



Pre-draft Consultation Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031  
c/o Senior Executive Officer  
Planning Department,  
Kildare County Council  
Áras Chill Dara,  
Naas, Co. Kildare

15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Re: Issues Paper – Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031**

Dear Sir/Madam

The Department of Education welcomes this opportunity to engage with Kildare County Council in the preparation of the Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.

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 the current Kildare CDP 2023-2029 designates Monasterevin as a ‘Self Sustaining Growth Town’ and provides a population increase of 654 persons for Monasterevin by 2028. If these projected population increases materialise, a requirement for additional education provision at both primary and post-primary level may emerge over the lifetime of the plan. The Department will also have to consider the impact on education provision in respect of any further projected population increases beyond 2028 that may be identified in the forthcoming draft LAP.

The Department also notes in the section titled Regeneration of the Issues Paper the reference to the potential mixed use retail-led regeneration of existing areas within the town’s core. The Department requests that the LAP considers 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 Monasterevin.

The Department notes in the section titled Social Infrastructure the reference to the vital role of community facilities within the town and its environs and in this regard requests that the Draft Plan would be explicit in its continued support for the provision of adequate and suitable school accommodation, including the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones.



Finally, the Department welcomes the continued engagement with the Council regarding the development of both new and existing schools, as appropriate, and emphasizes the critical importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient land is zoned for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,

Mairead Garry  
Statutory Plans,  
Forward Planning Section