

By email & post
11 September 2023

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Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices,
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Our ref 276774
File ref 276774-ARUP-ZZ-XX-SB-YEPLA-000004
Dear Sir/Madam

N24 Waterford to Cahir Project

Submission to Draft Clonmel Local Area Plan 2024-2030 in relation to the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project

We make this submission to the public consultation stage of the proposed Clonmel Local Area Plan 2024-2030 (hereafter 'LAP') in relation to the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project.

Kilkenny County Council, in partnership with Tipperary County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Department of Transport are developing the N24 Waterford to Cahir project. Arup has been appointed to provide multi-disciplinary technical consultancy services for the delivery of Phases 1 to 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines for the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project. We are currently finalising Phase 2: Option Selection of the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project, determining the Preferred Transport Solution which could include elements of Active Travel, public transport improvements, Demand Management measures, streets and road infrastructure.

The purpose of this submission is to highlight the strategic importance of the N24 corridor to the Southern Region's transport network and the proper planning and sustainable development of County Tipperary, and to request the acknowledgement of same within the policies and objectives of the final Clonmel Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

The N24 national primary route is an important strategic corridor traversing the counties of Limerick, Tipperary and Kilkenny. It provides a strategic link between the key cities of Limerick and Waterford and carries both long-distance traffic and significant regional and inter-urban traffic flows between Limerick City, Tipperary Town, Cahir, Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir and Waterford City. In this respect, it serves an important role in enhancing regional accessibility not just between the cities of Limerick and Waterford, but also to and from several key settlements within the corridor, including Clonmel.

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Given the importance of the N24 national primary route as a strategic corridor enhancing regional accessibility to the county of Tipperary, it is submitted that the proposed LAP should fully align itself with established national and regional planning policies and objectives which strongly support the proposed improvement of the N24, and which in turn align with the aims and objectives of the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project. On this basis, we respectfully ask that this support is reflected within the final LAP in a specific policy objective concerned with the N24 and its improvement.

It is acknowledged that Section 6 of the proposed LAP addresses transport and connectivity and highlights the importance of the N24 to the town of Clonmel and this is further discussed within Appendix 2 of the LAP and is titled Local Transport Plan (LTP). It is also acknowledged that the LTP makes reference to the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project and the potential need for further assessment once the Preferred Transport Solution for the N24 Waterford to Cahir is finalised.

It is also acknowledged that the LAP and LTP does not currently have knowledge of the Preferred Transport Solution for the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project which may result in changes to the local road network. However, Section 8.1.5 of the LTP notes that further assessment will be required to determine the form and route of specific interventions after the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project completes Phase 2 Option Selection.

We would also highlight that the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project aims to improve the strategic route and any solutions put forward by the LAP and LTP will need to be assessed to ensure they complement the Preferred Transport Solution of the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project without any detrimental effects to the strategic route. It is assumed that the LTP is referring to the existing N24 Clonmel Inner Relief Road in Table 2-9 in Section 2.13 where reference is made to a "*Town bypass available via the N24*" as it is a baseline assessment.

In addition, it is important that the ongoing consideration and development of transportation solutions, as well as the design and planning of the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project are supported by the policies and objectives of the LAP, once it is adopted. We therefore respectfully ask that this support continues to be reflected in the new Local Area Plan.

It is trusted that this submission will be seen as a constructive and productive contribution to the preparation of the final Local Area Plan and, in this regard, we request that it is given favourable consideration.

Please forward all correspondence in relation to this submission to this office.

Yours sincerely



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Date 11 September 2023

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