

Thomas McEvoy,
A/Director of Services,
Louth County Council,
Town Hall,
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17th June 2022



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Re: Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 – Variation no.1

Dear Mr McEvoy,

The National Transport Authority ('the NTA') has reviewed Variation no.1 to the *Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027* and, on the basis of the *Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2016-2035)* and the developing DART+ Coastal North project, make the following observation.

The NTA notes that the purpose of Variation no. 1 is to align with national and regional policy in relation to housing supply targets and are fully supportive of this from a strategic county-wide perspective. The resultant distribution of housing units between various settlements within the County raises some concern, however, most notably the significant reduction in the number of units being accommodated within Drogheda relative to other settlements.

The NTA would draw the Council's attention to the proposed DART+ Coastal North project which is provided for under the National Development Plan 2021-2030. This project will deliver a significantly enhanced level of rail service to Drogheda, using zero-emissions trains, with the number of morning peak period services to Dublin increasing from 11 to 24, a more than doubling of frequency and associated capacity.

As such, the NTA recommends that the Council consider how the reduction in housing allocation for Drogheda aligns with the core principles of the *National Sustainable Mobility Policy*, which emphasises the need for integrated land use and transport planning at all levels, and how the proposed variation is consistent with the objective to maximise use of existing and planned public transport infrastructure and Government investment priorities.

I trust that the views of the NTA will be taken into consideration in the review of Variation no.1 to the *Louth Development Plan*.

Yours sincerely,

Michael MacAree
Head of Strategic Planning