proposed Variation

Inclusion of the following text in Section 1.12 of Chapter One of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025:

“The Monaghan County Development Plan (MCDP) was prepared concurrently with both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Northern & Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (NWRA RSES) and a significant amount of synergy was achieved between the provisions of the MCDP and the provisions of both the NPF and the NWRA RSES as a consequence. However, for the purposes of clarity the provisions of the NPF and the NWRA RSES will take precedence over the provisions of MCDP.”

Background Information

The National Planning Framework (NPF) was adopted on 16th February 2018 and is the Government’s high level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the State to the year 2040. Monaghan is located within the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region (NWRA RSES), the aforementioned Strategy was made on 24th January 2020 and provides a high level development framework that supports the implementation of the NPF and the relevant economic policies and objectives of Government. The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 (MCDP) became effective on the 4th March 2019 and provides an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Monaghan.

The Monaghan County Development Plan (MCDP) was under review during the period of preparation of the NPF and the NPF was adopted prior to the publication of the draft MCDP. The MCDP was also prepared concurrently with the preparation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Area (NWRA RSES).



Louth County Council Comments

Louth County Council recognises that Section 11(1)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to be incorporated into the development plan. And that it further requires, where notice of a development plan review would be more than 26 weeks after the making of the relevant regional spatial and economic strategy, that the Planning Authority will within that period, either give notice of a development plan variation in accordance with Section 13, or give notice of a development plan review.

Louth County Council acknowledges that the purpose of Variation No. 2 to the MCDP is to ensure compliance with Section 11 (1) (b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Furthermore, LCC notes the findings of the Tables 2.1 and 2.2 which indicate that the MCDP does not conflict with the NWRA RSES Overarching Environmental Regional Policy Objectives, nor with NWRA RSES Regional Policy Objectives.

Taking account of the fact that Louth and Monaghan are adjoining Counties there are a number of areas of common interest at both a strategic and local level on which Louth County Council will continue to engage and collaborate with Monaghan County Council. This includes dealing with the potential implications of Brexit on the border counties and improving connectivity by progressing transport projects such as the upgrade of the N2. The alignment of the County Development Plan with national and regional policy provides a platform for a common approach to be taken to deal with such issues and progressing such projects.

Conclusion

Louth County Council have no objection to proposed Variation No. 2 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025.



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