



Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan,
Planning Department,
Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices,
Emmet Street,
Clonmel,
Co Tipperary

09th December 2024

Re: Draft Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of notification of the above draft LAP. The Department of Education has examined the contents therein and would like to make the following submission.

In the context of future population trends and their potential impact on school place requirements, the department notes that this draft LAP refers to the population growth identified for Carrick-on-Suir in the recent draft CDP 2022-2028. The department notes that the population scenario envisaged for Co Tipperary is the high NPF target of 184,000 people by 2031. Within that scenario, the plan envisages a population increase of 24,000 people for County Tipperary in the period from 2016 to 2031. In table 3 of the draft LAP, it is anticipated that Carrick-on-Suir will have a population growth of 1,154 persons between 2016 and 2031. The department made its submission to the draft CDP 2022-2028 regarding Carrick-on-Suir on the basis of the same identified potential population growth within the town and its environs between 2016 and 2031. The department has now applied the same projected 2031 growth figure of 6,925 identified in both the CDP and the draft LAP along with the recently published Census 2022 figure of 5,752 for Carrick-on-Suir to determine that the potential projected growth figure from 2023 to 2031 for Carrick-on-Suir now stands at 1,173 persons. Having assessed the above information and its own current capacity in existing schools, it is the department's current assessment that any future school place requirement both at primary and post-primary level arising from the planned growth as outlined in table 3 of the draft LAP can be catered for at existing school facilities.

In terms of these existing school facilities, there are six schools (three primary and three post-primary) located in Carrick-on-Suir town. The department's preference would be to expand these existing facilities (if possible) should there be a requirement for additional school places resulting from planned population increases. In this regard, the department notes and welcomes Section 5.2.2 Education and Learning that the



draft LAP has identified the existing schools in the LAP area and has applied land use zonings to enable expansion where possible.

The department notes Appendix 4, 3.1.1 Primary Schools that the draft LAP references the new school building for Gaelscoil Charraig na Siúire. The permanent location for the school is on the site of the former St Joseph's College, the department notes that this site is currently zoned Urban Core and the department requests that the Council rezone it to Community Services and Infrastructure in line with the other schools in Carrick-on-Suir.

The department notes and welcomes Policy 5.5 that the Council will support the development of new healthcare, childcare and educational facilities, or the expansion, refurbishment or redevelopment of existing facilities where there is a demonstrable and identified need for such facilities.

The department notes Objective 5C to ensure the continued operation and expansion of schools in Carrick-on-Suir, in line with the Provision of Schools and the Planning System Code of Practice.

The department notes and supports Policy 8.6 that the Council will support local schools, environmental and community groups in their efforts to reduce waste, encourage reuse and the circular economy through education and awareness programmes and where available, through the provision of grant funding.

The department notes and welcomes Table 5.1: Sustainable Transport Objectives for Carrick-on-Suir that the Council plans to improve walking and cycling infrastructure with a focus on connecting residential areas to schools, to provide safe access to schools for vulnerable road users and ensure a safe front of school environment and to provide a safe and attractive network of footpaths and cycle tracks that are suitable for use by children. The department supports the development of sustainable travel links between schools and residential areas.

In terms of the identification of future school place requirement that necessitates the need for the reservation and acquisitions of sites for future new schools or the requirement of new sites to facilitate the relocation of existing schools, the department would like to highlight the following points.

1 - It is generally considered that schools are enabling infrastructure for housing and as such, schools should be positioned in the heart of new and expanding sustainable communities, allowing for the maximum benefit to the community inside and outside school hours. Further to this, other community facilities and amenities should also be positioned close to school facilities to allow for all community facilities be complimentary to each other for the benefit of the whole community.

2 - Sites for future schools or for the redevelopment of existing schools should be identified on appropriate and suitable land for development and zoned accordingly, with specific land use zonings. All enabling infrastructure required to develop and



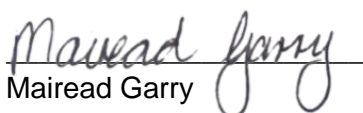
operate school facilities should be provided in advance of the need for such schools. This infrastructure includes road, electricity, water infrastructure, sustainable transport links, active travel networks, road safety measures and safe routes to school facilities. It should be noted that it is not within the remit of the Department of Education to develop or fund this enabling infrastructure.

The department anticipates that additional Special Education Needs provision at both primary and post primary level will be required in the future throughout the country and this may result in schools requiring additional accommodation or space to meet this growing need. The department will consult with the Councils if and when additional SEN accommodation or sites for future special are required within specific locations. In the context of this LAP, explicit support within the plan for the provision of school accommodation for children and young people with special educational needs would be welcomed.

In terms of assessing current and future capacity, the Department of Education has to be mindful of potential unforeseen circumstances such as the Ukrainian crisis, which have the ability to put undue pressure on school place provision and could necessitate reassessments of school place provision from time to time. The department will engage with the Councils where the findings of an assessment require a review of existing or future school site provision within a specific location.

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