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## **Meath County Council**

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27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### **RE: Material Amendments Louth County Development Plan, 2021-2027**

Dear Frank,

Meath County Council welcomes the publication of amendments to the Draft Louth County Development Plan, 2021-2027 and the opportunity to further engage in the consultation process. We also note and welcome the response to our earlier submission on your Draft County Development Plan (CDP) as set out in the Chief Executive Report, March 2021.

The Draft Plan sets out an ambitious strategy to create an attractive County in which to live, work, visit and do business. Meath County Council acknowledges the priority afforded to the development of Drogheda in the Draft Development Plan.

#### **Drogheda**

Meath County Council reiterates its commitment to the preparation of the Joint Urban Area Plan for the Regional Growth Centre of Drogheda in accordance with the requirement of objective RPO 4.11 of the RSES. It is essential that ongoing engagement between both Local Authorities and EMRA continues to advance plan preparation. Meath County Council acknowledges the commitment of Louth County Council in Alteration Number 02 in this regard. Furthermore, proposed Alteration No 16 provides amendments to Section 2.13.6 of the Draft Plan to state that *“In addition an emphasis shall also be placed on consolidation between areas developed or under construction and the existing built up area of Drogheda rather than a continuation of a dispersed pattern of development in the Northern Environs area.”* This commitment to compact urban growth shall provide the cornerstone of the new Joint Urban Area Plan for Drogheda.

Meath County Council also acknowledges and recognizes the commitment to develop strategic infrastructure in Drogheda throughout the plan period. In Alteration No. 21, Policy Objective SS 12, it is proposed to include additional text in the Louth CDP relating to the Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR). *“To recognise the importance of the Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR) as a critical piece of enabling infrastructure in the strategic growth of Drogheda and to seek to secure funding to progress the delivery of this project as a priority during the life of the Plan.”* Meath County

Council welcome this amendment and note a similar policy in Meath CDP Material Amendments which is in Chapter 4.1 where a new Policy is inserted into Section 4.7.2.2 for Drogheda as follows:

***“ED POL XX***

*To support and protect the role of Drogheda Port as a port of regional significance, including facilitating the relocation of Drogheda Port in Meath subject to a feasibility study and appropriate coastal zone management, as well as supporting the future development of the Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR), in line with RPO 4.12.”*

Alteration no. 59 recognises the strong connection between Louth and Meath (Boyne Valley, Bru na Boinne, shared coastline, Southern environs of Drogheda) while Alteration No. 66 to insert a new policy objective ‘*To promote Drogheda as a location for Foreign Direct Investment*’ is very much welcomed and is mirrored with **STH DRO OBJ 2** contained in the Draft Written Statement for the Southern Environs of Drogheda in County Meath.

Alteration no. 76 includes the insertion of body text in relation to the preparation of a Local Transport Plan for Drogheda and this is very much welcomed. However, in Amendment No. 2 to the Draft Meath CDP, we are proposing to include a similar new objective in the Drogheda written statement. **STH DRO OBJ XX: To support the preparation of a Local Transport Plan for Drogheda, in conjunction with Louth County Council and in consultation with the National Transport Authority and other relevant stakeholders.** Meath County Council respectfully suggest that the wording in alteration no. 76 to the Louth CDP is amended to include ‘**in conjunction with Meath County Council**’.

### **General Comments**

- Meath County Council welcome the inclusion of additional Text to Policy Objective SS 18, ‘*To develop a network of green areas throughout the town including the delivery of a greenway along the northern and southern banks of the River Boyne stretching from Townley Hall to Baltray and Oldbridge to Mornington in County Meath while maintaining the integrity of the Boyne Natura 2000 sites.*’
- The rewording of TOU 10 to provide additional supports for walking and cycling routes including the Boyne greenway which will assist in the developing of networks.
- The additional text proposed to align rural housing policy in respect of the World Heritage site is also welcomed.

Meath County Council look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Louth County Council and EMRA to achieve the continued sustainable growth of our region and wish you all the very best in concluding your Development Plan review through the remaining statutory planning process.