



Comhairle Ceantair Lú

Irish Language Officer  
Sinn Féin Constituency Office  
2-3 Crowe Street  
Dundalk  
Co. Louth

Forward Planning Section  
Town Hall,  
Crowe Street,  
Dundalk,  
Co. Louth

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed a submission from Louth Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair in relation to the **Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027**.

Is mise le meas,

Kayleigh Ward,

Oifigeach na Gaeilge  
Sinn Féin Chomhairle Ceantair Lú

#### Submission details

In a draft plan in which the strategic vision sets out to deliver a county whose heritage is protected; Sinn Féin Louth is concerned at the omission of the Irish Language from the Draft County Development Plan.

The Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022 identifies the importance of the Oriel heritage in Louth, where the Oriel Irish dialect was spoken until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, as a heritage to be protected and promoted. The Local Economic and Community Plan recognises the importance of the language and its relationship to self esteem and pride of place in the community. The strategic vision of the Draft County development plan seeks to ensure that no individual or social group is excluded, ensure social sustainability and protected heritage, yet doesn't mention the Irish language.

It is considered extremely important by Sinn Féin Louth that Louth County Council consider the importance of the Irish language to the county and give it due consideration when

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reviewing the draft plan, and include policies and actions that are supportive to the development of the language from 2021-2027.

Sinn Féin Louth request that the following be included in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.

1. Equality of language on signage in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003.

Sinn Féin Louth are asking Louth County Council to consider making equality of language on signage an action in the Louth County Development Plan ensuring that the Irish spelling and grammar on signage is checked and correct for all signs produced by Louth County Council by the Oifigeach Gaeilge.

2. Naming of new developments in Louth

All planning applications for housing developments and new streets should require proposals for the naming of the development with an Irish language option and/or in bilingual format and reflecting local heritage of Louth in accordance with the Department Circular 'Naming of Streets and Roads, Numbering of Houses and the Use of Irish'.

3. Encouragement/promotion of business and shop signage in Irish or bilingual

With funding now being provided for the preservation of Irish language business and shop fronts, Sinn Féin Louth would like to propose that Louth County Council make it a priority to encourage and promote the use of Irish on business and shop fronts in the county.

4. Identified need for a Gaeloideachas in the county and planning for Naoíscoileanna, Gaelscoileanna and Gaelcholáistí in Louth within the lifetime of this plan.

Sinn Féin Louth would like the council to consider the planning and identified need for a Gaelcholáiste in the county to be included in the Louth County Development Plan. This need is not only evidenced by the oversubscribed Gaeilscoileanna and Naoíscoileanna in Drogheda and Dundalk, but by the number of children travelling to Balbriggan to receive their education through the medium of Irish from Drogheda and Dundalk and the approval in principle by the Department of Education for a satellite of Coláiste Ghlor na Mara in Louth dependent on a suitable premises being identified.

In addition to this, planning should be started for the provision of Irish medium education from Naoíscoil level in the north of the county to support Louth County Council's aim to promote and protect the language and heritage from the Oriel region.