

Forward Planning Section,
Roscommon County Council,
Aras an Chontae,
Co. Roscommon
F42 VR98

13th June 2024

**RE: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan
2024-2030**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Further to the notice given to this Department of the publication of an invitation for submissions on the Material Alterations to the Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan, the following submission outlines its observations in respect of a number of policy areas for which the Department is responsible.

Climate Action

The Department welcomes Proposed Amendment MA 24 which supports the Government's current Climate Action Plan and any subsequent updates.

We note observations made by the Department on the Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030 with regard to a request for policy/objectives to promote renewable energy installations, the local areas status as a decarbonisation zone (DZ), energy efficiency, the electrification of heat and district heating.

As such, we welcome policy objectives in Proposed Amendment MA 25 which:

- *'Support the policy measures and actions set out in the County Roscommon Climate Action Plan to promote the integration of energy efficient building systems, renewable technologies and EV charging points, throughout the built environment of Roscommon town, in order to contribute towards a more carbon neutral and environmentally sustainable urban setting'.*

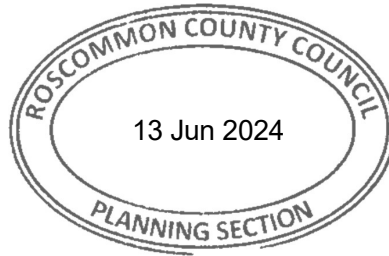


- *‘Support green initiatives arising from Roscommon town’s status as a designated Decarbonising Zone and any associated implementation plans promoting measures to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and improve the natural and built environment of the town’.*
- *‘Promote and encourage positive community and/or co-operative led climate action initiatives and projects in Roscommon town that seek to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, enhance green infrastructure and encourage awareness on climate change issues’.*
- *‘Promote the electrification of heating solutions to both new and existing homes, which use clean electricity thereby reducing dependency on fossil fuels and supports a move towards reducing carbon levels within the built environment of Roscommon town’.*
- *‘Engage with all stakeholders seeking to develop the potential of district heating schemes, including district heating derived from waste heat where technically feasible, cost effective and in accordance with all relevant planning considerations’.*

Transport

The CAP24 commits the Government to reducing transport emissions by 50% from 2018 emissions rates. To facilitate the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, CAP24 supports a significant increase in sustainable transport trips, through enhanced land-use planning, public transport, active travel, vehicle efficiency, 20% reduction in total vehicle kilometres, 50% reduction in fuel usage, fleet electrification and biofuels.

As such, we welcome Proposed Amendment MA 17 which supports active travel and reducing the demand for vehicular travel.



Conclusion

We would be grateful if Roscommon County Council would take these matters under consideration in the finalisation of the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan.

Department officials can make themselves available for a discussion on any matters raised in this submission or any other matters within the remit of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications relevant to the preparation of this plan.

Officials can provide support to Roscommon County Council in the following areas:

- Climate Action, Engagement and Adaptation
- Energy Generation and Networks
- Energy Use / Demand in the Built Environment
- The Circular Economy
- Communications
- Environmental Policy and Governance
- Waste and Natural Resources (including geosciences)
- UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Please direct any requests for further consultation to PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie

Yours sincerely,

Planning Advisory Division

Department of Environment, Climate and Communications