



24 May 2022

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

Re: Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above. The Department of Education acknowledges the draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and makes the following submission.

The Department notes that the draft plan sits within the framework of the ESRI's "50:50 City" scenario. The NPF Implementation Roadmap projects a population for Co. Kildare of 259,000 – 266,500 people by 2031. This is an increase of some 36,500 – 44,000 people over the 2016 level (222,504 people). The draft plan estimates the current population at c. 235,000 people. The Department has regard to the longer-term framework because population and housing targets are the key driver in considering likely school place requirements. It is also noted that a number of settlements in the north of the county are included in the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) on account of their proximity to Dublin. These are the key town of Maynooth, the self-sustaining growth town of Leixlip and the self-sustaining towns of Celbridge and Kilcock.

GIS mapping of existing school sites and zoned school sites

In order to strengthen the zoning provision on existing school sites and to aid future planning, the Department requests, if possible that all existing school sites are zoned and mapped on the Co Council's GIS system. In addition, if possible, could all future education sites be zoned and mapped. This would enable the Department to pick up the mapping and zoning on our own GIS system and aid us both in the school planning function.



Potential educational requirements arising from the draft plan

In considering the implications of the Draft Plan for school accommodation requirements, the Department is cognisant of potentially differing scenarios where variances in factors such as household sizes, demographic profiles and housing delivery rates could significantly alter the future school accommodation requirements. The existing network of schools in Co Kildare comprises 101 primary schools, 30 post-primary schools (two of which are fee paying and one of these schools is boarding only) and 4 special schools. The Department took into account planned school capacity increases in considering the plan, as well as underlying demographic trends at both primary and post-primary levels which will serve to mitigate additional school place demand arising from the population increases that are envisaged in the Draft Plan. We also had regard to the longer-term national planning framework. Based on all factors, a view has been formed concerning projected future requirements and how they can best be met in the various settlements and commentary is provided in this regard. In its assessment of population trends, the Department uses a number of parameters to determine future needs. Requirements at primary level are currently assessed on 11.5% of population and 25 students per classroom. Post-primary requirements are assessed at 7.5% of population numbers.

Key towns:

Naas

The population of Naas was 21,393 in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 22,632 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 3,747 people to bring it to an estimated total of 26,379 by 2029 (an increase of c. 23% over the 2016 level).

Naas is served by eight mainstream primary schools. New school... There are five post-primary schools in Naas (which include a gaelcoláiste) that serve the town and a number of settlements in the wider catchment. These settlements include: Two Mile House, Sallins, Ardclough, Ballymore Eustace, Brannoxtown, Caragh, Kill, Johnstown and Rathmore

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan could necessitate the provision of another primary school. This requirement has already been identified since 2018 when the Department announced a requirement for a new primary school for Naas and is actively seeking a site for this school at present. The timing of the establishment of this school is being kept under review.

At post-primary level, a new post-primary school building has recently been completed for Naas Community College. The provision of this school will alleviate current pressures in the short to medium term. Notwithstanding the provision of this new school, the



Department considers that based on the future population projections for Naas and growth in the surrounding settlements and taking account of the policy of compact growth, that it would be prudent to cater for possible future requirements to zone a suitably located site in Naas that is technically suitable to cater for a future post-primary school. This requirement was communicated in the context of the Naas Local Area Plan.

Maynooth

The population of Maynooth was 14,585 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 15,429 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 2,741 people to bring it to an estimated total of 18,170 by 2029 (an increase of c. 25% over the 2016 level).

Maynooth is one of three Metropolitan Key Towns in the Dublin MASP, (the other two towns being Bray and Swords). The NPF provides that some of the targeted population growth for Dublin can be transferred to the three Metropolitan Key Towns if they can demonstrate compact growth on high capacity planned or existing public transport corridors. In the case of Maynooth, the electrification of the main Maynooth line, proposed to be delivered by 2027, will support sequential growth in the town (and also in Leixlip). The draft plan references that further allowance of population capacity of 10,000 people could be transferred to Maynooth in the medium term. The MASP references significant strategic residential capacity at Railpark lands and to the north and west of the town near Maynooth University.

The town of Maynooth is served by five mainstream primary schools. There are three post-primary schools in Maynooth (which includes a gaelcoláiste) to serve the town and the wider catchment.

At primary level, taking into account an underlying upward demographic trend and the potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan, the Department considers that there may be a requirement to establish another primary school in Maynooth and recommends that a suitable site be zoned .

At post-primary level it is anticipated that the existing facilities will meet the increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population proposed in the draft plan.



Self-Sustaining Growth Towns:

Leixlip

The population of Leixlip was 15,504 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 16,402 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 2,565 people to bring it to an estimated total of 18,967 by 2029 (an increase of c. 22% over the 2016 level).

Leixlip is within the Dublin MASP. The MASP identifies that short to medium term enabling infrastructure is required to facilitate increased population capacity. This infrastructure includes the electrification of the Maynooth line, road upgrades, community and social infrastructure, waste water and local water network upgrades. The MASP references strategic greenfield lands near Confey station with capacity for phased development.

The town of Leixlip is served by seven mainstream primary schools and two post-primary schools.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by existing facilities. There is a requirement to identify a permanent location for Leixlip ETNS and that process is ongoing.

At post-primary level, a potential increased requirement has been identified based on the projected population. It is of a level that, if it materializes, the Department considers it should be possible to meet it by expansion of the existing facilities.

Newbridge

The population of Newbridge was 22,742 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 24,059 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 2,917 people to bring it to an estimated total of 26,976 by 2029 (an increase of c. 19% over the 2016 level).

The town of Newbridge is served by nine mainstream primary schools. There are four post-primary schools in the town (one of which is fee-paying). These schools serve the town and the wider catchment, including Athgarvan. There are also two special schools – one in the town and one outside the town.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan will be met by existing facilities.

Similarly, at post-primary level, the Department anticipates that when account is taken of underlying demographic trends and planned capacity increases, that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population will be met by existing facilities.



Kildare Town

The population of Kildare Town was 8,634 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 9,134 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 1,182 to bring it to an estimated total of 10,316 people by 2029 (an increase of c. 19% over the 2016 level).

Kildare Town is served by three mainstream primary schools. The town currently has one post-primary school to serve the town and the wider catchment. . A decision has been taken to replace and expand the Curragh Post-primary school with a new 1,000 pupil school to cater for demand in the Kildare and Newbridge school planning areas. This school is to be located in Kildare Town.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan could be met by a minor expansion of existing facilities (if required)

At post-primary level, taking account of the relocation and expansion of the Curragh Post-Primary School, it is anticipated that the level of potential increase in school place requirements will be met by the two schools.

Athy

The population of Athy was 9,677 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 10,237 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 1,207 to bring it to an estimated total of 11,444 people by 2029 (an increase of c. 18% over the 2016 level).

The town of Athy is served by four mainstream primary schools and two post-primary schools.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by existing facilities.

Similarly, at post-primary level, it is anticipated that the existing facilities will meet the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the draft plan.



Self-Sustaining Towns:

Celbridge

The population of Celbridge was 20,288 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 21,463 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 2,515 people to bring it to an estimated total of 23,978 by 2029 (an increase of c. 18% over the 2016 level).

Celbridge is served by six mainstream primary schools and three post-primary schools. Celbridge also has a special school which serves a wide catchment

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by existing facilities (or a minor expansion thereof if required).

At post-primary level, the Department anticipates a potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan. It is of a level that, if it arises, it should be capable of being met by existing facilities (or a minor expansion thereof if required).

Kilcock

The population of Kilcock was 6,093 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 6,446 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 1,006 people to bring it to an estimated total of 7,452 by 2029 (an increase of c. 22% over the 2016 level).

Kilcock is served by three mainstream primary schools and one post-primary schools. The town is on the Kildare/Meath border. There is proposed sustainable development in the Kilcock environs in Meath. The Co Meath Development Plan 2020-2026 contains a primary school site within the Kilcock Environs Written Statement. The Department requested this in order to meet a potential school requirement to serve newly establishing neighbourhoods in Kilcock.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by existing facilities (or a minor expansion thereof if required).

At post-primary level, the Department anticipates that existing facilities will meet the potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in



the draft plan. It should be noted that a new school is to be provided in the adjoining settlement of Enfield for the recent established Enfield Community College. This will alleviate school place pressure in Kilcock.

Monasterevin

The population of Monasterevin was 4,246 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 4,492 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 654 people to bring it to an estimated total of 5,146 by 2029 (an increase of c. 15% over the 2016 level).

Monasterevin is served by three mainstream primary schools and one post-primary school. Two new school building projects are currently underway: a new building for the post-primary school and a new building to accommodate an amalgamation of two of the primary schools.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by existing facilities.

Similarly, at post-primary level, the Department anticipates that the new school will meet the potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan.

Clane

The population of Clane was 7,280 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 7,702 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 604 people to bring it to an estimated total of 8,306 by 2029 (an increase of c. 14% over the 2016 level).

Clane is served by two mainstream primary schools and one post-primary school. (There is also a fee-paying boarding school just outside the town)

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by existing facilities.

At post-primary level, the Department anticipates that existing facilities will meet the potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan. It should be noted that plans are underway to expand the post-primary school in the nearby settlement of Prosperous which will alleviate school place pressure in Clane.



Towns:

Sallins

The population of Sallins was 5,849 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 6,188 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 478 people to bring it to an estimated total of 6,666 by 2029 (an increase of c. 14% over the 2016 level).

Sallins is served by one mainstream primary school. Its post- primary requirements are met by the schools in Naas and were considered in the context of the Naas post-primary requirements.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan could be met by existing facilities.

Kilcullen

The population of Kilcullen was 3,710 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 3,925 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 629 people to bring it to an estimated total of 4,554 by 2029 (an increase of c. 23% over the 2016 level).

Kilcullen is served by one mainstream primary school. It has one post- primary school which serves the town and the wider catchment.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan could be met by the existing facility (or a small expansion thereof, if required).

At post-primary level, the Department anticipates that the existing school will meet the potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan.

Kill

The population of Kill was 3,348 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 3,542 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 327 people to bring it to an estimated total of 3,869 by 2029 (an increase of c. 16% over the 2016 level).



Kill is served by one mainstream primary school, which also serves the nearby village of Johnstown. Kill also has a special school which serves a wide catchment. Post-primary requirements are met by the schools in Naas.

Taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by the existing facility

Prosperous

The population of Prosperous was 2,333 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 2,468 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 251 people to bring it to an estimated total of 2,719 by 2029 (an increase of c. 17% over the 2016 level).

Prosperous is served by one mainstream primary school. It has one post- primary school which serves the town and the wider catchment.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan could be met by the existing facility (or a small expansion thereof, if required).

At post-primary level, there are plans to significantly expand the school. The Department anticipates that with this expansion the existing school will meet the potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan in Prosperous and the wider catchment served by the school.

Rathangan

The population of Rathangan was 2,611 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 2,762 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 226 people to bring it to an estimated total of 2,988 by 2029 (an increase of c. 14% over the 2016 level).

Rathangan is served by two mainstream primary schools. It has one post- primary school which serves the town and the wider catchment.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by the existing facilities.



At post-primary level, the Department anticipates a potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan. It is of a level that, if it arises, it should be capable of being met by the existing facility (or a minor expansion thereof if required).

Castledermot

The population of Castledermot was 1,475 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 1,560 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 126 people to bring it to an estimated total of 1,686 by 2029 (an increase of c. 14% over the 2016 level).

Castledermot is served by one mainstream primary school. It has one post- primary school which serves the town and the wider catchment.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by the existing facility.

Similarly, at post-primary level, the Department anticipates that the existing school should meet a potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan.

Derrinturn

The population of Derrinturn was 1,602 people in the 2016 Census. It is estimated as being at 1,695 currently. The draft plan projects that it will increase by a further 151 people to bring it to an estimated total of 1,846 by 2029 (an increase of c. 15% over the 2016 level).

Derrinturn is served by one mainstream primary school. Its post-primary requirements are met by the schools in Edenderry, Co. Offaly.

At primary level, taking into account the underlying demographic trends, the Department anticipates that the level of potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population in the draft plan can be met by the existing facility.

At post-primary level, the requirements of Derrinturn were taken into account by the Department in our consideration of the Offaly County Development Plan. It is anticipated that the schools in Edenderry will meet a potential increase in school place requirements arising from the increased population of Derrinturn in the draft plan.



Villages

The draft plan identifies 18 villages across Co. Kildare that a combined 2016 population of c. 10,000 people. The 5 largest villages had a population in the region of 1,000 people (Athgarvan, Johnstown, Straffan, Ballymore Eustace and Allenwood). The remaining 13 villages had populations ranging from c. 100 people to 700 people. The total combined population increased projected for the 18 villages in the draft plan is just over 1,000 people.

At primary level, the Department anticipates that any increased school place requirement in the villages is capable of being met by the existing school network in the villages.

At post-primary level, the requirements of the villages were considered in the context of assessing post-primary school place requirements in the nearby towns.

Other settlements

No other educational requirements were identified at any of the remaining smaller settlements arising from the draft Plan.

Objectives on Community Infrastructure

The draft plan contains a number of objectives on Community Infrastructure and the Department welcomes these. In particular, we welcome:

Objective SC 06 which supports the clustering of community facilities

Objective SC 10 which supports the co-location and sharing of educational, community and sporting facilities for non-school purposes, to maximize the sustainable use of such infrastructure

Objective SC 065 which supports the Department's school building programme

Objective SC070: Encouraging the use of school facilities where it is agreed in advance with the property owner/school authority/ patron.

Objective SC 072: Facilitation of re-development and expansion of existing schools



In regard to Objective SC075, which seeks to put secondary schools in appropriate small towns/villages, the Department would not support this objective. This is because a post-primary school has to deliver at a certain scale in order to provide subject choice. It would not be practical to provide a post-primary school in every small town or village for this reason. The Department requests the removal of this objective due to this reason.

Conclusion

The draft Co. Kildare Development Plan provides for approximately 25,000 population growth to be delivered by 2029 in a compact form. Over half the projected growth is to take place in six settlements. The six settlements are the two key towns of Naas and Maynooth and the four self-sustaining growth towns of Newbridge Leixlip, Kildare Town and Athy. The remaining growth is distributed across the other towns, villages and rural areas. The submission analyses the various settlements, their existing schools and attempts to identify where there are likely to be significant additional school place requirements that could necessitate expansion of an existing school(s) or zoning of a site to cater for a potential new school requirement. The Department's strong preference is to more intensively develop the existing school network where possible to meet the increased school place requirements arising from intensification of residential development. In this regard, the protection of the existing schools and any land buffers around them to enable their expansion is critical.

This submission has focused on demographic requirements. Hence, it did not identify any specific requirements for a special school(s). However, if a specific need arises the Department will get in touch with the Council. School accommodation requirements across the County will continue to be kept under review. In that regard, the Department welcomes engagement with Kildare County Council and will continue to work closely with the Council in relation to the development of existing schools and the provision of new schools. The Department acknowledges the crucial importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient and appropriate land is zoned for educational needs. The Department wishes to thank Kildare County Council for the consideration given to the Department's submission to the Issues Paper in March 2021.

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