



29 July 2022

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

Re: Issues Paper – Roscommon Town LAP 2023 – 2029

Dear Sir/Madam

The Department of Education welcomes this opportunity to engage with Roscommon County Council in the preparation of the Roscommon Town 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. It is noted that that Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) designates Roscommon Town as a key town in its Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). The Issues Paper notes that the current Roscommon CDP 2022-2028 provides a population increase of 1,608 from 2022 to 2028 and for a further 170 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 Roscommon Town.



The Issues Paper states that part of the vision within the existing 2014-2020 Town LAP is that

"The town will develop and enhance existing local facilities, services and amenities to their fullest in order to create a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive community for all."

Given the the vital role of community infrastructure within the town and its environs, the Department would like to see this or a similar statement reflected in the new plan 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,

Alan Hanlon
Statutory Plans,
Forward Planning Section