

# Chief Executive's Report First Stage of Public Consultation

Forward Planning Section

# 2020



**Chief Executive's Report to Members  
of Laois County Council under Section  
11 of the Planning and Development  
Act 2000 as amended**

Laois County Council  
Aras and Chontae  
Portlaoise  
Co Laois  
057 8664000  
Planning@laoiscoco.ie

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS.....2**

**PART 1 INTRODUCTION.....3**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT.....3

1.1 FORMAT OF THIS REPORT.....3

1.2 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND TO THE PREPARATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT 3

1.3 OVERALL PROCEDURES FOR PREPARATION OF DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN ..... 4

1.4 REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (NPF) AND REGIONAL AND SPATIAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY (RSES) ..... 5

1.5 PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION STAGE 1 ..... 6

1.6 SUBMISSIONS.....8

1.7 NEXT STEPS ..... 8

**PART 2: ISSUES RAISED AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S OPINION & RECOMMENDATIONS .....10**

2.0 INTRODUCTION..... 10

2.1 EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (EMRA) – LCDP 21..... 10

2.2 THE OFFICE OF THE PLANNING REGULATOR (OPR) – LCDP 42..... 16

2.3 STATUTORY STAKEHOLDERS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND INTEREST GROUPS..... 21

**2.3.1 VOLUME 1 WRITTEN STATEMENT ..... 21**

**2.3.2 VOLUME 2 SETTLEMENT PLANS..... 61**

**APPENDICES .....73**

APPENDIX A ..... 74

APPENDIX B..... 75

APPENDIX C..... 77

APPENDIX D ..... 78

APPENDIX E..... 81

## **PART 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

In accordance with Section 11 of Part II of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 as amended, Laois County Council has commenced the review of the current Laois County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 and the preparation of the new Laois County Development Plan 2021 - 2027. The purpose of this report is to report on the outcome of the statutory consultation process and to set out the Chief Executive's response to the issues raised in the submissions received during this period.

In accordance with the Planning Act, this stage of the review shall be strategic in nature for the purposes of developing:

- the objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the development plan, and
- the core strategy, and shall take account of the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government.

### **1.1 FORMAT OF THIS REPORT**

- Part 1 sets out the requirement and legislative background for the report.
- Part 2 contains a summary and analysis of all written submissions received, including from the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly and the Office of the Planning Regulator.
- The remaining submissions from Statutory Consultees, members of the public and interest groups are summarised in a group format by topic.
- A summary of all the issues raised during the public consultation events is also set out by topic in Appendix D.
- Appendix A lists the Prescribed Bodies who were informed of the review and Appendix B includes a list of valid written submissions.

### **1.2 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND TO THE PREPARATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive's Report is prepared and submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 11 of Part II of the Local Government Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Section 11(4) of the Act sets out the requirements in relation to the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report. The Chief Executive's Report is required to:

- List the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations, as well as any persons or bodies consulted;

- Summarise the issues raised in the submissions and during the consultations, where appropriate but shall not refer to a submission relating to a request or proposals for zoning of particular land for any purpose;
- Give the opinion of the Chief Executive to the issues raised, taking into account the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area, and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any Minister of the Government, and state the Chief Executive's recommendations on the policies to be included in the Draft Development Plan; and
- In the case of each planning authority within the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) (of which Laois forms part), this report shall summarise the issues raised and the recommendations made by the EMRA and outline the recommendations of the Chief Executive in relation to the manner in which those issues and recommendations should be addressed in the draft development plan. This has also been done for the Office of the Planning Regulator.

This report is required to be submitted to the members of the Planning Authority, or to a committee of the Planning Authority, as may be decided by the members of the authority, for their consideration. In this instance it is being submitted to the Members of Laois County Council.

### **1.3 OVERALL PROCEDURES FOR PREPARATION OF DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended requires each Planning Authority to make a Development Plan every 6 years. Section 10 of the Act states that a Development Plan shall set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the Development Plan.

The Act sets out the statutory timelines and procedures for reviewing a Development Plan such as commencing the review within 4 years after the existing plan was adopted, consulting with the public and prescribed authorities. The process takes up to two years and has 3 stages.

The first stage involves an eight week preliminary consultation period, followed by preparation of a report on the consultation and then up to 10 weeks for consideration of the report by Council. This stage will be followed by:

- A 12 week period for the preparation of the Draft Laois County Development Plan and its submission to Council;
- Council then have an 8 week period to consider the Draft Plan;
- At the end of the 8 week period, unless Council amend it by formal resolution, it becomes the formal Draft Plan;
- Within 2 weeks it must be made available for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks, during which written submission or observations can be made.

The stages after the public display of the Draft County Development Plan to the final adoption of the new County Development Plan can take up to approximately 12 months.

#### 1.4 REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (NPF) AND REGIONAL AND SPATIAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY (RSES)

Following the publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF) each of the 3 regions is required to adopt a Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) and all County Development Plans must be consistent with the policies and objectives of the NPF and RSES relevant to their region. County Laois is within the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly as outlined in the diagram below.



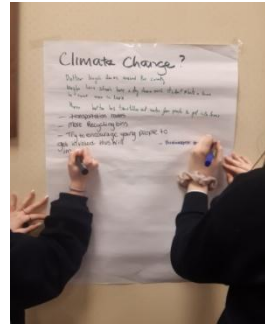
**Figure 1: Strategic Planning Areas for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority (Source: RSES)**

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly adopted the RSES on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019.

In accordance with Section 11 (1) (b) (iii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Planning Authority is required to either review or vary the current County Development Plan within 26 weeks of the adoption of the RSES.

In this regard and given the timeframe of the existing Laois County Development Plan which is due to be reviewed in July 2021, Laois County Council will commence a full review of the Plan.

## 1.5 PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION STAGE 1



The statutory 8 week consultation process for the review of the Laois County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 began on 6th January 2020 with public notices appearing in the Irish Independent and local newspaper the Laois Nationalist, and ended on 2nd March 2020.

An Issues Paper was prepared which set out the County Development Plan (CDP) process and some key issues affecting County Laois in making the CDP. This set out the context and background for debate.

Public consultation was facilitated through a number of media, including:

- Newspaper adverts advised of the consultation period and invited submissions and advised of the public meetings held during January and February 2020.
- Full details of the process were also advertised on the Council's website and Social Media.
- The Issues Paper was sent to the prescribed bodies, the adjoining Planning Authorities and relevant stakeholders and infrastructure providers.

Meetings, Workshops and Briefing Sessions:

- A meeting with the Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority and the Office of the Planning Regulator was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 respectively to discuss new legislation and requirements for the new Plan.
- A briefing session was organised for the elected members at the December 2019 monthly meeting of Laois County Council at which the members were advised of the timescale and procedures involved in the review process. A workshop then took place on 13th January 2020 to further inform the elected members of main issues and their obligations in directing the preparation of the draft CDP.
- A briefing session was also held for Department Heads of Laois County Council to advise on timescale and procedures involved in the review process. A further meeting will be held in the coming weeks to discuss the Infrastructure Audit and Tier 1 and 2 zoning in each of the designated settlement areas in County Laois which will inform the preparation of the Core Strategy for the new draft CDP.
- Workshops and briefing sessions were held with a number of focus groups including:

Focus Group	Date	No of people	Issues Raised
<b>Heritage Forum</b>	23/01/20	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected structures</li> <li>Vernacular housing</li> <li>Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's)</li> <li>Landscape Character Assessment</li> <li>Rock of Dunamaise</li> <li>Flooding</li> <li>Pollinator policy</li> <li>National Biodiversity Plan</li> <li>Invasive species</li> <li>Projection of Swifts</li> </ul>
<b>Age Friendly Forum</b>	04/02/20	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking/Traffic</li> <li>Environment</li> <li>Walkability of places</li> </ul>
<b>Laois Chamber, Laois Enterprise Centres and LEO</b>	05/02/20	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact Development</li> <li>Starter Units to next level</li> <li>Portarlinton town renewal</li> <li>Vacant Units</li> <li>Lack of appropriate office space</li> <li>Strong enterprise base</li> <li>Diversifying into other sectors</li> <li>Tourism</li> </ul>
<b>Laois Public Participation Network</b>	17/02/20	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Centre Development</li> <li>Derelict Sites/ Vacant Sites and the use of CPO Legislation</li> <li>Provision of executive style housing and low density development</li> <li>Provision of footpaths and cycleways to schools in rural areas</li> </ul>
<b>Agents Meeting</b>	20/02/20	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDP review process</li> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Validation</li> <li>Development management</li> </ul>
<b>Comhairle Na N-Og</b>	21/02/20	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education – third level college for Laois</li> <li>More walking and cycling</li> <li>More manmade villages in towns – Kilminchy , etc</li> <li>Working from home</li> <li>Planting more trees</li> <li>Rural area development</li> <li>Light up the rock</li> <li>Develop opportunity at Donaghmore Workhouse</li> <li>Develop vacant space</li> <li>Open sites to the public – Ballyfin House, Abbeyleix Demesne</li> <li>Promote farmers markets</li> <li>Better lighting on walkways</li> <li>Villages need more local services</li> <li>Young people moving away because jobs not here</li> <li>Transport options to Carlow</li> <li>Long terms solutions to flooding</li> <li>Develop rail links to other towns</li> <li>Develop old mill in Mountmellick for next business</li> <li>Better retail opportunities needed</li> <li>Remote working Mountrath</li> </ul>

Five public consultation sessions have been scheduled across the County in order to provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn about the review process, to highlight some of the strategic issues facing the County and to facilitate feedback from the public about issues they felt should be taken into account in the preparation of the draft development plan.

40 people attended the public events across the County. A report on these sessions is included in Appendix D of this report. Public consultation sessions were held in the following venues:

Location	Date	Time
<b>Heritage House, Abbeyleix</b>	Tuesday, 14th January 2020	6 – 8pm
<b>Heritage Centre, Clonaslee</b>	Thursday, 16th January 2020	7 – 9pm
<b>Community Centre, Killeshin</b>	Tuesday, 21st January 2020	6 – 8pm
<b>Rathdowney Library</b>	Monday 24th February 2020	2.30 – 3.30pm
<b>Portarlington Library</b>	Tuesday 25th February 2020	2.30 – 3.30pm

## 1.6 SUBMISSIONS

**62** written submissions were received within the statutory timeframe which are outlined in Appendix B. **Two** submissions received within the statutory timeframe related to a request or proposal for zoning of particular land for a particular purpose. In accordance with section 11(4) (b) (ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) these submissions cannot be accepted / considered at the Pre-Draft stage which is listed in Appendix C.

This report summarises the following and includes the Chief Executive's opinion and recommendation on each issue:

- The main issues raised by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA).
- The main issues raised by the Office of the Planning Regulator.
- The main issues raised by statutory consultees, members of the public and interest groups by topic.

## 1.7 NEXT STEPS

***Please note that dates may be subject to change based on the emergency legislation pertaining to COVID 19.***

Members have 10 weeks to consider this report and may issue strategic directions to the Chief Executive regarding the preparation of the draft plan, taking account of the statutory obligations of the local authority and any relevant policies of the Government.

This report will be circulated to the Elected Members to facilitate consideration of the report with final discussion at the June Council meeting.

Following the consideration of this Chief Executive's Report by the Elected Members and the issuing of directions regarding the preparation of the Draft Development Plan, a 12-week period is allotted by the Act for the preparation of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021 - 2027.



This means that the Draft Plan will be due for submission to the members in September 2020. Members will then consider the Draft Plan and have 8 weeks to adopt / amend it before it goes on public display in November/December 2020.

## PART 2: ISSUES RAISED AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OPINION & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

A summary of the issues raised in the consultation process and the Chief Executive's **Opinion** and **Recommendations** are outlined in this section as follows:

- Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA)
- The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)
- Statutory Stakeholders, Members of the Public and Interest Groups
  - Volume 1 Written Statement
  - Volume 2 Settlement Plans

### 2.1 EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (EMRA) – LCDP 21

Section 4 (bb) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended requires a summary of the issues raised by the relevant Regional Authority. The table below provides a summary of the issues raised by the Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority (EMRA) and the Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendation to same.

Issues Raised	Opinion
<p><u>Consistency with NPF and RSES</u></p> <p>The Planning Authority shall ensure, when making the County Development Plan, that it is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region, thus ensuring full alignment between local, regional and national planning policy.</p>	<p>The RSES will be incorporated into the Draft Plan in accordance with Section 11(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.</p>
<p><u>Growth Enablers</u></p> <p>Growth Enablers have been specified (Section 3.2) as part of the RSES. Attention is brought to the appropriate general Growth Enablers and the Growth Enablers of the Core and Gateway Regions, which are relevant to County Laois.</p> <p>County Development Plan shall ensure consistency with RPOs 3.2 and 3.3, aimed at securing compact growth in line with the NPF. Relevant to County Laois, RPO 3.2 requires that local authorities set out measures to achieve compact development targets of at least 30% of new homes within the existing built up footprint of settlements.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will ensure compliance with both RPO 3.2 and 3.3 of the RSES in relation to compact growth and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl.</p>
<p><u>Regeneration</u></p> <p>The RSES seeks that regeneration lands are identified</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will continue to identify Brownfield lands for regeneration within the towns and villages of</p>

<p>in Core Strategies and that specific objectives are set out to develop the lands (RPO 3.3 refers), including measures to encourage urban regeneration of Brownfield lands (RPO 9.8 refers).</p>	<p>County Laois similar to those that have already been identified in the CDP 2017-2023 and local Area Plans for Portlaoise, Portarlington, Mountmellick and Graiguecullen for example –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Convent Lands, Portlaoise;</li> <li>• the CBS Lands, Portlaoise ;</li> <li>• the Maltings Site, Portlaoise;</li> <li>• Centre Point Lands, Portlaoise;</li> <li>• Avon Site, Portarlington.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Settlement and Housing Strategy</u></p> <p>The RSES defines Portlaoise as a Key Town and the Settlement Hierarchy of the County Development Plan is required to reflect this. Population targets are to be applied in line with the requirements of the transitional population projections methodology in the Implementation Road Map for the NPF, issued under DHPLG Circular FPS04/2018. Table 4.2 of the RSES outlines the Settlement Typologies to be included as part of the Settlement Hierarchy, which are to be defined by the County Development Plan</p> <p>Section 9.3 of the RSES deals specifically with ‘Housing and Regeneration’, whereas Section 4.8 of the RSES deals with housing in rural places. These sections will provide further direction to assist in formulating related policy for the County Development Plan. The Council are reminded of the obligation to prepare a Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA). RPO 9.5 outlines the commitment of the Regional Assembly to support local authorities in the provision of a Housing Need Demand Assessment. This is in keeping with National Policy Objective (NPO) 37 of the National Planning Framework (NPF).</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will address Chapter 4 of the RSES, including Settlement Strategy RPOs 4.1 and 4.2, and Appendix A and B of the RSES (SPA and County Population Tables, Asset Based Approach).</p> <p>This includes Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Self-Sustaining Towns, Towns, Villages and Rural areas. Regarding the Key Town of Portlaoise and also Graiguecullen, RPOs 4.26 and 4.27 addresses the role of Key Towns within Core Strategies and this is augmented by RPOs 4.71-4.74 which specifically relate to Portlaoise. Table 4.2 and 4.3 will be addressed to provide different settlement typologies for the towns and villages of the County.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will align Core Strategy, Housing Strategy and Settlement Strategy with the policies of the NPF and RSES.</p> <p>A Housing Needs Demand Assessment (HNDA) will be undertaken in compliance with upcoming guidelines on same. This will offer a robust evidence base undertaken to correlate and accurately align future housing requirements which will inform housing policy for the County, the housing strategy in terms of the proportion of social and affordable housing required over the plan period, the Core Strategy for the County through the designation of housing land to be made available throughout the plan period.</p>
<p><u>Economic Development</u></p> <p>Section 6.4 of the RSES, RPO 6.2 to anticipate unexpected opportunities that may provide for economic development, RPOs 6.4-6.8 and RPO 4.84 relating to the rural economy, RPO 6.9 which supports</p>	<p>Economic development within the County is a strategic corporate goal for the Council, and the Draft Plan will continue to enable economic growth and enterprise development, attract appropriate investment, including sustainable tourism and</p>

<p>relevant actions within the Regional Enterprise Plan related to County Laois, RPO 6.19 that specifically relates to tourism in County Laois and, RPO 4.73 related to the J17 National Enterprise Park. Section 6.5 details specific economic sectors and Section 6.3 of the RSES contains Guiding Principles for situating Strategic Employment Development and should be consulted in developing related policy.</p> <p>The future CDP should also draw on the relevant work of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and recognise the key role of the LECP in facilitating local economic development.</p>	<p>opportunities for strategic employment development within the County.</p> <p>The J17 National Enterprise Park Masterplan will continue to be promoted as a key strategic economic site within the County.</p> <p>The actions of the LECP and the Regional Enterprise Plan will continue to inform the Draft Plan in relation to economic policy, particularly in relation to collaboration between stakeholders in delivering their plans and programmes.</p>
<p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>RPO 8.6 which outlines that a Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the settlement of Portlaoise is to be prepared. With respect to the provision of Infrastructure, information contained at Chapters 7, 8 and 10 will assist the Local Authority in developing related policy</p>	<p>Laois County Council will prepare a Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Portlaoise and provide an objective in the Draft Plan for the completion of same.</p> <p>Reference will be made to Chapters 7, 8 and 10 of the RSES in preparing infrastructure and transportation chapters of the CDP.</p>
<p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>The Council are asked to consider the role that renewable energy will play in future Climate Action. The attention of the Council is drawn to the requirements of RPO 3.6 and the preceding related paragraphs of the RSES.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will contain a robust chapter on tackling climate change and set demonstrable objectives in relation to renewable energy.</p> <p>It is proposed to accord with RPO 3.6 of the RSES and relevant national guidelines such as the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines.</p> <p>The Planning Department will continue to engage with Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).</p>
<p><u>Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage and Tourism</u></p> <p>Sections 7.5 and 9.7 will assist the Local Authority in formulating future County Development Plan policy around cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage, heritage led regeneration, biodiversity and natural heritage.</p> <p>Section 7.7 of the RSES provides information regarding Green Infrastructure and Section 7.8 provides detail on the topic of Landscape which will also be of assistance in formulating future County Development Plan policy</p> <p>Information contained as part of Chapter 6 of the</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will include policies in relation to cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage, heritage led regeneration, biodiversity, landscape and natural heritage and adhere to RSES.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will provide policies in relation to Green Infrastructure and develop opportunities in relation to Greenways.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will include policy relating to tourism and development of the County's natural assets which will be informed by the Laois Tourism Strategy 2018-</p>

<p>RSES, which specifically relates to Tourism, Natural and Cultural Tourism Assets and Investing in the Tourism Product will assist the Local Authority in developing related policy.</p>	<p>2023 and subject to appropriate assessment.</p>
<p><u>Social Development</u> The information contained as part of Chapter 9 of the RSES, which details subjects including diversity, inclusivity, housing, regeneration, healthy placemaking, social opportunity, and economic opportunity, access to childcare, education, health services and access to arts, culture, language and heritage.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will provide policies in relation to diversity, inclusivity, housing, regeneration, healthy placemaking, social opportunity, economic opportunity, access to childcare, education, health services and access to arts, culture, language and heritage</p>
<p><u>Portlaoise Demonstration Project</u> RSES recognises that Portlaoise has a number of strategic areas that can act as regenerative catalysts with RSES and NPF policy that supports the delivery of the Portlaoise Regeneration and Development Demonstration Project. In addition, support is also provided within the RSES for the transition of Portlaoise to a low carbon town centre by reducing car use and promoting walking and cycling and improving the mix of uses within the town centre.</p>	<p>Portlaoise was unveiled as one of the successful Towns to be allocated funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), launched in July 2018 as part of Project Ireland 2040.</p> <p>Portlaoise secured over €3.3 million in funding for 2019 in respect of the development of a new Cultural Quarter in Portlaoise, and also the development of initiatives which will see Portlaoise becoming the first Low Carbon town in Ireland.</p> <p>Both proposals form part of a wider plan for Portlaoise 2040 that will see a number of Public Realm enhancements and renewal projects within the town centre.</p> <p>It focuses on a number of land mark buildings relating to the towns establishment in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This included the Fort Protector, Old St. Peters Church and Presentation Convent, The River Triogue; and the Ridge Burial Ground.</p> <p>The Cultural Quarter will centre on this historically significant area of the original Portlaoise settlement. The plans for the area are already well underway with the remodelling of Fitzmaurice Place. The Fort protector will be the central attraction in this re-imagined space where it will be restored with historically accurate methods and fitted with a new viewing tower that will be open to the public.</p> <p>Laois County Council also plans to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• re-purpose the old Scoil Mhuire site to become the new home for the Laois School of Music;</li> <li>• provision of new public car parking at the Train station;</li> <li>• Housing Units are planned for development within the Presentation Sisters convent lands;</li> <li>• the delivery of a new Portlaoise public library replacing the old Shaws building at Lower Square;</li> <li>• carry out public realm enhancements to the main street, laneways, Lyster Square and James Fintan Lalor Ave.</li> </ul> <p>Future applications to be made under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) in 2020 will focus on integrated urban development which will prioritise site activation and public realm enhancements which will improve connectivity throughout the town centre.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will continue to provide specific objectives in relation to the regeneration of the Key Town of Portlaoise and provide specific objectives to realise the full potential of Portlaoise Demonstration Project.</p>
<p><u>Rural Development</u></p> <p>The RSES recognises the contribution that rural places make towards regional and national development in economic, social and environmental terms.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will recognise the contribution that rural places make in terms of economic, social and environment. The Draft Plan will reflect Section 4.8, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 of the RSES and in particular Section 6.8 which relates to diversification of the rural economy</p>
<p><u>General</u></p> <p>In formulating the County Development Plan, the Council are advised to give consideration to the style and legibility of the future County Development Plan, in order to ensure it is clear and accessible for future users.</p> <p>In determining the overall vision of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027, it is recommended that the Council consider the Vision, Key Principles and Regional Strategic Outcomes (RSOs) of the RSES (Chapter 2) in crafting this. The RSOs are aligned to</p>	<p>The Vision of the Draft Plan will consider the vision and key principles stated in Chapter 2 of the RSES.</p>

<p>the National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs) of the NPF and it should be noted that the ability to demonstrate delivery of these may potentially be linked to future funding sources.</p>	
--	--

## RECOMMENDATION

The contents of the submission are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the following:

- The Draft Plan will incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that will accord with the provisions set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the NPF. The population and housing targets for the County will include an analysis of current demographic and population data trends in a Housing Needs Demand Assessment and form the basis for objectives and policies in an evidence based and sequential manner.
- The Settlement Strategy for the County will accord with the Settlement Hierarchy as indicated in the RSES and support the development of the Key Towns of Portlaoise and Graiguecullen.
- The Draft Plan will ensure compliance with RPO 3.2 of the RSES which relates to requiring at least 30% of future homes that are targeted in settlements will be located within the existing built-up footprint of these settlements in an effort address compact development and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl. Regeneration/Opportunity sites will also be identified in the Draft Plan.
- The Draft Plan will recognise the contribution that rural places make towards regional and national development in economic, social and environmental terms. The Draft Plan policy will reflect Section 4.8 of the chapter 'People and Place'; sections 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 of the chapter 'Economy and Employment' and the sectoral opportunities of Section 6.4 and RPOs 6.4-6.8 and RPO 4.84 relating to the rural economy of the RSES.
- The Draft Plan will continue to support economic growth and development, and in particular support RPO 4.73 related to the J17 National Enterprise Park indicated in the RSES. The Draft Plan will provide objectives to ensure growth of employment across every sector in the County including sustainable rural development, the development of the tourism industry and the continued conservation of the County's natural, cultural and built heritage.
- The Draft Plan will be compliant with European and National environmental and climate change laws with a particular emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Draft Plan will contain a robust chapter on tackling climate change and set demonstrable objectives and targets in relation to renewable energy and sustainable transport modes.

## 2.2 THE OFFICE OF THE PLANNING REGULATOR (OPR) – LCDP 42

This section contains a summary of the issues raised by the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) and the Opinion and Recommendation of the Chief Executive of how those issues will be dealt with in the Draft Plan.

ISSUES RAISED	OPINION
<p><u>Context</u></p> <p>In accordance with the provisions of section 31AM of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act), the Office is obliged to evaluate and assess development plans in the context of certain statutory parameters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matters generally to be contained in a development plan (section 10) and, in particular, section 10(2)(n) in relation to climate change;</li> <li>• Consistency with the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (RSES);</li> <li>• Ministerial guidelines under section 28;</li> <li>• Ministerial policy directives issued under section 29, and,</li> <li>• Such other legislative and policy matters as the Minister may communicate to the Office in writing.</li> </ul>	<p>The Planning Authority shall ensure that the Draft Plan will be consistent with the NPF, RSES, Section 28 Guidelines, Section 29 directives and other legislation that Minister may issue.</p>
<p><u>Core, Settlement and Housing Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Policy Objectives (NPOs) under the NPF, and Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) under the RSES will determine the content and detail of the plan.</li> <li>• The determination of a justified settlement hierarchy is a central part of the core strategy. Portlaoise has been designated as the key town for Laois under the RSES. In addition, Graiguecullen has also been designated a key town as part of Graiguecullen-Carlow which traverses the border with County Carlow and the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA). No higher tier settlements (cities or regional growth centres) have been identified for the County and no settlement has been otherwise identified for population growth in excess of 30%, by 2040, over the 2016 baseline (NPO9).</li> <li>• The lower settlements will be determined in</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will address Chapter 4 of the RSES, including Settlement Strategy RPOs 4.1 and 4.2, and Appendix A and B of the RSES (SPA and County Population Tables, Asset Based Approach). This includes Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Self-Sustaining Towns, Towns, Villages and Rural areas. Regarding the Key Town of Portlaoise and also Graiguecullen, RPOs 4.26 and 4.27 address the role of Key Towns within Core Strategies and this is augmented by RPOs 4.71-4.74 which specifically relate to Portlaoise. Table 4.2 and 4.3 will be addressed to provide different settlement typologies.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will align Core Strategy, Housing Strategy and Settlement Strategy with the policies of the NPF and RSES.</p> <p>A Housing Needs Demand Assessment (HNDA) will</p>



accordance with RPO 4.1 of the RSES.

- The NPF requires at least 30% of all new homes targeted in settlements will be delivered within the existing built-up footprint through infill development and use of brownfield sites (NPO3c; RPO 4.1). It will be necessary (RPO 3.3 and RPO 4.1) for the core strategy to identify regeneration areas with urban settlements, including objectives for the delivery of infill and brownfield sites in view of the NPF compact growth targets (Graiguecullen, Portarlinton and Abbeyleix).
- The Office acknowledges the positive and proactive approach to urban regeneration already planned by your planning authority through the Portlaoise Regeneration and Development Demonstration Project, funded by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (as supported by RPO 4.7).
- Given the largely rural character of the County, the plan will need to consider how best it can prioritise the regeneration and rejuvenation of rural villages and towns (RPO4.77, NPO15), including through appropriate land activation approaches (NPO18a) and (RPO7.78, NPO18b) proactive facilitation of the building of homes in such locations through provision of serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure through the development of a programme for 'new homes in small towns and villages' and would be an alternative to one-off housing for families who would like to reside close to the facilities, services and amenities available in Laois' rural villages and towns.
- It will be essential that the core strategy for your County is implementable. The tiered approach to zoning (NPO72a) and other mechanisms to prioritise the delivery of zoned lands for development (NPO73a-73c) will be important considerations for your planning authority and to any future observations of the Office.
- It will be important that any strategy for the prioritisation of provision of water/wastewater infrastructure be based on the growth strategy

be undertaken in compliance with upcoming guidelines on same. This will offer a robust evidence base undertaken to correlate and accurately align future housing requirements which will inform housing policy for the County, the housing strategy in terms of the proportion of social and affordable housing required over the plan period, the Core Strategy for the County through the designation of housing land to be made available throughout the plan period.

The Draft Plan will also focus on the tiered approach to zoning as indicated in Appendix A of the NPF, ensuring that development occurs where infrastructure is in place to support development.

The Draft Plan will provide for the growth of Laois towns and villages appropriate to their scale / role and function as will be set out in the Core Strategy. Central to this will be the development of an evidence led asset base which will be used to identify the opportunities within towns and villages on the settlement hierarchy.

To this end the Draft Plan will adhere to the RPO 4.2 of the RSES by ensuring that infrastructure investment and priorities are aligned with this spatial planning policy so as to ensure that adequate capacity for services is available to match projected demand for services and that assimilative capacity of the receiving waters/ environment is not exceeded.

<p>objectives under the NPF and the RSES where a standardised tiered approach to zoning (TAZ) (NPO72a) and to not zone lands that cannot be serviced during the life of the development plan (NPO72c)</p>	
<p><u>Joint Local Area Plan for Graiguecullen</u>                  The RSES acknowledges the location of Graiguecullen and the contiguous urban area Carlow town straddling the boundary between Laois and Carlow County Councils - signalling the need for a Joint Local Area Plan (LAP) to be prepared jointly by Laois and Carlow County Councils (RPO 4.75).</p>	<p>Laois and Carlow County Councils prepared a Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018 (as extended), in accordance with section 9(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.</p> <p>Laois County Council will continue to work with Carlow County Council to ensure a coordinated land use policy document for the Joint Carlow Graiguecullen Area.</p> <p>This LAP will be varied to comply with new legislation and also a full review will commence circa 2023.</p>
<p><u>Economic Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the County’s economic and employment base. In accordance with the NPF requirements (NPO10b), the RSES has identified strategic employment areas within the region, including (RPO 4.73) the Portlaoise J17 National Enterprise Park Masterplan economic zone. The inclusion of objectives, policies and mechanisms to assist and secure the development of the economic zone (subject to any appropriate and necessary safeguards) can therefore be anticipated to form a key element of the development plan.</li> <li>• In addition, given the rural character of the County, it will be important that the development plan provides for the facilitation and support of rural enterprise. This may include diversification of the rural economy (NPO21) through inter alia, tourism, the agri-food sector and extractive industries (NPO22, NPO23 and RPO 6.7 refer) and through facilitation of delivery of the National Broadband Plan (NPO24) in line with the NPF (and RPO 4.84 of the RSES). The NPF also recognises the need to protect important reserves of aggregates and minerals from</li> </ul>	<p>Economic development within the County is a strategic corporate goal for the Council, and the Draft Plan will continue to enable economic growth and enterprise development, attract appropriate investment, including sustainable tourism and opportunities for strategic employment development.</p> <p>The J17 National Enterprise Park Masterplan will continue to be promoted as a key strategic economic site within the County.</p> <p>The actions of the LECP and the Regional Enterprise Plan will continue to inform the Draft Plan in relation to economic policy, particularly in relation to collaboration between stakeholders in delivering their plans and programmes.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will seek to provide employment opportunities closer to population centres to address long distance commuting and may facilitate a greater proportion of trips to work by active modes.</p>

<p>development that might prejudice their utilisation.</p>	
<p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have regard to the Guiding Principles for Integration of Land Use and Transport under the RSES (RPO 8.1 and RPO 8.4).</li> <li>• The Office notes that it is a specific objective of the RSES (RPO 4.72) to support the transition of Portlaoise to a low carbon town centre</li> <li>• It will also be important, for settlements within the County which have good rail connections and promote and accommodate development of appropriate scale, intensity and mix of uses in proximity to train stations</li> <li>• Your planning authority should investigate with the DTTaS and the NTA how the development plan might best facilitate and improve the existing public transport services, and/or promote new services. Regarding the wider area, including rural towns and villages and the open countryside, it will be important for the development plan to address any potential for the integration of existing and future proposed greenways and blueways with settlements and facilities across the County (RPO7.24 and RPO7.25).</li> <li>• Compliance with this approach will assist your authority’s plan in meeting mandatory objective section 10(2)(n).</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will continue to support sustainable forms of transport and promote land use patterns which will reduce the need to travel and promote a modal shift to alternative uses of transport other than the car. Reference will be made to Chapters 7, 8 and 10 of the RSES in preparing infrastructure and transportation chapters of the CDP.</p> <p>Achieving this transition is already underway in Portlaoise (Demonstration Project). The Draft Plan will provide objectives and policies supporting sustainable modes and infrastructure.</p>
<p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having regard to the Climate Action Plan 2019 and to the objectives of the NPF and the RSES, the transition to a low carbon economy and the overall reduction of carbon emissions and energy use is a central planning policy issue to be addressed in the draft development plan.</li> <li>• The promotion of renewable energy sources within the County in accordance with the section 28 Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 (subject of Circular Letter PL 5/2017) or any replacement guidelines issued by the Minister, will also be critical to ensure Ireland meets its national targets and commitments to increase renewable energy supply and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>The transition to a low carbon economy and the overall reduction in carbon emissions is recognised as a central issue in planning policy and the Draft Plan will have regard to European and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will provide objectives for the promotion of sustainable settlement and transport strategies for urban and rural areas, which include the promotion of measures to reduce energy demand, to reduce GHG emissions and to adapt to climate change through the location, layout and design of new development.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submission are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the following:

- The Draft Plan will incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that will accord with the provisions set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the NPF. The population and housing targets for the County will include an analysis of current demographic and population data trends in a Housing Needs Demand Assessment and form the basis for objectives and policies in an evidence based and sequential manner.
- The Settlement Strategy for the County will accord with the Settlement Hierarchy as indicated in the RSES and support the development of the Key Towns of Portlaoise and Graiguecullen.
- The Draft Plan will ensure compliance with RPO 3.2 of the RSES which relates to requiring at least 30% of future homes that are targeted in settlements will be located within the existing built-up footprint of these settlements in an effort address compact development and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl. Regeneration/Opportunity sites will also be identified in the Draft Plan.
- The Draft Plan will recognise the contribution that rural places make towards regional and national development in economic, social and environmental terms. The Draft Plan policy will reflect Section 4.8 of the chapter 'People and Place'; sections 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 of the chapter 'Economy and Employment' and the sectoral opportunities of Section 6.4 and RPOs 6.4-6.8 and RPO 4.84 relating to the rural economy of the RSES.
- The Draft Plan will continue to support economic growth and development, and in particular support RPO 4.73 related to the J17 National Enterprise Park indicated in the RSES. The Draft Plan will provide objectives to ensure growth of employment across every sector in the County including sustainable rural development, the development of the tourism industry and the continued conservation of the County's natural, cultural and built heritage.
- The Draft Plan will be compliant with European and National environmental and climate change laws with a particular emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Draft Plan will contain a robust chapter on tackling climate change and set demonstrable objectives and targets in relation to renewable energy and sustainable transport modes. The Draft Plan will promote the transition to a low carbon integrated transport system by reducing the need for travel and supporting environmentally sustainable modes of transport.

## 2.3 STATUTORY STAKEHOLDERS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND INTEREST GROUPS

Excepting the EMRA and OPR submissions which have been addressed separately in the previous section of this report, this section contains a summary of the other 59 no. of valid written submissions received as part of the pre-Draft consultation process, and the Opinion and Recommendations of the Chief Executive to the issues raised therein. The submissions have been summarised under Volume 1 Written Statement with 9 no. topic areas and Volume 2 Settlement Plans relating to specific settlements within County Laois. Many of the submissions are inter-related across a number of topics.

### 2.3.1 VOLUME 1 WRITTEN STATEMENT

The submissions have been summarised under Volume 1 Written Statement with 9 no. topic areas which will relate to the Draft themes.

Many of the submissions are inter-related across a number of topics:

- Settlement Strategy
- Climate Change and Energy
- Biodiversity, Environment and Green Infrastructure
- Social, Community and Recreation
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Built Heritage
- Design and Development Standards
- Miscellaneous

#### 2.3.1.1 SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

Ref:	Issues Raised	Opinion
<b>LCDP 07</b>	<u>Offaly County Council</u> Offaly County Council are currently reviewing their CDP with Draft on display in Summer 2020. Portarlinton is described as a ‘self sustaining town’ within the settlement hierarchy (RSES) where the town will require a focus on ‘catch up’ investment to meet employment needs of residents rather than compounding the commuter driven population. The Joint Portarlinton LAP 2018 – 2024 will require a variation once both Offaly and Laois CDPs are adopted.	The Settlement Hierarchy will reflect the requirements of the RSES and the redefinition of Portarlinton as a Self Sustaining town to be consistent with the Offaly Draft CDP.  The Joint Portarlinton LAP was adopted in 2018 and will be reviewed on completion of the new CDP.  Laois County Council will continue to work with Offaly County Council to ensure a coordinated land use policy document for the town of Portarlinton.
<b>LCDP 18</b>	<u>Clondarriq Community Farm Project</u> Localised production of food – small scale mixed farming with greater focus on organic,	It is acknowledged that there is a continued need for rural housing in the countryside to accommodate those people with intrinsic

	<p>agroecological vegetable, fruit and grain, dairy and meat production – new arrangements such as community farming, land trusts, share-farming and cooperative farming will need to be implemented.</p> <p>The plan needs to allow for development of clusters of low-impact, natural-build houses in the open countryside along the lines of the traditional clachan system regulatory minimum size requirement of a dwelling in order to allow for Tiny Homes, that have minimal material and energy demand. Granting of planning permission to the types of clustered developments outlined above should be broadened to include persons who are not originally from the locality but have moved, or wish to move, to the countryside. A provision could be put in place requiring residents of these developments to sign up to a set of ecological principles along the lines of those administered by the One Planet Council in Wales</p> <p>In relation to urban housing development at a County level most especially local authority housing strategies, it is imperative that planners consult with experts in the fields of low impact and co-operative housing and regenerative land use so as to educate themselves on the principles and practices of ecologically integrative housing development and thus incorporate these principles into their strategies</p>	<p>links to the rural community. As part of the Settlement Strategy for the Draft Plan, rural housing policy will reflect NPF and RSES requirements to ensure the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 25</b></p>	<p><u><i>Glenveagh Properties PLC</i></u></p> <p>The submission relates to NPF and RSES policy on creating compact development and highlights several policy to ensure that suitable lands are developed in the most efficient and sustainable manner feasible, to meet known housing shortages and the aims and objectives of national policy and guidance to address same. A new and innovative housing model which drives high-quality, high density residential developments must be adopted which achieves more compact growth and undesirable sprawl.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will ensure compliance with RPO 3.2 of the RSES which relates to requiring at least 30% of future homes that are targeted in settlements will be located within the existing built-up footprint of these settlements in an effort address compact development and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl. Regeneration/Opportunity sites will also be identified in the Draft Plan.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submission are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the Draft Plan will:

- Incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that will accord with the provisions set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the NPF. The population and housing targets for the County will include an analysis of current demographic and population data trends in a Housing Needs Demand Assessment and form the basis for objectives and policies in an evidence based and sequential manner.
- Ensure the Settlement Strategy for the County will accord with the Settlement Hierarchy as indicated in the RSES and support the development of the Key Towns of Portlaoise and Graiguecullen. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.
- Facilitate the re-development of Brownfield/infill sites as 'Opportunity Sites' to be identified in the Draft Plan, with emphasis on place making. Apply for funding under various funding streams to facilitate the regeneration of town/village centres and in particular the Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Funds.
- Comply with RPO 3.2 of the RSES which relates to requiring at least 30% of future homes that are targeted in settlements will be located within the existing built-up footprint of these settlements in an effort address compact development and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl. Regeneration/Opportunity sites will also be identified in the Draft Plan.
- Encourage growth and prevent decline in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline and by managing the growth of areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid overdevelopment, while sustaining vibrant rural communities.
- Address rural housing policy and provide a strategy to ensure the viability of rural villages and their services. In rural areas under urban influence, it is a stated NPO to facilitate the provision of single housing in the countryside based on the core consideration of demonstrable economic or social need to live in a rural area and siting and design criteria for rural housing. In other rural areas which are structurally weak, it is a stated national policy objective in the NPF to facilitate the provision of single housing in the countryside based on siting and design criteria for rural housing in statutory guidelines and plans.

### 2.3.1.2 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Ref:	Issues Raised	Opinion
LCDP 02	<p><u>Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment – Geological Survey Ireland</u></p> <p>GSI recommend the use of the following advice, tools and datasets to help inform the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Datasets on Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources and the Irish Seabed.</li> <li>• Important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system</li> <li>• National Aquifer and Recharge maps on our Map viewer with regard to Flood Risk Management</li> <li>• Geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.</li> <li>• Geothermal Suitability maps to determine the most suitable type of ground source heat collector for use with heat pump technologies.</li> <li>• Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our Map Viewer.</li> </ul>	<p>The Planning Authority notes the Geological Survey Ireland submission and will endeavour to make appropriate reference to same in the Draft Plan.</p>
LCDP 05	<p><u>Geraldine and John Delaney, Audrey Powell, Gus Fahy, Alison Doyle and Niall Walker</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood risk status as indicated in flood Zone of the Laois County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 be amended on foot of a Site specific Flood Risk Assessment that was carried out by Laois County Council on lands in Oldmills, Stradbally</li> <li>• Associated FRA submitted.</li> </ul>	<p>A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is being prepared concurrently with the Draft Plan. The flood risk assessment carried out for these lands will inform this SFRA.</p>
LCDP 07	<p><u>Offaly County Council</u></p> <p>An area 'open for consideration' for wind farm</p>	<p>Laois County Council will consider the current Offaly CDP and Draft Offaly CDP in the</p>



	<p>development south of the shared border on the Laois side will impact on ‘Protected View’ V1 in the current Offaly CDP of Slieve Bloom Mts from the N80 in the townlands of Ballynasragh, Pidgeonhouse, Killeigh, Derryclure, Derrybeg and Cloncon. The area between these view points towards the Slieve Bloom Mts n Co Laois should be classified as an area where wind energy development will be discouraged.</p>	<p>preparation of Wind Strategy for the County.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 09</b></p>	<p><u>Environmental Protection Agency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA’s role in the SEA process</li> <li>• CDP should comply with provisions of the NPF and RSES</li> <li>• Provides various guidance and resources available in the preparation of the CDP</li> <li>• Alignment with Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society</li> </ul>	<p>A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) is being undertaken as part of the Plan preparation process and will address potential impacts to comply with all legislation and guidance in relation to same.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will include policies and objectives to promote and support the ‘transition to low carbon and climate-resilient society’ which is a National Policy Outcome of the NPF and Regional Policy Objective of the RSES.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 13</b></p>	<p><u>Brennan Family</u></p> <p>Flood risk status as indicated in Flood Zone of the Laois County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 be amended on foot of CFRAM mapping on lands in Crosneen, Carlow Environs</p>	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be reviewed having regard to the CFRAM study currently being carried out by the OPW.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 18</b></p>	<p><u>Clondarriq Community Farm Project</u></p> <p>Any new clustered developments in the countryside should be, at minimum, carbon neutral, and self-sufficient in energy use. Installation of community-based and owned renewable energy sources such as small-scale wind turbines and solar panels should be permissible under the next County development plan. The plan should envisage infrastructure such as off-road cycle tracks, walking routes and extended footpaths as well as support for alternative transport models like carpooling and community bus schemes.</p>	<p>Key objectives within the NPF are to facilitate the transition towards a low carbon energy future which includes the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources particularly in terms of transportation.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will provide for the enabling of renewable energy resources of the County to be harnessed in a manner that is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development.</p>

<p><b>LCDP 26</b></p>	<p><u><i>Paddy Buggy</i></u> <i>Energy</i></p> <p>Each village and small town to have their own power generation capacity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anaerobic digesters being fed by local food waste and waste from surrounding farms, PV cells on the roves of houses, Wood chip</li> <li>Local solar farms specifically supplying a local need rather than feeding the main grid.</li> </ul> <p><i>Rivers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to be dredged as the viability of communities is in question from constant flooding.</li> <li>Designated controlled flood mechanisms such as creating lakes in the Slieve Blooms to hold the water and release it more slowly are required.</li> <li>Also areas of bog land can be turned into lakes to store water and then used to create aqua tourism and alternate "grey water" for watering gardens, use in toilets hence reducing the need to generate "clean" drinking water for human consumption.</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will provide for the enabling of renewable energy resources of the County to be harnessed in a manner that is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development. All forms of renewable energy will be considered including the merits of anaerobic digesters and solar farms.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans will be key considerations for the Draft Plan.</p> <p>A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is also being prepared concurrently with the Draft Plan and will be reviewed having regard to the CFRAM study currently being carried out by the OPW and also Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines, 2009. Flood alleviation measures will be reviewed as part of this process.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 28</b></p>	<p><u><i>Office of Public Works</i></u></p> <p>Flooding should be brought forward as a key consideration of the CDP. The Plan should implement and abide by the 'Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) for Local Authorities' and has identified sections of the guidelines to focus on. Useful tools and resources have also been recommended such as the OPW's Draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management and interactive mapping noted on <a href="http://www.floodinfo.ie">www.floodinfo.ie</a></p>	<p>In preparing the Draft Plan, the Planning Authority will have regard to the 'Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) in the formulation of policies and objectives and zonings within the Draft Plan.</p> <p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment being prepared in tandem with the Draft Plan shall also focus on ensuring that flooding is at the forefront of all relevant policies and objectives</p>
<p><b>LCDP 29</b></p>	<p><u><i>Irish Wind Energy Association</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCC has a responsibility to account for its share of our overall national renewable energy targets. Co. Laois represents only 0.51% of the total installed wind energy</li> </ul>	<p>As part of the review of the current Wind Energy Strategy, objectives and policies will be developed to recognise the value and necessity of strengthening and expanding renewable energy infrastructure in the County and region,</p>

	<p>capacity in the Republic of Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figure 4.4 and Table 7.5 of the National Climate Action Plan illustrate Ireland’s current and projected renewable electricity production requirements to meet the 70% target. Based on the CAP assumptions, on-shore wind will provide the majority of the required electricity yield out to 2030</li> <li>• Updated Wind Energy Strategy for County Laois is an absolute requirement as part of the LCDP review and must consult the Wind Energy Guidelines and in particular SPPR1 and SPPR2 and incorporates the methodologies outlined in the SEAI Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES)</li> <li>• LCC and all Local Authorities develop consistent Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) criteria and apply it across all Counties. We ask that a ‘Low’, ‘Medium’, and ‘High’ weighting table for landscape sensitivity types be considered for renewable energy development potential. We urge LCC to update the 2017-2023 LCA completed for County Laois taking account of this recommendation,</li> <li>• LCC and all Local Authorities not use the SEAI Wind Atlas or any similar general wind resource data as a constraint when developing and zoning areas for renewable energy development</li> </ul>	<p>while also taking cognisance of the potential impacts on the landscape and the natural environment. A plan-led approach to wind energy development in the County shall be supported which sets out areas suitable for wind energy developments and considerations for the evaluation of wind energy planning applications in line with the recommendations of the Draft ‘Wind Energy Development Guidelines’ (2019).</p>
<p><b>LCDP 33</b></p>	<p><u>Petrogas Group Ltd</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Carbon Transportation Hub at Midway. This would consist of a Compressed Natural Gas (‘CNG’) hub and Electric Vehicle fast-charging hub, along with other national level pilot projects for other alternative and sustainable fuels e.g. Hydrogen facilities for the larger HGV’s etc. This would be in line with National Policy Objective 55 in the National Framework Plan seeks to</li> </ul>	<p>The Planning Authority are committed to achieving Climate Change targets and seeking ways at transitioning to a low carbon society and will adhere to all legislation in relation to same including implementation of the policies and objectives of the NPF and RSES.</p> <p>The Laois Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 will also inform policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.</p>

	<p>“promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050” and the NCAP 2019 objective of achieving 100% electric vehicle of all new cars by 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gas Networks Ireland recognises the opportunity to develop biomethane as an alternative fuel source for utilisation in natural gas vehicles (NGVs), primarily in the form of captive fleets (e.g. buses, trucks)</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will include policies and objectives to promote and support alternative sources of renewable energy.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 39</b></p>	<p><u>Laois Environmental Action Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove policies within the CDP that are contradictory to any effort to make the County greener and lower its collective carbon footprint - the practice of planting peat-rich soils and cutaway bogs with forestry is not always as carbon neutral or negative as once considered. Trees in the right place and on the right soils can deliver a carbon negative but on peat soils this is not the case. The same can be said in the land-use options/practices in our uplands and river basins. The reclamation of land and move towards private forestry is increasing flood risk in our towns and villages lower in the river basin system (i.e. Mountmellick/Portarlinton)</li> <li>The establishment of a County Climate Action and Biodiversity Taskforce would bring together individuals from the local authority, relevant organisations (BnM, Coillte, Teagasc etc), agencies and voluntary sector to ensure a focused effort is made to deliver the larger scale efforts required to get a handle on the climate action in the County</li> <li>Our peatlands offer the opportunity to: Rewet and restore for carbon storage and sequestration. Local flood alleviation.</li> </ul>	<p>The Planning Authority are committed to achieving Climate Change targets and seeking ways at transitioning to a low carbon society and will adhere to all legislation in relation to same including implementation of the policies and objectives of the NPF and RSES.</p> <p>The Laois Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 will also inform policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will acknowledge that County Laois’s peatlands can contribute significantly to climate change mitigation and adaptation, providing important carbon sinks, water attenuation and flooding protection.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will support a collaborative approach with key stakeholders for the integrated peatland management for a Just Transition that incorporates the management, rehabilitation and restoration / re wetting of peatlands and in the preparation of a comprehensive afteruse framework plan for the industrial peatlands and associated buildings in the County.</p>

	<p>Protection and conservation of threatened species including Curlew and Hen Harriers. This can be achieved by a County peatland forum chaired by the Local authority and bringing together the relevant stakeholders.</p>	
<b>LCDP 40</b>	<p><u>Charlie Cass</u></p> <p>Sustainable development and climate mitigation and adaption will be key policies and objectives of the new plan. The industrial land on the R430 is key to the sustainable development of the town where residents could work in their local area, these lands have been categorised as flood risk even though the last report by external consultants highlighted them as least lightly to flood with no history or record of flooding. I think solutions to flooding will not be achieved by just highlighting an area close to rivers, but by creating reservoirs and driving turbines to create sustainable energy for local use</p>	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which is being prepared concurrently with the Draft Plan will be reviewed having regard to the CFRAM study currently being carried out by the OPW.</p>
<b>LCDP 41</b>	<p><u>Coillte</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise and respond to the scale and urgency of climate change as part of the County Development Plan review process.</li> <li>Develop a Renewable Energy Strategy for the County based on the principles of the SEAI LARES as part of the County Development Plan review.</li> <li>Lead the EMRA region in developing a consistent approach to key RES issues including a consistent approach to identifying suitable lands and categorising landscape sensitivity. Ensure that wind speed and existing grid capacity issues are not considered constraints in identifying suitable lands.</li> <li>Promote the use of sustainable timber products where possible.</li> </ul>	<p>The Planning Authority are committed to achieving Climate Change targets and seeking ways at transitioning to a low carbon society and will adhere to all legislation in relation to same including implementation of the policies and objectives of the NPF and RSES. The Laois Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 will also inform policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>As part of the review of the current Wind Energy Strategy, objectives and policies will be developed to recognise the value and necessity of strengthening and expanding renewable energy infrastructure in the County and region, while also taking cognisance of the potential impacts on the landscape and the natural environment.</p>
<b>LCDP 43</b>	<p><u>Bord Na Mona</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with national renewable energy targets</li> <li>There also remains potential to develop</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will acknowledge that County Laois's peatlands can contribute significantly to climate change mitigation and adaptation, providing important carbon sinks, water</p>

	<p>other activities on these lands and it is our view that the County Development Plan should consider all beneficial uses of Peatlands including energy, commercial, social and environmental.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the rehabilitation and rewetting of peatlands for carbon mitigation and sequestering potential</li> </ul>	<p>attenuation and flooding protection.</p> <p>The Strategic Framework for the Future use of Peatlands shall be referenced in relation to same.</p>
<b>LCDP 44</b>	<p><u>Gas Networks Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities which mitigate climate change should be supported in the County development plan, in particular compressed natural gas</li> <li>GNI suggests that the Infrastructure and Movement section of the new County Development Plan includes a section with wording supporting CNG infrastructure – with supporting suggested text</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will include policies and objectives to promote and support alternative sources of renewable energy.</p>
<b>LCDP 48</b>	<p><u>Statkraft Ireland</u></p> <p>Statkraft develops hydropower, wind power, solar power, gas fired power and district heating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for renewable energy projects particularly wind energy to address climate change targets</li> <li>A renewable energy strategy for the County should be considered and a full re-assessment of the County for wind energy potential</li> </ul>	<p>As part of the review of the current Wind Energy Strategy, objectives and policies will be developed to recognise the value and necessity of strengthening and expanding renewable energy infrastructure in the County and region, while also taking cognisance of the potential impacts on the landscape and the natural environment.</p> <p>A plan-led approach to wind energy development in the County will be supported which sets out areas suitable for wind energy developments and considerations for the evaluation of wind energy planning applications in line with the recommendations of the Draft 'Wind Energy Development Guidelines' (2019).</p>
<b>LCDP 50</b>	<p><u>F Cooney</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the failure to comply with environmental law regarding National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAP) / National energy and climate plans (NECPs): As reported by the Irish Energy Blog – sites post from the blog 29 Feb 2020</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will include policies and objectives to promote and support alternative sources of renewable energy and will be informed by EU, National and Regional legislation in relation to same. In accordance with Section 10(5a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), all proposed policies and objectives of the Draft</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laois - Kilkenny reinforcement Project represents a litany of failures of every participating state agency. The project has complaints accepted by both the EU and UN ACCC against noncompliance with environmental and human rights laws</li> </ul>	<p>Plan will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA), with the objectives of SEA being to provide for a high level of protection to the environment and to promote sustainable development.</p> <p>RPO 10.23 of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy requires the following: <i>Support EirGrid's Implementation Plan 2017 – 2022 and Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2016 and any subsequent plans prepared during the lifetime of the RSES that facilitate the timely delivery of major investment projects subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the outcome of the planning process, in particular:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Support the Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project to strengthen the network in large parts of the Midlands and provide additional capacity for potential demand growth in the wider region and strengthen the Region's transmission network by improving security and quality of supply and ensuring there is the potential for demand growth.</i></li> </ul>
LCDP 17	<p><u>Michael Cobbe</u> Boglands should also be included in Flood Risk Assessment</p>	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which is being prepared concurrently with the Draft Plan will be reviewed having regard to the CFRAM study currently being carried out by the OPW.</p> <p>Peatland areas will be looked at in this context.</p>
LCDP 57	<p><u>Kingscroft Development Ltd</u> Submission in relation to the provision of a concise and informed SFRA and having a balanced approach to the application of landuse zonings designations. A SSFRA was also submitted in relation to lands in Mountmellick.</p>	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which is being prepared concurrently with the Draft Plan will be reviewed having regard to the CFRAM study currently being carried out by the OPW.</p>
LCDP 58	<p><u>Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht</u> The Department recommends that Laois County Council considers the opportunity for climate change mitigation through the rewetting and</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will acknowledge that County Laois's peatlands can contribute significantly to climate change mitigation and adaptation, providing important carbon sinks, water attenuation and flooding protection. The</p>

	restoration of dry, bare cutaway bog, thereby lowering carbon emissions from these sites as well as restoring biodiversity	Strategic Framework for the Future use of Peatlands shall be referenced in relation to same.
--	--	--

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submission are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the Draft Plan will:

- Comply with European and National environmental and climate change legislation with a particular emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Draft Plan will contain a robust chapter on tackling climate change and set demonstrable objectives and targets in relation to renewable energy and sustainable transport modes.
- Ensure that the recommendations of the County Laois Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 are taken into account in the preparation of the new Plan;
- Support collaboration between Laois County Council, Geological Survey Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and other relevant stakeholders to implement Government of Ireland’s Climate Action Plan 2019
- Support the transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 by reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency.
- Promote the transition to a low carbon integrated transport system by reducing the need for travel and supporting environmentally sustainable modes of transport by focusing on compact growth and promoting higher densities and mixed land uses at appropriate locations
- Have regard to the “Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities” (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009) through the use of the sequential approach and application of the Justification Tests for Development Management and Development Plans, during the period of this Plan.
- Require the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving for new developments in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.
- Promote the development of renewable energy infrastructure in the County, including solar PV, solar thermal, hydro, biomass, wind and seasonal storage technologies, subject to normal proper planning considerations and impacts on the environment and landscape.
- Support the enhancement of carbon sinks such as peatlands and forestry. Provide policy to address the rehabilitation of peatlands and consideration of appropriate and alternative uses, including tourism through Greenway/Blueway development and renewable energy production.



**2.3.1.3 ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Ref:	Issues Raised	Opinion
<p><b>LCDP 18</b></p>	<p><u>Clondarriq Community Farm Project</u></p> <p>The local authority should sign up as a partner to the National Pollinator Plan and follow the best practice guidelines set out by the plan in respect of any work carried out by the local authority or on its behalf</p> <p>Provisions should be made for the local community water office and any department, governmental or otherwise to consult with experts in the fields of riparian corridor management through natural and restorative methods as per the Teagasc “Woodlands for Water” report and the “Natural Flood Management” report compiled by Friends of the Earth. In addition it is proposed that provision for community training and engagement in natural flood management and resilience is provided for through education and funding.</p> <p>It is also proposed that the local community waters office works with their team of agricultural advisors to introduce farmers to regenerative land use practices in order to expand.</p>	<p>The National Pollinator Plan will be addressed in the Draft Plan and the revised Laois Heritage Plan.</p> <p>Some of the points listed in the submission are outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various action groups.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 26</b></p>	<p><u>Paddy Buggy</u></p> <p><i>Urban biodiversity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The planting of more trees in towns and villages</li> <li>• Wild meadow grasses sown by the edges of streets</li> <li>• More hedgerows encouraged instead of concrete walls in front of houses</li> <li>• Where old houses are being redeveloped grass roves can be used instead of slates or tiles</li> </ul>	<p>There will be strong support for the protection and promotion of the biodiversity, including the protection of hedgerows, in the Draft Plan as it is recognised as a key asset in sustaining a high quality of life for the residents of the County.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 39</b></p>	<p><u>Laois Environmental Action Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A desk-based review of the entire County is required to identify and quantify the habitats within the County - identify ownership of lands, current management and land usage and potential for climate and</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will integrate biodiversity considerations in a positive, proactive and precautionary way, reflected in objectives and policies.</p> <p>A commitment to no net loss of biodiversity as</p>

	<p>biodiversity-based solutions, to aid the County’s efforts in terms of climate resilience, green infrastructure, flood defence/mitigation, biodiversity loss etc. Such a review should make carbon calculations and assign carbon “scores” in order to steer decisions on management options and future land use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CUBE office redevelopment on Millbrook Rd should provide a meeting space and hot desk space for local environmental groups and ENGO staff to meet and work from</li> <li>• All measures and practices set out by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) should be incorporated into the LAs work plans, procedures and budgets going forward</li> <li>• Stronger policy in relation to the conservation of hedgerows required and mitigation against the potential impacts of Ash Dieback on our landscape</li> <li>• A catalogue of Tree Preservation Orders should be developed for the County – some examples include stand of trees at the Downs, Portlaoise and the Oak, Beech and other mature trees in Irishtown Mountmellick</li> <li>• The creation of native species Community Woodlands (CW) should be considered</li> <li>• Carry out a survey of selected Invasive Alien Species on key transport networks such as roads, rivers, parks and forests and develop a Strategy and Policy Document based on the results plus best guidance / practice</li> </ul>	<p>identified in Ireland’s National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021) and to nature conservation interests will be reflected throughout.</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment processes being prepared concurrently with the Draft Plan will facilitate the integration of environmental considerations into all policies, objectives and zonings in terms of environmental protection, management and sustainable development.</p> <p>The National Pollinator Plan will inform policies Draft Plan and the revised Laois Heritage Plan.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will support the protection and management of the existing network of woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value. The Draft Plan will provide policies and objectives to support protecting individual trees, groups of trees or woodland, which are of environmental or amenity value through Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and by protecting specified groups of trees in the County.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will continue to deliver and support measures for the prevention, control and/or eradication of invasive species within the County.</p> <p>Some of the points listed in the submission are outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various action groups.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 43</b></p>	<p><u><i>Bord Na Mona</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Abbeyleix Bog and Knockahaw Bog are examples of high value biodiversity sites</li> </ul>	<p>There will be strong support for the protection and promotion of the biodiversity in the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Bord Na Mona’s ‘Strategic Framework for the Future use of Peatlands’ will be addressed in any policy or objectives in relation to Peatlands.</p>

LCDP 50	<p><u>F Cooney</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The updated CDP should apply the precautionary principle to restrict the proliferation of Noise and EMF's which are demonstrated risks to health and the environment and in particular wireless and cell phone radiation (sites report from Professor Tom Butler of UCC and report from the Lancet in 2018) and low frequency noise (cites Infrasound: A Growing Liability for Wind Power By Sherri Lange -- May 29, 2019)</li> <li>Protect Trees and Hedgerows as a principle in the CDP</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will be informed by, and compliant with national, EU and International law including environmental directives, and consideration of renewable energy action plans, climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will inform objectives and policies in the Draft Plan in terms of sustainable development, energy use and travel patterns.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will support the protection and management of the County's existing network of woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value.</p>
LCDP 58	<p><u>Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department advises that the plan should be developed to integrate biodiversity considerations in a positive, proactive and precautionary way. The Department recommends a suite of current EU and National plans, reports, guidance documents and case law relating to biodiversity to address in formulating policies and objectives in the Draft Plan.</li> <li>Provision of SEA and AA - The Department further advises that the Appropriate Assessment of the draft Plan should include an assessment of the impacts of nitrogen deposition on Natura 2000 sites within the draft Plan's zone of influence</li> <li>A number of high risk barriers to fish migration, including weirs and bridge sills occur within River Barrow Nore SAC in County Laois. The Department recommends that this issue is considered in the County Development Plan</li> </ul>	<p>There will be strong support for the protection and promotion of the biodiversity in the Draft Plan as it is recognised as a key asset in sustaining a high quality of life for the residents of the County.</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment processes being prepared concurrently with the Draft Plan will facilitate the integration of environmental considerations into all policies, objectives and zonings in terms of environmental protection, management and sustainable development.</p>
LCDP 07	<p><u>Offaly County Council</u></p> <p>The importance of the Slieve Bloom Mountains special environmental designation is recognised. A balance between conservation and economic potential must be recognised. Continue to recognise the value of these walkways and bike trails – provide additional links to and from existing greenways,</p>	<p>NPO 22 of the NPF seeks to facilitate a National Greenways, Blueways and Peatways Strategy, which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level. RPO 7.24 of the RSES seeks to promote the development of a sustainable Strategic Greenway Network of</p>

	<p>peatways and blueways.</p> <p>OCC envisages a peatway link from Portarlington to the Grand Canal Greenway and further linkage to the Grand Canal Greenway in Westmeath. The link from Portarlington could continue from Portarlington to join the River Barrow Greenway at Monasterevin in Co Kildare.</p> <p>Develop linkages from People's Park in Portarlington – Derryounce Experience Lake and Trails on the Offaly side of Portarlington</p>	<p>national and regional routes, with a number of local greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will contain policies and objectives to support the development of the greenways, blueways and peatways network across the County.</p>
<b>LCDP 18</b>	<p><u>Clondarriq Community Farm Project</u></p> <p>The development of greenways in various parts of the country has had a crucial role in the development of sustainable tourism while, at the same time, providing a recreational amenity for local residents. The County Development Plan should contain a commitment to establish greenways and walking routes.</p>	<p>NPO 22 of the NPF seeks to facilitate a National Greenways, Blueways and Peatways Strategy, which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level. RPO 7.24 of the RSES seeks to promote the development of a sustainable Strategic Greenway Network of national and regional routes, with a number of local greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will provide policies and objectives to support the development of the greenways, blueways and peatways network across the County.</p>
<b>LCDP 23</b>	<p><u>Pedal Vintage – Durrow Community Bike Hire Scheme</u></p> <p>Details of a community/family cycle hub in Durrow and provides for a series of loop trails with a start and finish in Durrow town centre. The project does not propose to identify individual trails but rather to promote the development concept for at least 3 trails which have been identified locally. The Scheme has purchased 10 bikes to date.</p>	<p>NPO 22 of the NPF seeks to facilitate a National Greenways, Blueways and Peatways Strategy, which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level. RPO 7.24 of the RSES seeks to promote the development of a sustainable Strategic Greenway Network of national and regional routes, with a number of local greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will provide policies and objectives to support the development of the greenways, blueways and peatways network across the County.</p>
<b>LCDP 39</b>	<p><u>Laois Environmental Action Forum</u></p>	<p>NPO 22 of the NPF seeks to facilitate a National</p>

	<p>Portlaoise is the County hub and in cycling distance of four large radial towns namely, Abbeyleix (14km), Mountrath (15km), Mountmellick (11km), and Stradbally (10km) and is transitioning to a low carbon town. In the life of this plan, cycle greenways should be designed and built from those towns to Portlaoise for workers and students as well as visitors to Laois to utilise.</p>	<p>Greenways, Blueways and Peatways Strategy, which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level. RPO 7.24 of the RSES seeks to promote the development of a sustainable Strategic Greenway Network of national and regional routes, with a number of local greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will provide policies and objectives to support the development of the greenways, blueways and peatways network across the County.</p>
<b>LCDP 43</b>	<p><u><i>Bord Na Mona</i></u></p> <p>The Abbeyleix bog is part of a Natural Walking Loop and is a very popular local walking route located in a natural landscape. Bord na Móna continues to play a role in the management of this site.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will provide policies and objectives to support the development of the greenways, blueways and peatways network across the County. The Draft Plan will support collaboration between Laois County Council and Bord na Móna in delivery of specific green infrastructure projects</p>
<b>LCDP 58</b>	<p><u><i>Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of Green Infrastructure into the Draft Plan is required. Reference was made to Abbeyleix Bog and future of cutaway bogs in the County.</li> <li>• As advised in the National Greenway Strategy, greenways should be designed to take into account, and avoid where necessary, the sensitivities of natural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will provide policies and objectives to support the development of the greenways, blueways and peatways network across the County. The Draft Plan will support collaboration between Laois County Council and Bord na Móna in delivery of specific green infrastructure projects</p>

## RECOMMENDATION

The contents of the submissions are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the Draft Plan will:

- Protect the County's designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Ramsar Sites; Wildlife Sites (including Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Nature Reserves); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; and Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments.

- Support the policies and objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Landscape Strategy 2015 - 2025 and continue to implement the actions contained within the Laois Biodiversity Action Plans and Laois Heritage Plan.
- Promote development of appropriate scale and character whilst ensuring that the development does not have a negative visual impact on the countryside or cause pollution or degradation to wildlife habitats, natural waters or European designated sites.
- Support collaboration between Laois County Council and Bord na Móna and relevant stakeholders for the management and rehabilitation of significant tracts of Peatlands throughout the County.
- Integrate biodiversity considerations into all settlement Plans and Local Area Plans.
- Continue to support the protection and management of existing networks of woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value.
- Support the aims and objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-20.
- Continue to deliver and support measures for the prevention, control and/or eradication of invasive species within the County.
- Conserve, enhance, manage and improve the green infrastructure network, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and develop new Green infrastructure by recognizing the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the protection and management of heritage. Further integrate the network of greenways, blueways and peatways infrastructure which helps support new recreation and tourism opportunities in the County.

### 2.3.1.4 SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

Ref:	ISSUES RAISED	OPINION
LCDP 12	<p><u>Health Service Executive</u></p> <p>County Health profile – will help identify health priorities in areas and highlight health inequalities.</p> <p>The CDP should take account of the following key policies and strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get Ireland Active – National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland</li> <li>• Tobacco Free Ireland</li> <li>• Healthy Ireland - A Healthy Weight for Ireland</li> <li>• National Positive Ageing Strategy</li> <li>• Universal Design Guidelines for Homes in Ireland</li> <li>• Time to move on from congregated settings – A Strategy for community inclusion</li> <li>• The Urban Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide</li> <li>• Rejuvenating Ireland's Small Town Centres</li> <li>• Research 195: Health Benefits from Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</li> <li>• Smarter Travel – A sustainable Transport Future</li> <li>• National Cycle Policy Framework</li> <li>• Waste – A resource Opportunity – Waste Management Policy in Ireland</li> <li>• Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for sustainable development Ireland's Second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2020</li> </ul>	<p>The information contained in Chapter 9 of the RSES, which details diversity, inclusivity, housing, regeneration, healthy placemaking, social opportunity, economic opportunity, access to childcare, education, health services and access to arts, culture, language and heritage, will inform the development of relevant policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.</p>
LCDP 18	<p><u>Clondarriq Community Farm Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision should be made for local community food projects and initiatives to provide education and training on growing food together and for communities to be supported in following through by providing space for and supporting the development of food growing initiatives in their local areas.</li> <li>• Initiatives such as the development of</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will seek to engage with key stakeholders/community groups to encourage shared responsibility for community development within the County.</p>

	<p>community composting areas on lands supported by council for processing of these wastes e.g. biochar, compost, biodigestion) for reuse in community food growing projects are a fine example of how environmental and social care can work in unison</p>	
<b>LCDP 19</b>	<p><u>Niamh Connolly</u> Laois County Council needs to waiver the fees for a single grave plot where a child under 18 years will be buried. There should be no lower age limit for the child or the foetus. Kildare County Council's Strategic Policy Committee have taken the lead on this. They have decided to waiver the fee for the cost of a new single burial plot where a baby will be buried in all graveyards in Kildare up to the age of 18 months. The County Council would be keen to extend this waiver to children up to 18 years old.</p>	<p>The submission is respectfully noted, however it is not within the scope of the Draft Plan to waiver the cost of burial plots. A submission should be made to the relevant SPC of Laois County Council in this respect.</p>
<b>LCDP 30</b>	<p><u>Donal O'Shea</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further clarification is needed to address how the role of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (UNCRPD) is linked to complimenting the work of the County development plan.</li> <li>• Submitted a report prepared by the European Economic and Social Committee – Study Group on Disability Rights – Ireland – The Situation of Persons with Disabilities in Rural Areas</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will promote Universal Design and well-designed lifetime adaptable communities in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012).</p>
<b>LCDP 34</b>	<p><u>Laois Public Participation Network</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access for All Disability Report for consideration to be included into the Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027</li> <li>• Laois Public Participation Network would welcome the inclusion of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities for consideration to be included into the Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will promote Universal Design and well-designed lifetime adaptable communities in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012) and also address the outcomes noted in the Access for All Disability Report prepared by Laois PPN.</p>
<b>LCDP 37</b>	<p><u>Stradbally Community Centre Ltd</u> Support for a new Community Centre in</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will address community facilities in each town/village.</p>



	<p>Stradbally on lands located in CarrigGlas (LCC owned lands and private land owners).</p>	<p><b><i>In accordance with section 11(4) (b) (ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), submissions in relation to specific zoning cannot be accepted/considered at the Pre-Draft Stage.</i></b></p>
<p><b>LCDP 46</b></p>	<p><u><i>Department of Public Health</i></u>                  Issues relating to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to green and recreational spaces – a health impact assessment should be conducted for all larger developments</li> <li>• Adequate housing provision – impact of homelessness – affordable housing with secure tenure</li> <li>• High quality and affordable childcare provision</li> <li>• Increased accessible to public transport – integrated landuse planning and transport planning to provide sustainable developments</li> <li>• Safe drinking water and cognisance of ground water vulnerability</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will promote Universal Design and well-designed lifetime adaptable communities in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012).</p> <p>The information contained in Chapter 9 of the RSES, which details diversity, inclusivity, housing, regeneration, healthy placemaking, social opportunity, economic opportunity, access to childcare, education, health services and access to arts, culture, language and heritage, will support in developing relevant policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 49</b></p>	<p><u><i>Department of Education and Skills</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Development Plan would include policy objectives on both the provision of new schools and the protection of existing schools.</li> <li>• Requests in relation to how land is zoned to accommodate the provision of schools and education facilities is also proposed in terms of permitted in principle and also conflict between other uses that may be also permitted within zonings. Suggestion of community and infrastructure zoning</li> </ul>	<p>The Department of Education and Skills is responsible for the delivery of educational facilities and services. The Planning Authority will continue to liaise with the Department during the plan making process to ensure that there is sufficient land zoned for this use in line with projected population growth to be contained in the Core Strategy.</p> <p>This will include the identification and reservation of sufficient zoned land for expansion of existing school sites and provision of new school sites where considered necessary. The Draft Plan will have regard to the Section 28 Guidelines entitled “<i>The Provision of Schools and the Planning System , A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities</i>”, (Department of Education and Science, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008)</p>

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submissions are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the Draft Plan will:

- Support the Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme ensuring our towns and villages across the County will develop to meet the needs of older people, together with the incorporation of age friendly policies and objective in relation to housing, amenities, access etc.
- Support and facilitate the development and expansion of educational community, sports and recreation facilities by working with the relevant agencies which promotes social inclusion and societal diversity.
- Promote Universal Design and well-designed lifetime adaptable housing in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012) and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Area: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008)
- Ensure that new social infrastructure developments are accessible and inclusive for a range of users by adopting a universal design approach and provide for an age friendly society in which people of all ages can live full active, valued and healthy lives.
- Support and facilitate the Local Community Development Committees/Socio-Economic Committees in delivering objectives to strengthen the community sector throughout the County and facilitate the co-location and shared use of community facilities and amenities to use land more efficiently.

### 2.3.1.5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Ref:	Issues Raised	Opinion
LCDP 07	<p><u>Offaly County Council</u></p> <p>The Plan should include policies for remote working and innovative co-working hubs to mitigate long commuting patterns.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will continue to support a network of co-working hubs in the Economic Strategy for the County and in compliance with RPO 6.31 of the RSES.</p> <p>Currently the Laois “Hub Collective” in County Laois facilitates co working space and remote working at a number of locations – Bloom HQ Mountmellick, Webmill Mountmellick, Portarlinton Enterprise Centre and Portlaoise Enterprise Centre, Vision 85 Portlaoise and Rathdowney Outlet Centre with further developments proposed in Killeshin and Abbeyleix.</p>
LCDP 12	<p><u>Health Service Executive</u></p> <p>Laois has an unemployment rate above the national average and nearly half the workforce (11,500 people) has to leave the County daily to commute to work. To improve the quality of life and promote more sustainable ‘live work’ communities it is essential that employment opportunities are created in the County.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will support a network of co-working hubs in the Economic Strategy for the County and in compliance with RPO 6.31 of the RSES.</p> <p>Currently the Laois “Hub Collective” in County Laois facilitates co working space and remote working at a number of locations – Bloom HQ Mountmellick, Webmill Mountmellick, Portarlinton Enterprise Centre and Portlaoise Enterprise Centre, Vision 85 Portlaoise and Rathdowney Outlet Centre with further developments proposed in Killeshin and Abbeyleix.</p>
LCDP 18	<p><u>Clondarrig Community Farm Project</u></p> <p>Continued and enhanced support for development of infrastructure such as enterprise units, markets, community kitchens, food hubs, community event spaces, etc. would greatly contribute to the development of the local economy and community self-reliance, and enable locals and new residents to make a living from self-employment and/or employment in their own vicinity. In addition, new nature-based enterprises could be developed in areas such as ecotourism and natural therapy services.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will continue to support sustainable rural based enterprise development, the development of the tourism industry, and ensure the continued conservation of the County’s natural, cultural and built heritage.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will be informed by the Strategic Objectives of the Midland Regional Enterprise Plan 2020 which seeks to strengthen the attractiveness of the Midlands Region as a place to visit and also to harness the potential of the food and beverage industry within the region.</p>

		Laois County Council through the Business Support Unit are working on a Food Strategy for the County to showcase the local food producers and develop market streams for the this industry.
<b>LCDP 23</b>	<p><u>Pedal Vintage – Durrow Community Bike Hire Scheme</u></p> <p>Details of a community/family cycle hub in Durrow and provides for a series of loop trails with a start and finish in Durrow town centre. The project does not propose to identify individual trails but rather to promote the development concept for at least 3 trails which have been identified locally. The Scheme have purchased 10 bikes to date.</p>	The Draft Plan will contain policies and objectives to support the development of the greenways, blueways and peatways network across the County.
<b>LCDP 38</b>	<p><u>Mairead Hickey</u></p> <p>Cullohill Mountains should be promoted as a tourist attraction within County Laois and the preservation of same in its natural state is vital</p>	The Draft Plan will provide policies and objectives to support the development of the County's natural assets subject to appropriate assessment.
<b>LCDP 41</b>	<p><u>Coillte</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the zoning of sufficient lands for recreational, commercial, residential and tourism and industrial uses and associated objectives to support the development of tourism facilities (projects and accommodation) in collaboration with Coillte and relevant stakeholders, which will support the growth of connected and accessible tourism industry in the County; and o the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure (in collaboration with relevant stakeholders) within the County.</li> <li>Continue to support sustainable rural based enterprises such as forestry and tourism in the County and make adequate provisions and objectives to facilitate their delivery.</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will support rural areas by harnessing natural resources to develop renewable, recreation and tourism opportunities including green infrastructure and the development of an integrated network of greenways, blueways and peatways.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will continue to support sustainable rural based enterprise development, the development of the tourism industry and ensure the continued conservation of the County's natural, cultural and built heritage.</p>
<b>LCDP 43</b>	<p><u>Bord Na Mona</u></p> <p>Consideration should be given to the future industrial and commercial opportunities</p>	The Planning Authority recognises the importance of the sustainable after use of cutaway bogs in the County and acknowledges

	<p>presented by Cul na Mona works site in any review of the Laois County Development Plan</p>	<p>and promotes the potential for the utilisation of protected and post-industrial peatland areas for amenity and research purposes.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 45</b></p>	<p><u><i>Failte Ireland</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fáilte Ireland has developed two Visitor Experience Development Plans ‘Tales of Two Worlds’ and ‘Castle &amp; Conquests’. Fáilte Ireland would like to see inclusion of a policy/objective to support the delivery of these Visitor Experience Development Plans</li> <li>• Objectives to support festivals as a driver for tourism</li> <li>• Significant investment in the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail through the RRDF fund opens the possibility of developing the Laois trail head at Baunreagh and surrounding towns such as Mountrath and Coolrain as well as leveraging the strong accommodation stock in Portlaoise. It is planned to develop visitor facilities at Baunreagh with café, showers, bike hire, spares. Fáilte Ireland would welcome a policy objective to support this development which would create an international mountain biking proposition in the Slieve Bloom Mountains and as one of four national centres.</li> <li>• The Barrow Blueway was recently awarded RRDF funding for 46km route (30km Kildare, 16km Laois). Vicarstown in Laois, which already has an established barge and bike hire business, has the potential to benefit from this investment. The development of Blueways provides valuable opportunities for rural communities to attract more visitors</li> <li>• The formulation of policies which acknowledge and support the positive role that heritage plays within tourism will benefit both heritage and tourism. A strong heritage policy with tourism as a</li> </ul>	<p>The submission of Failte Ireland will be considered in conjunction with the A Strategic Plan for Tourism in Laois 2018 - 2023 in the preparation of the Draft Development Plan.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will acknowledge and recognise tourism as a key economic driver for the County which supports job creation and sustains communities.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will include policy relating to Tourism, Natural and Cultural Tourism Assets and Investing in the Tourism Product in accordance with the RSES. In particular RPO 6.19 which specifically relates to tourism in Laois will inform Draft Plan policy.</p>

	<p>priority sector within it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage projects of note: Rock of Dunamaise, Emo Court, Portlaoise Historic Quarter, Timahoe Round Tower, Donaghmore Famine Workhouse Museum, Abbeyleix Heritage House, Aghaboe Abbey and Heywood Gardens</li> <li>• Tourism services and facilities should be clustered within established settlements as this will serve to protect the quality of the Irish environment</li> <li>• Proactive planning policies and objectives which support the reuse and refurbishment of protected structures and older buildings of architectural, cultural, historic and aesthetic merit which, make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of local streetscapes and the sustainable development of the County should be included in the plan.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>LCDP 61</b></p>	<p><u>Laois Tourism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To better promote Laois as a tourism destination that along with ongoing investment in key attractions and infrastructure.</li> <li>• The continued support of Laois food and drink producers under the Laois Taste brand by Laois County Council, The Local Enterprise Office and Laois Partnership is welcomed and applauded.</li> <li>• Differentiating and branding Laois as a Leading Carbon Neutral destination, and a key outdoor activity base be invested in and promoted.</li> </ul>	<p>The submission of Laois Tourism will be considered in conjunction with the A Strategic Plan for Tourism in Laois 2018 - 2023 in the preparation of the Draft Development Plan.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will acknowledge and recognise tourism as a key economic driver for the County which supports job creation and sustains communities.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will include policy relating to Tourism, Natural and Cultural Tourism Assets and Investing in the Tourism Product in accordance with the RSES. In particular RPO 6.19 which specifically relates to tourism in Laois will inform Draft Plan policy.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submissions are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the Draft Plan will:

- Enable economic growth and enterprise development, including sustainable tourism and opportunities for strategic employment development. The Draft Plan will seek to provide employment opportunities closer to population centres to address long distance commuting and may facilitate a greater proportion of trips to work by active modes.
- Enable economic growth and enterprise development within rural areas and promote a diversification within traditional rural sectors.
- Continue to support cohesion between agencies involved in tourism development e.g. Fáilte Ireland, Bord na Móna, Coillte, and Laois County Council.
- Promote the continued development of the County's natural assets such as Derrynounce, Slieve Bloom Mountains, River Barrow Blueway as a tourist and ecological amenity and supporting linking of such assets to the surrounding towns and villages, subject to proper planning, environmental protection and sustainable development.
- Support the rehabilitation of peatlands and consideration of appropriate and alternative uses, including tourism through Greenway/Blueway development and renewable energy production, protecting the remaining carbon stores of peatlands and their potential for active carbon sequestration.
- Encourage the redevelopment of sites which were formerly Bord na Móna such as Cul na Mona works for enterprise and employment creation subject to ecological impact assessment and appropriate assessment screening.

### 2.3.1.6 HERITAGE

Ref:	Issues Raised	Opinion
LCDP 27	<p><u>John Dunne</u></p> <p>Old Maryborough Chapel at the rear of 82 Main Street, Portlaoise be added to the Record of Protected Structures.</p>	<p>This structure will be reviewed as part of the CDP process in compliance with national policy and heritage guidance and its addition will be considered within this context.</p>
LCDP 32	<p><u>Tom and Mairead Woods</u></p> <p>Tom Woods Shop, Carrigan Street, Durrow be de-listed from the record of Protected Structures</p>	<p>This structure will be reviewed as part of the CDP process in compliance with national policy and heritage guidance and its deletion will be considered within this context.</p>
LCDP 51	<p><u>Laois Heritage Society</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A County museum based in Portlaoise is required.</li> <li>• Include Laois Heritage Plan within the CDP</li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the Laois Heritage Plan will inform the policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>The requirement for additional facilities such as a County Museum will also be assessed.</p>
LCDP 31	<p><u>The Swan Development Committee</u></p> <p>Submitted The Swan Sustainable Community Plan 2019 – 2024 which lists protection of heritage as an objective and in particular if the Culum crusher/bun stone could be protected</p>	<p>This structure will be reviewed as part of the CDP process in compliance with national policy and heritage guidance and its addition will be considered within this context.</p>
LCDP 58	<p><u>Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide policies and objectives in relation to protecting the archaeological heritage and includes a section/chapter regarding 'Archaeological Heritage.</li> <li>• Preservation of historic towns which include the following – Ballinakill, Castletown, Dunamase, Killaban, Portarlinton and Portlaoise.</li> <li>• Specific development control standards</li> <li>• Pinpoint protected areas on associated mapping.</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will ensure the protection of the County's archaeological and built heritage through policies, objectives and development management standards. Such policy will be duly informed by legislative requirements.</p> <p>Reference to the following shall be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, Government of Ireland 1999a.</li> <li>• The National Monuments Acts, 1930 – 2004.</li> <li>• The Planning and Development Act, 2000</li> <li>• The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (Valetta, 1992).</li> <li>• The Record of Monuments and Places for Laois</li> <li>• The Urban Archaeological Survey of Laois unpublished survey by J Bradley, A</li> </ul>



		Halpin H.A. King carried out for the OPW (1986).
--	--	--

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submissions are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the Draft Plan will:

- Support the protection of the natural and built heritage of the County including protected structures and Recorded Monuments and Places, which are recognised as key assets in sustaining a high quality of life for the residents of the County.
- Review the current Record of Protected Structures in the current LCDP.
- Support the reuse and refurbishment of protected structures and older buildings which make a positive contribution to local streetscapes should be provided for in the plan.
- Protect, conserve and enhance buildings, areas, structures, sites and features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.
- Strike a balance between conservation and development objectives in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.

**2.3.1.7 INFRASTRUCTURE AND MOVEMENT**

Ref:	Issues Raised	Opinion
<p><b>LCDP 24</b></p>	<p><u>Transport Infrastructure Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing exchequer investment and statutory guidelines – managing assets in accordance with funding in place in Smarter Travel (DTTAS, 2009), Investing in our Transport Future (DTTAS, 2015), Section 28 Guidelines and Project Ireland 2040 and RSES.</li> <li>• Development and Core Strategy: Balancing integrated land use zoning and infrastructure, safeguarding the strategic function of national roads and designing for sustainable transportation requirements at earliest possible stage.</li> <li>• Safeguarding national road junctions and access onto national roads.</li> <li>• Identify local improvements to national roads planned by the Council.</li> <li>• Policy provision to protect national roads schemes free from adverse development.</li> <li>• Road Safety is a key requirement when assessing development through Road Safety Impact Assessment (RSIA) and Road Safety Audit (RSA).</li> <li>• Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) – Council must address the TII Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines relating to development proposals.</li> <li>• In relation to signage, the Council is referred to Policy on the Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads (2011) and the DoECLG’s Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, such should be incorporated into the Plan.</li> <li>• Noise mitigation measures in accordance with SI No.140 of 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations.</li> <li>• New objective required in relation to road drainage: capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage in County Laois will be safeguarded.</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will include land use policies and objectives which support consolidation of urban generated development within existing urban areas.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will refer to the role of rural transport services within the County both private and public in terms of the social and economic function they play.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will continue to refer to the restriction of new accesses or the intensification of an existing access onto national roads in accordance with the provision of Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (DoECLG) and Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads (2011).</p> <p>The Draft Plan will also address the requirement for RSA, RSIA and TTA as part of the development control standards section of the Draft Plan as well as measures to safe guard roadside drainage and Glint and Glare Assessments in relation to solar energy projects.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement for a Glint and Glare Assessment as part of development applications for Solar Energy projects. Grid connection routes utilising national road network must also be assessed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>LCDP 01</b></p>	<p><u>Health and Safety Authority</u></p> <p>The Planning Authority should consult the HAS’s policy document ‘Policy and Approach to Health and Safety to COMAH Risk-based Land-use Planning’ and support policy in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>major accident hazard sites under Article 13 of Directive 2012/18/EU</li> <li>A policy in relation to siting new major hazard establishments</li> </ul>	<p>The requirements in relation to major accident hazard sites are noted. There are no such sites in County Laois.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 04</b></p>	<p><u>National Transport Authority</u></p> <p><b>Landuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of lands within or contiguous with existing urban areas should be prioritised over development in less accessible locations</li> <li>Residential development should be carried out sequentially in urban areas, including Brownfield and infill sites</li> <li>Larger scale, trip intensive developments, should be primarily focused in central locations in urban areas</li> <li>Town centres should be permeable for walking, cycling and public transport modes</li> <li>Promote walking, cycling and public transport by maximising the number of people living within walking and cycling distance of their neighbourhood or district centre, public transport services and other local services</li> <li>New development areas should be fully permeable/filtered permeability</li> <li>Employment development should maximise the potential for walking and cycling and public transport</li> <li>Trip destination should be developed at locations that maximise walking, cycling</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will include land use policies and objectives which support consolidation of urban generated development within existing urban areas</p> <p>The Draft Plan will refer to the role of rural transport services within the County both private and public in terms of the social and economic function they play.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will continue to refer to the restriction of new accesses or the intensification of an existing access onto national roads in accordance with the provision of Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (DoECLG).</p>

	<p>or public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic function of national roads should be protected</li> <li>• All non-residential development should be subject to maximum parking standards</li> <li>• Larger urban areas should cap car parking on an area wide basis</li> <li>• All major developments and school developments should be conditioned to provide travel plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Transport</b> The Plan should recognise the role of rural transport services between small villages/rural areas and larger towns - support Local Link Rural Transport Programme</p> <p><b>Strategic Road Network</b> The Plan should comply with the provisions of the DOECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines and NPO 74 of the NPF</p>	
LCDP 07	<p><u>Offaly County Council</u></p> <p>The 2030 Rail Network Strategy Review should be taken into consideration. This Strategy provides future investment for rail improvements, in particular double tracking from Portarlinton to Athlone and electrification of Dublin to Galway line. A potential link could involve the provision of a new line from Enfield to Edenderry with a continuation to Portarlinton which may require many wayleaves between Portarlinton and Enfield in the ownership of Bord Na Mona.</p>	The Draft Plan will support major upgrades and improvements to rail infrastructure projects.
LCDP 08	<p><u>Thomas Fallon</u></p> <p>Sewage connection in Ballycarroll, Portarlinton for local houses. There is a pumped system going up the road from a private estate in Ballybrittas. A new system should be put in place to get rid of septic tanks in back gardens.</p>	Policies in relation to wastewater infrastructure provision will be reviewed in line with Irish Water and the national investment programme.
LCDP 26	<p><u>Paddy Buggy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portlaoise requires an internal bus</li> </ul>	Laois County Council will continue to work with the National Transport Authority in securing a

	<p>service just servicing the town and which feeds in from the housing estates to both the schools and the main retail and industrial sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved bus links are required between Portlaoise and the other towns and villages.</li> </ul>	<p>public bus service through Portlaoise Town.</p> <p>A Local Transport Plan for Portlaoise would seek to develop objectives promoting sustainable modes of transport connecting areas of population with amenities such as schools, hospitals, economic areas, etc and seeking funding in relation to same.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will include policies to support the role of public transport services such as Rural Link within the County in addition to private operators in terms of the social and economic function they play in connecting urban and rural areas.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 35</b></p>	<p><u>Irish Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table of water capacity for the County of larger towns and villages. Ballyroan is noted as having restricted capacity with Ballinakill and Castletown having modest capacity.</li> <li>There are a number of constraints in the sewer network, Portlaoise in particular. A Drainage Area Plan (DAP) is being prepared for the town &amp; Irish Water and Laois County Council are currently working together to complete growth projections. The study is modelling the existing sewer network and future scenarios. A range of solutions will be developed to overcome the current constraints. Projects that are not part of IWs current Capital Investment Programme (2020-2024) may not be completed within the life span of this next County Development Plan and therefore, would have to be developer led. Irish Water can work with developers to form the best solution for a particular site.</li> </ul> <p>Suggested text for Chapter on Infrastructure in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Water Resources Plan</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed policies and objectives in relation to water and waste water provision in County Laois are noted. Laois County Council is an agent of Irish Water through Service Level Agreements.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the County’s ability to accommodate future growth is dependent on the capacity of water supply and wastewater infrastructure.</p> <p>Laois County Council will continue to work closely with Irish Water in the provision of such infrastructure and will have regard to Irish Waters Plans and Strategies.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Water Services Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Irish Water Capital Investment Plan</li> <li>• Water Supply &amp; Distribution</li> <li>• Wastewater Collection and Treatment</li> <li>• Water Quality and Groundwater Protection</li> </ul>	
<p><b>LCDP 59</b></p>	<p><u>Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for aligning transportation and landuse and transition to low carbon form of transport modes.</li> <li>• Recommends NTA Local Link Rural Transport Programme Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 and National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 be addressed</li> <li>• Strong integrated public transport in both urban and rural areas.</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan will continue to support sustainable forms of transport and promote land use patterns which will reduce the need to travel and promote a modal shift to alternative uses of transport other than the car.</p> <p>Reference will be made to Chapters 7, 8 and 10 of the RSES in preparing infrastructure and transportation chapters of the CDP.</p> <p>Supporting social inclusion through the provision of transport infrastructure shall also be addressed.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submissions are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the Draft Plan will:

- Provide policies in relation to major accident hazard sites under Article 13 of Directive 2012/18/EU and siting new major hazard establishments.
- Liaise with Irish Water to facilitate the timely provision of water services infrastructure within the County in line with Council’s Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy.
- Facilitate the implementation of the ‘Water Services Strategic Plan (2015)’, Irish Water Business Plan 2015 – 2021, Irish Water National Water Resource Plan and Irish Water Business Plan 2020 – 2024, Project Ireland 2040
- Require developments to connect to public water supplies where adequate and support Irish Water to eliminate untreated discharges from settlements while planning strategically for long-term growth
- Promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation in existing and new development within the County and encourage demand management measures among all water users.
- Ensure that proposed wastewater treatment system for development in unserved areas complies with the relevant EPA Codes of Practice.
- Support sustainable mobility, enhanced regional accessibility and connectivity within Laois.
- Facilitate the provision of electric charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, where considered appropriate.
- Promote the transition to a low carbon integrated transport system by reducing the need for travel through the use of design solutions and innovative approaches with regards to the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and shift to environmentally sustainable modes of transport.

- Promote more compact development forms that reduce overall demand for transport and transport infrastructure and support proposals that encourage modal shift towards sustainable travel modes.
- Integrate landuse and transport planning to ensure a sustainable, efficient, and effective approach to transport provision for development in County Laois.
- Facilitate and support, subject to appropriate environmental assessments, the continued development of walking and cycling routes including Greenways and Blueways in Laois for recreational and utility purposes
- Promote and facilitate, in co-operation with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Irish Rail and adjoining local authorities, the provision of a second rail line between Portarlinton and Athlone, and the electrification of the Dublin to Galway line.
- Support and facilitate the operation of existing bus services and to facilitate the provisions of improved facilities for bus users in towns and villages including the provision of set down areas for coaches and bus shelters at all bus stops where feasible.
- Facilitate the provision of a fully accessible public transport system for all users, in urban and rural areas.
- Explore within the Council Water Services Section/Planning Section, ways to progress development within unsewered villages and rural areas in terms of adequately servicing sites subject to good environmental practices

### 2.3.1.8 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Ref:	Issues Raised	Opinion
LCDP 16	<p><u>Barry Butler</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development management standard should include more private open space area for private residences – eg 70sqm of parking and green space to the front of dwellings</li> <li>• Open space areas in development should not be calculated based on number of houses in a development or by a percentage of land that has to be used as open space.</li> <li>• Maintenance of public open space areas</li> <li>• Boundary walls and fencing should be built in housing estates to distinguish between public and private – there should be no open spaces outside private residences</li> <li>• A condition of planning for housing estates should be that developer should sign over all land folio that is registered to the developer on the developed estate to LCC.</li> <li>• Roads Department should look at ways to widen footpaths and cycle ways around larger towns. Cycle paths should be separate from roadways. Sign posts and lighting should not be located on footpaths</li> <li>• Sports complexes should not be developed on Greenfield sites outside the town boundaries unless there are walkways, cycle ways or green transport developed</li> </ul>	<p>The Planning Authority will have regard to the <i>Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> [DoEHLG, 2009) and the <i>Best Practice Urban Design Manual</i> (DoEHLG, 2009) and <i>Design Standards for New Apartments</i> (2018, DoHPLG) in the drafting of the Development Standards.</p> <p>The Planning Authority will also have regard to guidance issued by the TII, DoHP, DoEHLG and other government departments, in particular, the <i>Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i>, (2009).</p> <p>Current development management standards in relation to all forms of development including residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and infrastructural will be reviewed and amended as necessary having regard to Section 28 guidance.</p> <p>The sign over of open space on completion of developments is a matter for the Taking in charge process under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. This is being reviewed by the Planning SPC.</p>
LCDP 04	<p><b>National Transport Authority</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Car Parking</u> – maximum car parking standards for non residential land should be required; and an approach that caps car parking on an area wide basis should be applied to high intensity development</li> <li>• <u>Cycle Parking</u> – Cycle parking should be appropriately designed into all new developments and urban realm – refer to Standards for Cycle Parking and Associated Cycling Facilities for New Developments (DLR CO CO)</li> </ul>	<p>Car parking requirements will be provided in the Draft Plan.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will support the provision of secure cycle-parking facilities in the public realm of towns and villages, at large scale development and at all public service destinations.</p>



<p><b>LCDP 25</b></p>	<p><u><i>Glenveagh Properties PLC</i></u></p> <p>This submission requests a provision within the Development Plan that facilitates innovative design and that meet the following suggested performance criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privacy/Protection of Residential Amenity;</li> <li>• Acceptable level of quality private and public amenity space;</li> <li>• Appropriate management of shared spaces within a residential development;</li> <li>• Innovative design principles to own door houses that facilitate higher density, appropriate levels of public and private open space provision, car parking, bike and bin storage ensuring that residential amenity is maintained;</li> <li>• Appropriate bin storage and cycle parking locations within the curtilage of the unit.</li> </ul> <p>This submission requests that Laois County Council considers the development management standards applicable to residential schemes in the context of layout, separation distances and private open space requirements, in order to achieve the policy objectives, set out in the statutory RSES.</p>	<p>The Planning Authority will have regard to the <i>“Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities”</i> [DoEHLG, 2009) and the <i>Best Practice Urban Design Manual</i> (DoEHLG, 2009) and the <i>Design Standards for New Apartments</i> (2018, DoHPLG) in the drafting of the Development Standards.</p> <p>The Planning Authority will also have regard to guidance issued by the TII, DoHP, DoEHLG and other government departments, in particular, the <i>Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i>, (2009).</p> <p>Current development management standards in relation to all forms of development including residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and infrastructural will be reviewed and amended as necessary having regard to Section 28 guidance.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 26</b></p>	<p><u><i>Paddy Buggy</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections of land designated for housing needs to be deemed low density to allow for more up market housing with gardens.</li> <li>• low to medium salary workers serviced sites should be provided where log cabins can be built. Log cabins can be purchased for under €100k which will allow people get on the property ladder at an affordable cost. A ground rent should be charged for these serviced sites.</li> <li>• Derelict Houses in towns and villages need to be rejuvenated however ownership or lack of ownership can be a problem so CPO of such properties should take place.</li> <li>• To take advantage of the tourism potential of the Slieve Blooms, log cabin holiday homes in small clusters should be permitted with shared septic tank per</li> </ul>	<p>The Planning Authority will have regard to the <i>Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> [DoEHLG, 2009) and the <i>Best Practice Urban Design Manual</i> (DoEHLG, 2009) and <i>Design Standards for New Apartments</i> (2018, DoHPLG) in the drafting of the Development Standards.</p> <p>The Planning Authority will also have regard to guidance issued by the TII, DoHP, DoEHLG and other government departments.</p> <p>Current development management standards in relation to all forms of development including residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and infrastructural will be reviewed and amended as necessary having regard to Section 28 guidance.</p>

	<p>cluster of 3 or 4 cabins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derelict farm houses and hay sheds too should be eligible for conversion to housing. The demolition of old damp houses should be permitted to allow new houses to be built on the same site.</li> <li>• Do not force high density living as this will lead to excessive social and health problems.</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative forms of housing design and development will also be addressed.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 39</b></p>	<p><u>Laois Environmental Action Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A scheme should be considered whereby site developers/owners must integrate sustainable energy and waste reduction measures into the proposed developments/facilities</li> <li>• Develop a Habitat Mitigation Scheme to ensure all development of f Greenfield sites mitigate for any loss of habitat (however ecologically diverse).</li> <li>• It’s proposed that the creation of Swift nest cavities should be made a standard stipulation in all new commercial and public building (schools/libraries etc) planning applications (new builds/redevelopments). All applications for buildings of more than two-stories or 5 meters high should be considered when making the stipulation by planning staff</li> </ul>	<p>Current development management standards will be reviewed to address climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and in particular will address renewable energy and enhancements and retention of biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>LCDP 49</b></p>	<p><u>Department of Education and Skills</u></p> <p>Support for urban-design schools to facilitate reduced requirements for onsite parking and set-down and to support access to off-site facilities would be beneficial.</p>	<p>Current development management standards in relation educational facilities will be reviewed and amended as necessary having regard to Section 28 guidance.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submissions are noted and the Draft Plan will comply with the objectives and recommendations set out in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ensuring the Draft Plan will:

- Provide for good quality well designed housing units and residential areas, with a mix of housing to meet different user needs and different densities having regard to proximity to public transport infrastructure and having regard to the principles of compact growth.

- Ensure the principles as set out in the *Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets* (DMURS) is central to Laois County Council's approach to road design in urban areas including the prioritisation of the pedestrian, cyclists and public transport ahead of the private car.
- Ensure the timely provision of community services and resources, including open space, schools, community facilities, amenities, culture and heritage required for the creation of sustainable communities.
- Have regard to Section 28 Guidelines
- Review the current Rural Housing Design Guidelines.

**2.3.1.9 MISCELLANEOUS**

Ref:	Issues Raised	Opinion
<b>LCDP 50</b>	<p><u>F Cooney</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please state the reason for the early CDP review and the connected plans</li> <li>• 'Public consultation meetings' not suitable for real public participation. With a suggestion for public presentations</li> <li>• All policy inputs should be evidence based (including those from state agencies) and be capable of withstanding scrutiny and should not be adopted into the CDP if they cannot demonstrate this</li> </ul>	<p>The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly adopted the RSES on May 3rd 2019. In accordance with Section 11 (1) (b) (iii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Planning Authority is required to either review or vary the current County Development Plan within 26 weeks of the adoption of the RSES.</p> <p>In this regard and given the timeframe of the existing Laois County Development Plan which is due to be reviewed in July 2021, Laois County Council will commence a full review of the Plan.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION**

The contents of the submissions are noted and the Draft Plan will be consistent with the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the NPF, the RSES, Section 28 Guidelines, Section 29 directives and other legislation that Minister may issue.

**2.3.2 VOLUME 2 SETTLEMENT PLANS**

The submissions have been summarised under Volume 2 Settlement Plans relating to specific settlements within County Laois. Many of the submissions are inter-related across a number of topics.

- Borris-In-Ossory
- Portlaoise
- Durrow
- Errill
- Killeshin
- Abbeyleix
- Stradbally
- Killenard
- Castletown
- Cullohill
- The Swan
- Portarlinton
- Ballinakill
- Clough
- Camross

<b>BORRIS-IN-OSSORY</b>		
<b>LCDP 10</b>	<p><u><i>Cllr Conor Bergin</i></u></p> <p>The CDP should take cognisance of the Borris-In-Ossory Community Plan 2018 – 2022. This Plan addresses, inter alia, the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profile and demography analysis of BIO</li> <li>• Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats</li> <li>• Consultation findings and strategic plan – public realm, community infrastructure, youth facilities, services for older people, economic development</li> <li>• Implementation of the Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure, public realm and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>A review of the existing settlements will also be undertaken to include ‘Opportunity Sites’ to encourage growth.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>

PORTLAOISE	
<b>LCDP 11</b>	<p><u><i>Kilminchy Homeowners</i></u></p> <p>The CDP should have regard to Kilminchy Community Plan – A green infrastructure masterplan for Kilminchy Estate, Portlaoise, which addresses, inter alia, the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green infrastructure</li> <li>• Design process</li> <li>• Masterplan</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> <li>• Costings and phased development</li> <li>• Planting details</li> <li>• Management plans</li> </ul>
<b>DURROW</b>	
<b>LCDP 20</b>	<p><u><i>Durrow Development Forum</i></u></p> <p>Submitted the Durrow Community Plan 2019 – 2023. The plan covers, inter alia, the following issues:</p> <p>Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, Opportunities of Durrow, Population Profile Context, Social, Community and Economic Development. The following points are noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelopment of Methodist Church and Civil Defence property on Patrick as a community facility/centre,</li> <li>• Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and pitch for Soccer Club with possible site location of south of the river Erkina to the east of the town,</li> <li>• Additional Play Areas for Children – possibly northern section of the town square.</li> <li>• Shortage of Buildings for Businesses – area zoned for enterprise and employment however existing businesses must ensure they are using buildings to full potential – a survey of vacancy should be carried out – hot desking and potential of new community centre</li> <li>• Improvements for Pedestrians particularly along Chapel Street</li> <li>• Facilitating Cycling in Durrow</li> </ul>

Kilminchy is a distinct suburb of Portlaoise Town. The Portlaoise Local Area Plan was adopted in 2018 and is in place until 2024.

The green infrastructure masterplan will inform future planning policy for Portlaoise in terms of good use / provision of open space within urban residential settings.

Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.

Of particular note to the Durrow Community Plan, RPO 6.12 and 6.13 of the RSES requires County Development Plans to include objectives to support ‘Placemaking’ and in particular implement Town Centre Renewal Plans and Design Guidelines to provide for improvements to public realm, streetscapes and for revitalising vacant spaces.

The Draft Plan will have regard to the aforementioned policies and will facilitate the improvement of the public realm and provision of community and cultural facilities.

A review of the existing settlements will also be undertaken to include ‘Opportunity Sites’ to encourage growth.

The Draft Plan will promote the development of

	<p>introducing cycle parking and traffic calming in Durrow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce paid parking to reduce commuter/carpooling use of town centre spaces – location for car pooling parking should be identified (backland area behind Mary St or car park of local GAA club, electric charging points required</li> <li>• Traffic Calming – ring road around the town to facilitate HGVs, narrow road widths to slow traffic, one way systems on some streets and lower speed limits</li> <li>• Requirement for new community facility</li> <li>• Key Development Sites and Environmental and Public Realm Improvements – vacancy rates should be reduced, development of backland areas</li> <li>• Environmental Projects around Natura 2000 sites and waterways Walkways (blueway along the River Erkina and development of Cycle Trails to include bike hire scheme</li> </ul>	<p>community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
<b>ERRILL</b>		
<p><b>LCDP 22</b></p>	<p><u>Errill Vision Group</u> Submitted Errill Village Plan – the Plan covers, inter alia, the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of this plan is to provide an overarching and broad agenda for the future development of the area, covering all aspects of Errill village, from community facilities, economic development.</li> <li>• A strategy that focuses on a number of priority projects as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ redevelopment of the community hall, main priority project.</li> <li>○ redevelopment of the Health Centre as a community hub,</li> <li>○ promotion and enhancement of Errill Tidy Towns Committee</li> <li>○ phone and broadband</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES.</p> <p>A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>Of particular note to Errill Village Plan, RPO 6.12 and 6.13 of the RSES requires County Development Plans to include objectives to support ‘Placemaking’ and in particular implement Town Centre Renewal Plans and Design Guidelines to provide for improvements to public realm, streetscapes and for revitalising vacant spaces.</p>

	<p>improvements.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan will have regard to the aforementioned policies and will facilitate the improvement of the public realm and provision of community and cultural facilities.</p> <p>A review of the existing settlements will also be undertaken to include ‘Opportunity Sites’ to encourage growth.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
<b>KILLESHIN</b>		
<p><b>LCDP 03 &amp; LCDP 36</b></p>	<p><u>Mike Moran</u> Requests that a concrete fence at the bridge to main Killeshin Road required. (Bridge situated on the road leading to Holy Cross Church)</p> <p><u>Killeshin Community Centre</u> Submission in relation to key issues affecting Killeshin which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic and parking Issues: Traffic travels along the R430 at high speeds disregarding the speed limits. A solution would be the construction of traffic islands at either end of the village.</li> <li>• Parking problems at the Church and school are acute. While the Community Centre has parking spaces these are used by the new school at both morning and evening; additionally because the parking at the Church is so limited the Community Centre spaces are often filled.</li> </ul> <p><u>Killeshin Sustainable Community Plan</u> also</p>	<p>The matter of boundary treatment at the bridge will be referred onto the Area Engineer in the Eastern Area for their consideration.</p> <p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure, public realm and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>



	<p>submitted which highlights the current socio-economic profile of the Killeshin area and the needs, goals and objectives for the village which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s playground and outdoor gym for adults at a suitable location in the village</li> <li>• Safe accessible walkway for the public within the village</li> <li>• First responder scheme</li> <li>• Killeshin community hall and equipment be modernised and upgraded</li> <li>• Create an outdoor communal area at Killeshin Community Centre for running events. Temporary structures on site should be replaced with permanent structures for existing businesses</li> <li>• Develop the resources at Killeshin Waterworks as a recreational and tourist amenity</li> <li>• Romanesque doorway and church in Killeshin and cross and church in Sleaty are protected and conserved</li> <li>• Reduction in illegal dumping and littering are reduced by 25%</li> <li>• Village environment is enhanced</li> <li>• Review traffic levels and speed limits</li> </ul>	
<b>ABBEYLEIX</b>		
<p><b>LCDP 40 &amp; LCDP 47</b></p>	<p><u>Charlie Cass</u></p> <p>There are concerns in relation to the access to industrial lands on the Mountrath Rd (R 430). The narrow point at Bergin’s corner at the start of the Mountrath Rd (R430) from traffic lights at the town centre is going to hamper access due to a oversized pathway, this will reduce access to industrial land on R430.</p> <p><u>Abbeyleix Tidy Towns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Abbeyleix in the delivery of the innovative biodiversity action plan (Supported by Community Foundation of Ireland) which will see a comprehensive programme of green infrastructure based recommendations.</li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>Of particular note to the submissions for Abbeyleix, RPO 6.12 and 6.13 of the RSES requires County Development Plans to include objectives to support ‘Placemaking’ and in particular implement Town Centre Renewal Plans and Design Guidelines to provide for improvements to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Abbeyleix Tidy Towns to access Forestry Service funding to develop a Neighbourhood in the County Council owned Balladine Estate site.</li> <li>• Support Abbeyleix Tidy Towns to deliver pollinator initiatives. We would like to look at establishment of biodiversity on the wide road to the north and south approaches to Abbeyleix in particular. Other County Council owned land banks could also be considered. Undertake an audit of publicly owned land banks which would be suitable for pollinator initiatives.</li> </ul> <p><i>Energy and Climate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate Abbeyleix as the first low carbon small town in the Country</li> <li>• Support Abbeyleix to develop as a sustainable energy community (Energy Master Plan also submitted) including pilot the town for smart metering programme for Laois and using public buildings with solar panels and EV charging points, green schools programme</li> <li>• Support Abbeyleix Bog carbon sequestration initiative</li> </ul> <p><i>Water Conservation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support water conservation projects and implement water harvesting in the fire station.</li> <li>• Support drinking fountains to reduce plastic use</li> </ul> <p><i>Sustainable Transport and Healthy Living</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend Cycle corridor on N77 north towards Portlaoise and south towards Cullohill</li> <li>• Develop a Greenway between Abbeyleix and Portlaoise and south to Attanagh/Durrow</li> <li>• Support a more pedestrian friendly town</li> </ul>	<p>public realm, streetscapes and for revitalising vacant spaces.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will have regard to the aforementioned policies and will facilitate the improvement of the public realm and provision of community and cultural facilities.</p> <p>A review of the existing settlements will also be undertaken to include ‘Opportunity Sites’ to encourage growth.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submissions are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
--	---

	<p><i>Tourism and Economic Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Abbeyleix on the Ancient East corridor</li> <li>• Develop co-working spaces to allow development of new businesses</li> </ul> <p><i>General</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development of Fr Breen Park as a model for co-located sporting facility</li> <li>• Rezone lands to create opportunities for new housing and recreation infrastructure, eg, Stone Arch</li> </ul>	
<b>STRADBALLY</b>		
<b>LCDP 52</b>	<p><u>Stradbally Community Development Association</u> Submitted Stradbally Sustainable Community Plan 2020 – 2024, main objectives highlighted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a community and sports centre</li> <li>• Upgrade to community facilities and surface structures eg public realm</li> <li>• Economic development and addressing climate change - community energy, Stradbally as a location for new business, increase tourism</li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>Of particular note to the Stradbally Sustainable Community Plan, RPO 6.12 and 6.13 of the RSES requires County Development Plans to include objectives to support ‘Placemaking’ and in particular implement Town Centre Renewal Plans and Design Guidelines to provide for improvements to public realm, streetscapes and for revitalising vacant spaces.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will have regard to the aforementioned policies and will facilitate the improvement of the public realm and provision of community and cultural facilities.</p> <p>A review of the existing settlements will also be undertaken to include ‘Opportunity Sites’ to encourage growth.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of community, sports and recreational facilities and</p>

		<p>to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
<b>KILLENARD</b>		
<p><b>LCDP 53</b></p>	<p><u>Michael Cobbe 2</u> Submitted Killenard Sustainable Community Plan. The main aims and issues identified in the plan are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen connectivity by providing footpaths and cycle lands from the community centre to O Dempsey’s GAA Club – detailed map included</li> <li>• Improve arrive experience into the village</li> <li>• Encourage a co-operative store within the village</li> <li>• Enhance public realm</li> <li>• Upgrade to community centre</li> <li>• Enhance the memorial garden</li> <li>• Improvements to Mount Henry Crossroads</li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will support improvement of the public realm and provision of community and cultural facilities.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
<b>CASTLETOWN</b>		
<p><b>LCDP 14</b></p>	<p><u>Castletown Community Centre Community</u> Submitted Castletown Smart Community Plan, main objectives of the plan are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Business and Economy</u> – analysis of the existing economy within Castletown and highlights a number of potential projects (develop tourism in particular river and angling), bike trail to Slieve Blooms, public realm enhancements, digital hub and additional retail opportunities.</li> <li>• <u>Health and Well Being</u> – analysis of the existing community and amenity facilities in the town and highlight of</li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>Of particular note to the Castletown Smart Community Plan, RPO 6.12 and 6.13 of the RSES requires County Development Plans to include objectives to support ‘Placemaking’ and in</p>

	<p>potential projects (walking loop/trails, public realm improvements, exercise equipment in public spaces, community centre improvements, all weather pitch)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Local Management</u> – improvements to town including public realm, Astroturf in community centre, improved parking, community centre upgrade, rural broadband, new pavilion</li> <li>• <u>Environment and Sustainability</u> – analysis of existing natural assets and highlights a number of potential projects – enhance river trails, old mill renovation, protect natural environment, renewable energy source for the community, derelict properties, tidy towns initiative.</li> </ul>	<p>particular implement Town Centre Renewal Plans and Design Guidelines to provide for improvements to public realm, streetscapes and for revitalising vacant spaces.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will have regard to the aforementioned policies and will facilitate the improvement of the public realm and provision of community and cultural facilities.</p> <p>A review of the existing settlements will also be undertaken to include ‘Opportunity Sites’ to encourage growth.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
<b>CULLOHILL</b>		
<p><b>LCDP 15</b></p>	<p><u>Cullohill Community Development Plan</u></p> <p>Analysis of Cullohill with a focus on strategic themes and actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tourism</i> – develop water based activities and Blueways, Ireland’s Ancient East Brand, develop walking/cycling/running trails, Cullohill castle.</li> <li>• <i>Enterprise and Employment</i> – develop co-working and remote working space (opportunity site identified), potential for food incubation units,</li> <li>• <i>Infrastructure</i> – better signage, roadside markings and barriers for better road safety, pedestrian safety improvements, improved public realm, community playground, broadband, need for community space – upgrade or extend, improvements to GAA facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES.</p> <p>A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure, public realm and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>

THE SWAN	
<p><b>LCDP 31</b></p>	<p><u><i>The Swan Development Committee</i></u>                      Submitted The Swan Sustainable Community Plan 2019 – 2024 which consists of an analysis of the settlement of The Swan and identified key objectives which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade to the Swan Community Centre</li> <li>• Improve safety and security within the village</li> <li>• Improvements to public realm</li> <li>• Establish the Swan as a Smart Village</li> <li>• Protect heritage and conservation – of particular note is the Culum crusher/bun stone</li> </ul>
<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all. The Draft Plan will also support heritage and conservation within the settlement.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>	
PORTARLINGTON	
<p><b>LCDP 54</b></p>	<p><u><i>Portarlington Community Development Association</i></u>                      Submission which provided an analysis of the town and in particular focused on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designation of Portarlington as a Heritage Town</li> <li>• Eco tourism - Blueway through Portarlington on River Barrow and Greenway through Derryounce Lakes and Trails</li> <li>• Rejuvenation of derelict buildings and Improvements to public realm, in particular along Main St and Market Sq</li> <li>• Development of French Connection</li> <li>• Develop enterprise opportunities and in particular innovation hubs as a centre for technology in collaboration for 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutes. Build on excellent work of Coderdojo</li> <li>• Develop 3<sup>rd</sup> level institute for midlands</li> </ul>
<p>The Joint Portarlington LAP was adopted in 2018 which will be reviewed on completion of the new CDP, and as such specific public realm improvements will be dealt with at that time.</p> <p>Portarlington will however, be included in specific policy throughout the Draft Plan in relation to tourism, green infrastructure, economic development, community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of educational, community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups</p>	

	region	or town teams.
<b>BALLINAKILL</b>		
<b>LCDP 55</b>	<p><u>Ballinakill Community Development Committee</u> Submission of Ballinakill Community Plan 2018 – 2022_ which consists of an analysis of the settlement and identified key focus areas which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop play facilities for children, improve community facilities</li> <li>• Develop an older persons housing scheme</li> <li>• Develop local heritage to promote tourism and social enterprise</li> <li>• Investment in enterprise and networking opportunities</li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
<b>CLOUGH</b>		
<b>LCDP 56</b>	<p><u>Clough Community Vision Group</u> Submission of a vision for clough which consists of an analysis of the settlement and identified key objectives which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A meeting, rehearsal and recreational facility for all community groups in Clough</li> <li>• Requirement for a playground in Clough</li> <li>• Development of Grantstown as an amenity</li> <li>• Further development of the Aghaboe Abbey to enhance the visitor experience</li> <li>• Recreational walking route for Clough</li> <li>• Upgrade of the Sports Hall in Ballacolla</li> <li>• Additional playing fields for Ballacolla GAA Club The need for a Community facility in Clough in particular was deemed the top priority project</li> </ul>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
<b>LCDP 62</b>	<p><u>Camross Parish Development Association</u> Submission of a vision for Camross which consists of an analysis of the settlement and identified key objectives and strategies for the future development of the village which include</p>	<p>Each settlement within the County will be reviewed within Volume 2 of the Draft Plan – Settlement Plans, in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy of the RSES. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each</p>

	<p>the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public realm improvements and projects such as Orchard Community Garden development.</li> <li>• Priority projects which include a village hub at Poet’s Cottage complex, park, Delour River upgrade works, sheltered retirement accommodation, and improvements to villages of Coolrain and Killenure in proximity to Camross.</li> </ul>	<p>settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing public realm, infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.</p> <p>The Draft Plan will promote the development of community, sports and recreational facilities and to provide a more socially inclusive society and access for all.</p> <p>Some of the projects identified in the submitted Plan are, however, outside the scope of the County Development Plan and may be more appropriate to refer to various community groups or town teams.</p>
--	--	--

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning Authority welcomes the submissions from the individual Village and Town Communities who have invested time and effort in preparing a Plan for a sustainable future for their communities. These plans will inform the Settlement Strategy and each of the individual town and villages plans where appropriate and subject to environmental and assessment under the Habitats Directive.

The contents of the submissions are noted and the Draft Plan will be consistent with the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the NPF, the RSES, Section 28 Guidelines, Section 29 directives and other legislation that the Minister may issue. In particular, the Draft Plan will:

- Ensure the Settlement Strategy for the County will accord with the Settlement Hierarchy as indicated in the RSES and support the development of smaller towns and villages. A full review of existing policies and objectives for each settlement will be undertaken and address future upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities, economic and community development, regeneration and housing.
- Encourage growth and prevent decline in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline and by managing the growth of areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid overdevelopment, while sustaining vibrant rural communities.
- Encourage appropriate residential, social and community uses within each settlement to enhance the vitality and viability of the County, in accordance with the principles of good design and to add quality to the places where people live and work.
- Provide policy on enhancements to public realm, streets and public areas within each settlement. ensuring that placemaking is at the heart of all new developments.
- Engage with key stakeholders/community groups to develop a shared responsibility for community development within the County.



# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A PRESCRIBED BODIES NOTIFIED

Organisation
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Office of the Planning Regulator
Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly
An Bord Pleanála
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
NPWS
Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment
Department of Defence,
Department of Education and Skills
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
An Chomhairle Ealaíon (The Arts Council)
Department of Rural and Community Development
Office of Public Works (OPW)
Dublin Airport Authority (DAA),
EirGrid,
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
ESB (Electric Ireland),
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
Fáilte Ireland,
Health Service Executive,
Heritage Council
Health and Safety Authority
Inland Fisheries Ireland
Transport Infrastructure Ireland
An Taisce — the National Trust for Ireland,
Offaly County Council
Kilkenny County Council
Tipperary County Council
Kildare County Council
Carlow County Council
Laois Local Community Development Committee
Laois Public Participation Network
Irish Water

## APPENDIX B

### LIST OF VALID SUBMISSIONS

<b>Ref No:</b>	<b>Name/Organisation</b>
<b>LCDP 01</b>	Health and Safety Authority
<b>LCDP 02</b>	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
<b>LCDP 03</b>	Mike Moran
<b>LCDP 04</b>	National Transport Authority
<b>LCDP 05</b>	Geraldine and John Delaney, Audrey Powell and Gus Fahy, Alison Doyle and Niall Walker
<b>LCDP 06</b>	Kildare County Council
<b>LCDP 07</b>	Offaly County Council
<b>LCDP 08</b>	Thomas Fallon
<b>LCDP 09</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>LCDP 10</b>	Cllr Conor Bergin
<b>LCDP 11</b>	Kilminchy Homeowners
<b>LCDP 12</b>	Health Service Executive
<b>LCDP 13</b>	Brennan Family
<b>LCDP 14</b>	Castletown Community Centre Committee
<b>LCDP 15</b>	Cullohill Community Development Plan
<b>LCDP 16</b>	Barry Butler
<b>LCDP 17</b>	Michael Cobbe
<b>LCDP 18</b>	Clondarrig Community Farm Project
<b>LCDP 19</b>	Niamh Connolly
<b>LCDP 20</b>	Durrow Development Forum
<b>LCDP 21</b>	Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority
<b>LCDP 22</b>	Errill Vision Group
<b>LCDP 23</b>	Pedal Vintage – Durrow Community Bike Hire Scheme
<b>LCDP 24</b>	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
<b>LCDP 25</b>	Glenveagh Properties PLC
<b>LCDP 26</b>	Paddy Buggy
<b>LCDP 27</b>	John Dunne
<b>LCDP 28</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>LCDP 29</b>	Irish Wind Energy Association
<b>LCDP 30</b>	Dónal O'Shea
<b>LCDP 31</b>	The Swan Development Committee
<b>LCDP 32</b>	Tom and Mairead Woods
<b>LCDP 33</b>	Petrogas Group Ltd
<b>LCDP 34</b>	Laois Public Participation Network
<b>LCDP 35</b>	Irish Water
<b>LCDP 36</b>	Killeshin Community Centre
<b>LCDP 37</b>	Stradbally Community Centre

<b>LCDP 38</b>	Mairead Hickey
<b>LCDP 39</b>	Laois Environmental Action Forum
<b>LCDP 40</b>	Charlie Cass
<b>LCDP 41</b>	Coillte
<b>LCDP 42</b>	Office of the Planning Regulator
<b>LCDP 43</b>	Bord Na Mona
<b>LCDP 44</b>	Gas Networks Ireland
<b>LCDP 45</b>	Faillte Ireland
<b>LCDP 46</b>	Department of Public Health
<b>LCDP 47</b>	Abbeyleix Tidy Towns
<b>LCDP 48</b>	Statkraft Ireland
<b>LCDP 49</b>	Department of Education and Skills
<b>LCDP 50</b>	F Cooney
<b>LCDP 51</b>	Laois Heritage Society
<b>LCDP 52</b>	Stradbally Community Development Association
<b>LCDP 53</b>	Michael Cobbe 2
<b>LCDP 54</b>	Portarlinton Community Development Association
<b>LCDP 55</b>	Ballinakill Community Development Committee
<b>LCDP 56</b>	Clough Community Vision Group
<b>LCDP 57</b>	Kingscroft Development Ltd
<b>LCDP 58</b>	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
<b>LCDP 59</b>	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
<b>LCDP 61</b>	Laois Tourism
<b>LCDP 62</b>	Camross Parish Development Association

**APPENDIX C**

**LIST OF ZONING RELATED SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED WHICH COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED**

<b>Ref No:</b>	<b>Name/Organisation</b>
<b>LCDP 17</b>	Michael Cobbe (Part B – map in relation to Portarlinton)
<b>LCDP 60</b>	Catherine Kelly

## APPENDIX D

## SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED AT PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS

*(Abbeyleix, Clonaslee, Killeshin, Rathdowney and Portarlinton)*

Topic	Economic Development
<b>Key economic development issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop key tourism assets</li> <li>• Develop arts and culture and make County an alternative to neighbouring counties</li> <li>• Laois needs to be branded and promoted better</li> <li>• Tourism in the County employs 2000 people, this could be doubled if the County was branded and promoted more</li> <li>• Support local business on Sat/Sun markets (follow French market)</li> <li>• Small traders are missing from our town main streets</li> <li>• Shopping centres replaced character for shoppers</li> <li>• Are the needs for people with disabilities being accommodated – refer to PPN report 'Access for All' – highlights the needs of people with disabilities</li> <li>• Support and promote local rural businesses and Agri Tourism</li> <li>• Support community development projects</li> </ul>
<b>How to improve opportunities for retailing in towns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce rates</li> <li>• Promote locally produced goods</li> <li>• Laois Taste needs to be supported more</li> <li>• First 45 mins parking in town centres should be free</li> <li>• Parking should be free in Portlaoise town centre</li> <li>• More needs to be done in smaller towns and villages outside Portlaoise to attract business</li> <li>• Town centres needs to be regenerated not only in Portlaoise but Mountrath, Stradbally, Mountmellick and Portarlinton – a plan should be put in place to rejuvenate these centres</li> <li>• Make use and invest in what is already available in town centres and community centres</li> </ul>
<b>Demand for innovative hubs/co-working spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for these spaces but also buy in from larger companies to allow staff to work remotely</li> <li>• A requirement in smaller towns</li> <li>• 11,477 people leave Laois every day to commute</li> <li>• Example of Portarlinton and coderdojo</li> </ul>

Topic	Climate Change
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public recycling bins should be trialled in town centres – Portlaoise and Abbeyleix , in conjunction with tidy towns</li> <li>• Follow EU guidelines to lead the way – Laois as a Green County</li> <li>• Laois County Council should obtain a green license for proper disposal of hedge cuttings etc (similar to KK)</li> <li>• We need to reduce waste and improve efficiency</li> <li>• Plan should focus on renewable heat solutions for all public buildings</li> <li>• All new buildings should be heated with biomass instead of oil</li> <li>• More electric charging points required</li> <li>• Areas in towns and villages should be set aside for biodiversity such a wild flower gardens</li> <li>• Replant deciduous trees in Killeishin waterworks</li> <li>• Flooding issues in Mountmellick</li> </ul>

Topic	Where we Live
<b>Population and communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in population should be directed south of the County</li> <li>• Rural villages are being neglected – they need more investment and industry to prevent ‘brain drain’</li> <li>• One off housing is still vital with our dispersed population living in rural areas</li> <li>• To achieve a balance growth, towns and villages must be allowed to grow alongside Portlaoise and Portarlinton</li> <li>• Playground in Killeishin is needed</li> <li>• Spink should be included as a small village</li> <li>• Public health provision</li> </ul>
<b>Compact Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide essential services including recreation services centrally in villages</li> <li>• Reduce business rates in rural towns and villages</li> <li>• Lower rates for derelict buildings</li> <li>• More initiatives for young families to move to villages ie playgrounds, school places, after school services</li> </ul>
<b>Housing crisis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Houses that have been bricked up should be renovated and made available for rent/rehousing</li> <li>• Create more employment in Laois would help reduce housing problem in Dublin and can renew rural Ireland</li> <li>• Create an incentive for people to renovate disused properties in smaller towns and villages as homes/businesses</li> <li>• Living over shop/business unit should be encouraged</li> </ul>

Topic	Movement
Key Transport Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="574 280 1133 313">• Increase town link and rural bus initiatives</li><li data-bbox="574 324 1420 392">• Road safety improvements at Killeshin (around community centre) and structural improvements</li><li data-bbox="574 403 1244 436">• Launch County campaign for road safety for cyclists</li><li data-bbox="574 448 949 481">• Adequate lighting required</li><li data-bbox="574 492 1380 560">• Improved rail system with greater support from Govt regarding reduced fares and upgrade of infrastructure</li><li data-bbox="574 571 1340 604">• Explore options within 1 or 2 miles of main roads for cycling</li><li data-bbox="574 616 1061 649">• Improvement of cycle lanes required</li><li data-bbox="574 660 909 694">• Cycle track in Abbeyleix</li></ul>



**APPENDIX E  
PUBLIC NOTICE****COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE  
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL****NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REVIEW THE LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017 - 2023 AND TO PREPARE A  
NEW LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027  
6th JANUARY 2020 TO 2ND MARCH 2020**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 11(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Laois County Council intends to review the existing Laois County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 and to prepare a new Laois County Development Plan (CDP) for the period 2021 - 2027.

The preparation of a new CDP for County Laois shall be strategic in nature for the purposes of developing objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the CDP and the Core Strategy.

The Planning Authority intends to review the zoning of lands in the area of the CDP. However, requests or proposals for the zoning of particular lands for any purpose will **NOT** be considered at pre-draft stage (this stage).

**SEA and AA**

The Planning Authority will carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as part of the review process, pursuant to Article 13B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011).

For this purpose, the Planning Authority will prepare an environmental report of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the new CDP. The provisions of Articles 13C to 13J of the SEA Regulations (as amended) shall apply while undertaking the SEA.

Stage One Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening (and Stage Two AA, if required), pursuant to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, in compliance with "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (2009), will also be carried out as part of the review process.

**Issues Paper and Public Consultation**

The preparation of the new CDP will take two years to complete and will involve three stages of public consultation. As part of the first stage, the Planning Authority is engaging in pre-draft consultation with the general public and a wide range of organisations and interest groups. This 8 week public consultation period commences on the **6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and will finish 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**. Public consultation will inform the policies and objectives of the new CDP, as well as the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Laois.

The Planning Authority has prepared an Issues Paper which provides a synopsis of the plan making process and issues affecting the development of County Laois. A copy of this document can be obtained from the Laois County Council website at [www.laois.ie/planning](http://www.laois.ie/planning)

As required by Section 11 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, public consultation sessions will be held at the following locations:

Date and Time	Venue
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 6 – 8pm	Heritage House Abbeyleix
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 7 – 9pm	Heritage Centre Clonaslee
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020 6 – 8pm	Community Centre Killeshin

These sessions will be facilitated by staff of the Forward Planning Section of Laois County Council. Individuals, groups, organisations or representatives are all invited to discuss any element or issues stemming from the existing Laois County Development Plan (2017 - 2023) and to play a part in shaping the new Laois County Development Plan (2021-2027).

#### Submissions/Observations

Submissions or observations regarding the review of the existing Laois County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 and the preparation of the new Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 may be made to the Planning Authority from **the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 (both dates inclusive)** and can be submitted by one of the following mediums:

1. In writing to: Senior Planner, Planning Section, Laois County Council, Aras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, Co.Laois.

Or

2. By email to: [cdp@Laoiscoco.ie](mailto:cdp@Laoiscoco.ie)

Please make your submission or observation by one medium only i.e. in hard copy or online. This will avoid the duplication of submission reference numbers and will streamline the process. All submissions should be clearly marked **“Review of County Development Plan”**.

In respect of making a submission or observation please note the following:

- Submissions should relate to the proper planning and sustainable development of Co. Laois.
- Children or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are entitled to make submissions or observations regarding the objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the CDP.

- The Planning Authority intends to review the zoning of the area of the CDP for the purposes of developing objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the development plan and core strategy. **However, requests or proposals for the zoning of particular land for any purpose shall not be considered at this stage. (Any such submissions will be returned).**
- If you consider that you have a disability, please give details of any special requirements for public consultation purposes that you may have in order that appropriate arrangements can be made if necessary.
- All submissions must include your name and a contact address, a map (where appropriate) and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc, which you represent.

**Closing date for submissions is March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, at 4.00 p.m. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

**NOTE**

Submissions received by the Planning Authority will be published on Laois County Council website at [www.laois.ie/planning](http://www.laois.ie/planning) within 10 working days of receipt, along with your name in accordance with the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2018, however **your contact details will not be published**. Please do not include personal, confidential or other sensitive information in submissions.

Signed  
John Mulholland,  
Chief Executive Officer  
Laois County Council