



29 July 2022

Planning Department,
Roscommon County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
Roscommon,
Co. Roscommon.
F42 VR98

Re: Issues Paper – Boyle LAP 2023 – 2029

Dear Sir/Madam

The Department of Education welcomes this opportunity to engage with Roscommon County Council in the preparation of the Boyle Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029.

The Department notes that Local Authorities, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), are obliged to make all their statutory plans consistent with the core strategies and objectives of the NPF and the relevant RSES. The Department welcomes the reference to this statement in the Issues Paper. The Issues Paper notes that the current Roscommon CDP 2022-2028 designates Boyle as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town. The current Roscommon CDP provides a population increase for Boyle of 514 from 2022 to 2028 and for a further 280 persons from 2028 to 2031. If this projected population increase materialises, a requirement for additional education provision at both primary and post-primary level may emerge over the lifetime of the plan.

This Department also notes the reference to the sustainable growth of compact urban settlements and the potential regeneration of existing areas within the town's core. The Department is of the opinion that the LAP must consider the cumulative impacts of regeneration and redevelopment on existing community facilities. Population growth within the existing "built-up" footprint of the town has the potential to upset the balance of use relative to education provision in the area. The absence of specific school site provision in such locations can significantly challenge the delivery of required school places associated with intensified residential development. It is, therefore, critical that explicit provision for school development to cater for such development be made in existing "built-up" areas, within Boyle.



The Issues Paper states that

"The provision of an adequate level of community facilities and amenities in Boyle, at appropriate locations to meet the current and future needs of the local community will be a priority in the new Local Area Plan."

In this regard and in the context of education provision, the Department requests that the Draft Plan would be explicit in its support for the provision of adequate and suitable school accommodation, including the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones.

This Department looks forward to engaging with the Council in regard to the draft plan. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with Council officials to discuss educational provision in the draft Plan and I would appreciate if the relevant official could liaise with myself at Statutory_plans@education.gov.ie , phone 057 9324474 with a view to arranging same.

If you have any queries in respect of the above, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Hanlon', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Hanlon
Statutory Plans,
Forward Planning Section