



Comhairle Bhaile Chill Dara

Kildare County Council

**PROPOSED VARIATION (No. 1) OF THE KILDARE COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2023**

STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In order to align the current County Development Plan with recent changes in national and regional planning policy, Kildare County Council has prepared a Draft Variation (No. 1) to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

The recent changes in national and regional planning policy derive from the publication of:-

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (NPF),
- Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework
- Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

1.2 Requirement for Flood Risk Assessment

The *Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities* were published in November 2009. These Guidelines were issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, and require Planning Authorities to introduce flood risk assessment as an integral and leading element of their development planning functions. This is achieved by ensuring that the various steps in the process of making or varying a development plan, together with the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), are supported by an appropriate Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

2. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Flood Risk Management Objectives

In making the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023, Kildare County Council prepared an accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Document MDW0710Rp0004).

The implementation of the policies contained in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment ensures that flood risk and surface water management is considered during the planning process for development within the County boundary of Kildare.

This Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Statement should be read in conjunction with Document MDW0710Rp0004.

3. STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT OF AMENDMENTS PROPOSED UNDER VARIATION 1

3.1 Land Zoning Amendments

The proposed Variation (No. 1) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 does not include provisions for amendments to existing land uses.

Where any such amendments become necessary, they will be made as part of future new land use plans or as part of future reviews of existing land use plans.

3.2 Headroom in Population Figures

The published NPF average baseline population projection accounts for a 25% 'headroom' allowance for additional population growth in every County. The transitional projections add a further 25%, over and above the population projected to 2026 in the NPF. Cumulatively, this means provision for 50% more growth than is required to 2026 has effectively been accounted for at a national level. It also means that there is limited further requirement for 'headroom' for population growth to be incorporated into statutory Development Plans in most cases.

Based on the prescribed transitional population targets, no land use amendments are required as part of the proposed Variation (No. 1) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

3.3 Settlement Hierarchy – Regional Context

Section 2.5 of the proposed Variation (No. 1) states that certain lands in Maynooth have been identified for strategic residential development.

It is a requirement of the RSES that a Local Area Plan be prepared jointly by Kildare County Council and Meath County Council for Maynooth – this LAP will be subject to its own development strategy including land use zonings and a plan specific Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

The greenfield lands at Confey have also been identified for residential development. However, this will be addressed in the masterplan required under the Local Area Plan for this area, which will also be subject to its own development strategy including land use zonings and a plan specific Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

3.4 Sequential Approach to Towns, Villages, Settlements and Rural Nodes

Section 3.4.2 of the proposed Variation (No. 1) describes the sequential approach in terms of development of towns, villages, settlements and rural nodes (as appropriate). It goes on to state that "areas to be zoned should generally be contiguous to existing zoned development lands.

Any additional zonings will be done through specific Local Area Plans and/or by means of the next review of the Kildare County Development Plan, all requiring plan specific Strategic Environmental Assessments and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments.

4. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The Draft Variation (No. 1) to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will not of itself give rise to changes to the existing land uses described in the current Kildare County Development Plan.

Furthermore, any future amendments to existing land use zonings will be implemented through either separate development plan making processes relating to towns, villages, settlements and rural nodes as appropriate or by means of the next review of the Kildare County Development Plan.

The process of making a development plan will require Kildare County Council to comply, inter alia, with the relevant flooding and water quality EU Directives and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004-2011.

The Environmental Protection Agency SEA Scoping Guidance Document outlines that the SEA must adopt policies to avoid and restrict the zoning of lands in flood prone areas and adopt a policy that requires flood risk assessments to be undertaken for developments and zoning being proposed in flood prone areas. These policies must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014) referred to hereafter as 'The Guidelines'.

The Guidelines in turn recommend that a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report must be undertaken to support the Strategic Environmental Assessment of proposed development plans.

It is therefore concluded that the Draft Variation (No. 1) to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will not give rise to any increase in the risk of flooding since no changes are proposed to the existing land uses described in the current Kildare County Development Plan.

Any future amendments will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and associated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, all in accordance with EU Directives and other relevant legislation.