



Senior Executive Officer
Kildare County Council
Áras Chill Dara
Devoy Park
Naas
Co. Kildare

01 November 2019

Re: Proposed Material Alteration to Leixlip LAP 2020-2026

To whom it may concern,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of notification of the above proposed variation. The Department of Education and Skills has examined the contents therein and wishes to make the following submission.

The Department notes the Material Alterations as proposed. In doing so, the Department recognises that whilst the plan is now only for the period to 2023, the population projections are set to 2026 to come in line with NPF/RSES projections. It is noted that the alterations will if adopted restrict the number of units to be delivered in the short term to align with the revised population figures from the NPF & RSES, through the introduction of significant phasing measures to the LAP.

It is also noted that the LAP must plan in the short-term for an additional 1,189 housing units and that these units shall be identified at appropriate locations proximate to the town centre where infrastructural capacity is readily available and will be designated as Phase 1 lands within the LAP (Mat. Alteration No. 5). The Department also recognises that the Leixlip LAP is statutorily required to comply with the Core Strategy of the Kildare CDP and therefore required to make provision for the delivery of 3,315 units (which was the allocation given under the current County Development Plan). It is noted that in conjunction with the development of phase 2 lands, this number of units is reflected clearly in the amendment to Table 4.1 as per Material Alteration No. 6. Having regard to the above and noting the Department's engagement with Kildare County Council to date concerning the Draft Plan and taking into consideration the longer term projections as outlined in the NPF/RSES, the Department is of the opinion that its requirement as outlined in its submission to the draft LAP (11/7/19) still remains.

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. In this regard, population projections as outlined in the RSES will have a sizeable influence on the review/ amendment of current plans and the formation of new ones. Therefore, in an effort to identify future education requirement, it is vitally important that all future engagements between the Department and the Council take into



consideration both the short term and the longer term population projections as outlined for the County in the RSES. In this regard, the Department will continue to work closely with the Council in relation to the provision of new schools and the development of existing schools and emphasises the critical importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient and appropriate land is zoned for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,

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