



PUBLIC
CONSULTATION
ISSUES PAPER

September 2019

Longford
County
Development
Plan
2021-2027

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1.0 Introduction

Longford County Council is commencing the preparation of the County Development Plan 2021-2027. The purpose of the Development Plan is to provide a strategic framework, setting out key policies and objectives for a new integrated land use strategy, for the proper planning and sustainable development of the whole county. The Development Plan sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development for the County for a period of 6 years. The Development Plan is set within a hierarchy of national and regional spatial plans and guidelines. The plan outlines the Local Authorities policies and objectives with regard to its own development and that of others. It also prescribes the parameters and standards against which applications for planning permission will be assessed. There is a specific duty on planning authorities to ensure that the objectives set out in the Development Plan are secured.

Why is a Development Plan Important?

- The development plan is important as it sets down a guide as to how development should progress in the areas where the population lives. All developments must comply with the requirements of the plan.
- The Longford County Development Plan will provide the main public statement of planning policies and objectives at county level.
- The policies and objectives can be critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development as the development plan is one of the factors against which planning applications are assessed.
- Process by which Elected Members, community and wider public and sectoral interests participate in order to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives for the county and local area

As part of this process, Longford County Council is inviting all stakeholders and interested parties including local residents, retailers, institutions and businesses as well as community and sporting groups to get involved in the process.

Development Plan Preparation Process

The County Development Plan preparation process will involve **public consultation** at 3 stages, which will subsequently lead to and inform the preparation of the new County Development Plan as shown below:



Stage 1: Pre-Draft

The preparation of the new plan is now underway at stage 1 of the process with the commencement of an 8-week public consultation period that takes **place from Thursday 26th September until Friday 22nd November 2019 (inclusive)**. You are hereby invited to make a submission to the Planning Authority in relation to the review of the Longford County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the preparation of the new Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment processes. All submissions will be considered by the Planning Authority.

Public Consultation Issues Paper

To initiate Stage 1 of the County Development Plan making process, this Public Consultation Issues Paper has been prepared which is intended to stimulate discussion and to encourage public involvement at this early stage in the process so as to help identify what broad planning and development matters should be considered in the new County Development Plan. The intention of the Issues Paper is to present a number of key questions to prompt debate on the issues facing County Longford. It does not purport to cover all the issues but simply present some keys topics.

As a starting point we would be interested in your views regarding the content and format of the new plan. It is important that the Plan is clear, easy to navigate and source information from.

- What is your opinion of the format of the current Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027?
- Are there any improvements you would you like to see in the format and presentation of the forthcoming plan?
- How do you think key policies and objectives should be presented?
- Are there any improvements that you would like to see on the planning website?

2.0 National and Regional Strategic Context

The County Development Plan is a statutory document prepared by the Planning Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 - 2018 (as amended) and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2019 (as amended). The Development Plan is designed to set out the key policy context for the development of the county and is set within a hierarchy of national and regional spatial plans and guidelines. Following the publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF) 'Project Ireland 2040' the Development Plan must be consistent with the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES), which provides a strategic vision based on three key principles:

- Healthy placemaking by promoting people's quality of life;
- Climate action by enhancing the climate resilience and accelerating the transition of the Region to a low-carbon society;
- Economic opportunity by creating the right conditions for sustainable economic growth and quality jobs.

The forthcoming plan will be set within the context of the strategic framework of and be guided by the National Planning Framework, (NPF) 2040 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). The completed County Development Plan shall consist of a written statement and accompanying maps including a Vision Statement, Policies and Key Objectives to achieve balanced and sustainable growth in Longford over the plan period and beyond.

The Development Plan represents an important policy document that will form the foundations to support and facilitate new housing, sustainable transport systems, economic development and social, community and educational facilities while protecting the natural and built heritage of the county and its towns, villages and rural hinterland.

3.0 Settlement Strategy and Housing

County Longford occupies an area of 1,091km² and it the fourth smallest county in the State. County Longford's population increased by 4.8% (1,873 persons) between 2011 and 2016 according to the 2016 Census - bringing the total population of county to 40,873 persons (CSO, 2011 & 2016.) The provision of additional housing over the plan period is dictated by the Core Strategy that guides where new development should be allocated in accordance with national and regional strategies and policies, including the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

While the Core Strategy guides the development of designated settlements – towns and villages, there remains an ongoing demand for rural one-off dwellings in the rural hinterland. The Council acknowledges this demand and the need to ensure that a balance is struck between facilitating housing for people who have a rural housing requirement while ensuring that balanced sustainable development is achieved over the life of the plan and beyond.

Key Questions:

- Where do you think new housing should be located?
- How can we ensure the sustainable use of residential zoned lands?
- Are there any exemplary models of housing that you think should be introduced to new housing developments?
- What is the most important consideration when searching for a new home?
- What houses types do you think need to be provided? e.g. housing for the elderly, retirement villages, student quarters, single occupancy units, apartments, detached family homes etc?
- Do you think that there should be a greater choice in terms of housing type and provision in our settlements? How could this be achieved?
- Are there settlements in County Longford that could accommodate additional housing and development?
- What is needed to make your town or village more desirable places in which to live?
- Do you think that there should be a clear physical distinction between the development boundaries of our towns and villages and the surrounding countryside?
- What policies and objectives can be implemented to ensure the protection of the countryside from overdevelopment?

Do you think it is important to safeguard the countryside for the next generation – where will they live?

4.0 Regeneration

Regeneration and renewal is inherent in the proper planning and sustainable development of the county's settlements. An emphasis on high quality and well-designed development makes places more attractive and so contributes to healthy place-making and quality of life. Urban place-making is about improving the attractiveness of the public realm. An erosion of the sense of place can occur due to urban sprawl and hollowing of town centres due to a focus on the quantitative aspect of building outwards rather than the creation of sustainable communities.

Longford has been designated as a Key Town in the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy which gives it a role as a key growth driver of the county and Midlands region. Longford County Council recognises that there needs to be a focus on the regeneration of towns and villages in order to make them more attractive. This can be considerably contributed to through the sustainable growth of our settlements in the form of compact growth rather than sprawl which is uneconomic. 'Compact Growth' is a proposed Outcome of the National Planning Framework (NPF). A compact form of growth of settlements has the potential to make a transformational difference. It can bring new life and footfall, contribute to the viability of services, shops and public transport, increase housing supply and enable more people to be closer to employment and recreational opportunities, as well as to use sustainable mobility more e.g. walking or cycling. It would help strengthen settlement cores to meet their full potential.

Key Questions:

- How do you suggest we make our towns and villages more compact and avoid undesirable and inefficient sprawl, as required by the NPF?
- How do you suggest we target a significant proportion of future development on unused/underutilised sites within the existing built-up area of towns and villages as required by the NPF?
- How can we deliver new development in a way that better aligns the location of population growth and employment growth, allowing towns to become more self-sustaining and balanced rather than based on commuter driven activity?
- How do you suggest we develop Longford as a Key Town in order to fulfil its role as a key growth driver of the county and Midlands region?
- How do you suggest we reverse the decline/stagnation of towns and villages and regenerate them by creating attractive, vibrant, viable, liveable places of high quality design?
- What areas are underused and in need of regeneration?
- How can we make our town centres more attractive to live, work and shop in?

5.0 Placemaking

Placemaking is a people centred approach to the planning, design and management of all public spaces and areas including streets and thoroughfares. The quality of our built environment affects the quality of our living environment; therefore, good urban design is an important component in creating attractive vibrant spaces in our towns and villages. The success of positive design and placemaking is measured by its ability to attract people by influencing where we choose to visit, work, shop and where we live. Considered design coupled with good quality public open spaces and public realm has been shown to have a positive effect on the vitality and vibrancy of our town centres and villages and thus result in economic growth. It is important that the future planning for Longford implements the principle of placemaking, to serve the whole community and the varying needs of residents and visitors, from young to old.

Key Questions:

- What measures can be taken to improve the quality of public open space and public realm in your town or village?
- What do you think makes an attractive town/village centre?
- What do you think makes a good neighbourhood?
- How can this Plan ensure that new developments, including provision of new housing, can provide for attractive, usable and safe public spaces and play areas?
- In addition to high quality design, what other measures do you think are required to add vibrancy of our public spaces – night and day?
- What can be done to make sure our public spaces are safe places and accessible to all?
- Are you satisfied with the provision of public and amenity spaces throughout the county?
- Are there any good examples that you would recommend as a place to visit?
- Are there any examples that you think could be improved?
- How can Longford County Council support community involvement in the development of our towns and villages?
- What is needed to promote shared civic pride of our urban centres?
- What factors influence where you visit for leisure /recreation?
- What facilities would you like to see provided in your community?

6.0 Transport and Movement

Longford is a strategic transport hub located on 2 national primary routes; the N4 from Dublin to Sligo and the N5 from Dublin to Mayo. Secondary routes also cross the county; the N55 linking Athlone and Cavan on to Northern Ireland, and the N63 linking Longford with Roscommon and Galway. The county is also serviced by the Dublin to Sligo Inter-City railway line with 2 stations; Longford Town and Edgeworthstown. A number of greenways and cycleways have been developed around the County.

In terms of sustainable modes of transport, Census 2016 data revealed that 68.25% of Longford commuters travel to work by car, compared to 65.6% nationally with just 1.7% of work commuters availing of public transport compared to a national average of 9.3%. Travel patterns in school children were dominated by car as the main mode of transport with only 0.86% of school children cycling to school.

A successful transport system is reliant on co-ordination and integration with land-use planning. An efficient and well managed transport network not only provides ease of access and movement; but serves to improve the quality of life of residents and visitors, attracting businesses and activity. The growing emphasis on changing travel patterns and modal shift to reduce car dependence in favour of more sustainable modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling and public transport is a central theme in national and regional policies. Having regard to same, it is clear that there needs to be greater support and promotion of sustainable transport modes to achieve a positive modal shift in the county.

Key Questions:

- How can better co-ordination between land use and transportation facilities be achieved?
- What are the key transport and movement issues affecting residents, workers and visitors?
- What interventions do you think could be introduced to alleviate traffic congestion at peak times and school hours?
- Do you think Park & Stride locations should be introduced?
- What improvements could be made to public transport links?
- How can this Council best promote and support a modal shift towards more sustainable modes of transport?
- What other measures do you think could support the reduction in CO2 emissions?
- Do you think that parking standards for new developments should reflect the need to reduce car dependency?
- What do you think of the Greenways and cycleways in the county?

- What improvements do you think can be made to maximise cycle and pedestrian movement?
- How do you think the potential of the Greenway can be maximised in terms of health benefits and sustainable travel?
- Do you think there is an opportunity to create linkages and permeability in the urban areas?
- Where should new or improved footpaths, cycleways and roadways, links and connections be located?

7.0 Critical Infrastructure

To facilitate progressive sustainable development across the county, the provision of high-quality infrastructure is essential together with access to a range of transport modes. While the provision of certain services is outside the remit of the Council (Water, Broadband etc); the County Development Plan shall provide a framework to support and guide the timely provision of same in accordance with the development of lands. Integration and co-ordination between land use and the delivery of services is essential in creating sustainable communities. High quality infrastructure is also essential to sustain and improve economic competitiveness, therefore, investment in areas such as transport, water, energy, waste, SUDs and telecommunications are a necessary platform on which to build and promote Longford as a location to invest and live in.

Key Questions:

- What do you think of the roll out of services and infrastructure in the County to date?
- How can this Development Plan improve and support the provision of essential services and infrastructure?
- Are you satisfied with the provision of broadband and telecommunications in your area – how can the Council assist the roll out of these services?
- What improvements do you think can be made to improve access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Longford?
- How can the Council promote best practice regarding waste management to reduce dependency on landfill?
- Are there adequate public recycling facilities and services in the County? How can these services be improved?
- How can the Council ensure better management of private wastewater treatment systems and protection of private wells?
- What measures can be introduced to protect and safeguard the water quality of our rivers and groundwaters?

8.0 Economic Development

Longford's economy traditionally depended on strong agricultural and manufacturing sectors. In recent times, the county's industrial base has broadened and diversified to host a diverse range of employment opportunities in sectors such as the knowledge economy, life sciences, logistics and distribution, international traded services, tourism and hospitality, professional services and retail. County Longford is home to significant employers across a range of sectors including engineering, biopharma, computer technology, food and wholesaling / logistics. County Longford has several IDA Ireland supported multinationals, successful large and small indigenous companies and two decentralised Government Departments. The larger employers draw from a highly skilled labour pool or workers living within a commutable radius.

County Longford is centrally and strategically located in the Midlands of Ireland, providing ease of access to national and international markets and making it an attractive location for inward investment. The challenge for Longford is to continue to promote and support the county as a destination to invest and develop by engaging with relevant national and international stakeholders and facilitating the appropriate infrastructure in our towns, villages and rural areas to support an array of business opportunities.

The role of the local authority in terms of economic growth has been strengthened by the establishment of the Local Enterprise Offices; the LEO role is designed to facilitate sustainable economic development and employment generating opportunities building on Longford's strategic central location and employment base. Planning policy plays an important role in economic growth in terms of land use strategy requiring the appropriate zoning of land in conjunction with the timely delivery of essential infrastructure to ensure planned growth and development.

Key Questions:

- How can this Plan encourage and facilitate economic development in the County?
- What are Longford's key strengths /competitive advantages that can be built upon?
- How can this plan attract inward investment?
- Do you think additional Employment and Enterprise lands are needed?
- How can Longford build on its strategic central location?
- What measures do you think could reduce commute times?
- Is there enough support for rural enterprises? What changes in policy would you like to see?
- What can be done to improve existing employment and industrial areas in the County?

9.0 Rural Development

Agriculture is the predominant land use in Longford with approximately 7,273 hectares of farmed land in the County; however, according to Census data 2016, only 3% (1,159 persons) of Longford's population are directly employed in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector. However a substantial number of food and drink processing jobs are supported by the agricultural output of the County. Given the relatively low agricultural employment figures; it is recognised that the promotion of farm diversification and new employment opportunities within the agriculture sector is necessary to sustain rural communities and ensure viability of existing community services. Additionally, the sustainable use of our natural resources bogs, forest and aggregate reserves (sand and gravel pits) needs to be carefully considered and managed to achieve balanced growth while protecting the natural environment.

In addition to farming and employment opportunities, one-off dwellings accounts for a high level of development in the Longford countryside. The continued demand for private rural dwellings needs to be balanced against the need for rural housing and the preservation and protection of the receiving environment.

Key Questions:

- What policies do you think should be included in the Plan to support rural diversification and industry?
- What policies would you like to see in the forthcoming plan to support indigenous rural and 'cottage' industries?
- What type of development and services are required in rural settlements to support rural communities?
- What is your 'vision' for rural Longford over the long-term future and how do you think this could be achieved?
- How do you think the countryside can be safeguarded in terms of biodiversity and habitats while accommodating development?
- What policies do you think need to be introduced or strengthened to protect the visual amenities of our rural landscape?
- What measures can best protect the amenities of the rural landscape while providing sustainable rural housing?

10.0 Tourism

Tourism is one of Ireland's largest and fastest growing indigenous industries and County Longford, with its wealth of heritage, natural assets and recreational infrastructure has enormous potential to benefit from tourism. County Longford contains beautiful natural landscapes, award winning 'Tidy Towns' and a real sense of history with strong literary connections. It has the advantage of having part of the longest river in Ireland, the Shannon, in addition to many lakes, historic islands, and the Royal Canal. The County contains a network of blueway and greenway cycleways, which have been developed for both aquatic and terrestrial amenity purposes. The County also boasts a number of beautiful forests. The development of a Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park will evolve quickly once the large industrial bogs are decommissioned from 2020. Also UK firm Center Parcs have developed a 375 acre forest site in the county, which is operating as a flagship national and international holiday resort. These tourism developments offer the potential to create additional indirect employment in the agriculture, food, catering and retail sectors.

A Tourism Strategy is in place for the county for the period 2017-2022 with a number of key objectives with a specific focus on the 4 key areas of

- Developing tourism infrastructure;
- Delivery of visitor centric experiences;
- Development of a Longford Tourism Brand;
- Generating greater awareness of Longford as a tourism destination.

The County Development Plan has a key role in facilitating the development of our tourism potential, through supporting sustainable development of our natural and historical assets and strengthening the role of our towns and villages in providing tourism related infrastructure.

Key Questions:

- How can we make our recreational infrastructure, including greenways, walking trails and waterways more user friendly and accessible for visitors?
- How can we better link key tourism attractions with our towns and villages, so that greater economic benefit can be obtained from tourism?
- What policies could the County Development Plan include to facilitate and encourage multi-day visits to Longford?
- How can we take advantage of the activity tourism potential of our lakes and waterways while protecting our valuable natural landscapes and habitats?

- How can we develop international tourism destinations of excellence based around Longford and other settlement towns?
- How can we enhance the public realm of our towns and villages to make them more appealing to visitors and encourage visitors to stay for longer?
- How can we better interpret, animate and develop our heritage assets to strengthen their contribution to the tourism economy, while protecting them for future generations?
- Are there any areas / attractions in Longford that you think have been overlooked but have the potential to be developed for tourism and recreational purposes?

11.0 Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage

Longford has an abundance of natural, built and cultural heritage that gives the county its own unique and distinct character from its rivers, lakes and the Royal Canal, to its forests, castles and ancient burial sites. Longford also contains Europe's oldest iron age trackway at Corlea, and the architectural award winning Saint Mel's Cathedral, which was rebuilt and reopened in 2014 after a devastating fire left it in ruins.

In addition to the protection of these resources as Recorded Monuments and Places, there is also provision under the Planning and Development Act to afford protection by way of the Record of Protected Structures. Additionally, a group of buildings of merit can be protected by being designated as an ACA – Architectural Conservation Area.

The Record of Protected Structures, the ACA's, Amenity Areas, Protected Views and Tree Protection Orders will be reviewed as part of the Development Plan review process. It is important that this plan also recognises our cultural heritage that gives the historic background to the rich natural and built environment that underpins Longford's historical sense of identity. Preservation of these resources not only enriches the identity of Longford for generations to come but also provides for a unique selling point in terms of tourism and thus the local economy.

Key Questions:

- Are there any buildings, group of buildings, Amenity Areas, Protected Views and Tree Protection Orders that you consider to be of merit and should be added to the Record of Protected Structures or designated Architectural Conservation Areas or given protected status?

- What policies and/or incentives do you think can be used to ensure that Protected Structures are properly maintained and do not fall into disrepair or subject to substandard remedial works?
- How can the cultural identity of Longford's heritage be best promoted and protected?
- Do you think that the designated High Amenity Areas in the landscape are afforded adequate protection from unnecessary development?

What policies do you think should be included for the protection of sensitive landscapes and Protected Views?

- Do you think there should be any additional or specific policies in the new Development Plan to protect natural, built and cultural heritage?
- Are there any aspects of Longford's heritage that you think has been overlooked?
- Do you think that the potential of our heritage resource has been fulfilled?

12.0 Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a multi-functional and strategically planned network of natural and designed systems that facilitates environmental, economic and social benefits through natural solutions that supports ecological processes and serves to reduce dependence on 'grey' infrastructure. The provision of green (land) networks and blue (water) spaces in our urban environments not only provide for more visually pleasing design solutions; but can also can improve environmental conditions thus improving residents' health and quality of life.

Green infrastructure strategies need to link to policy making and routes for implementation at a range of different levels. As part of Ireland 2040, the Government supports Green infrastructure (GI) planning to inform the preparation of regional and city and county development plans by:

- Assisting in accommodating growth and expansion while retaining the intrinsic value of natural places and natural assets;
- Providing increased certainty in planning by proactively working with and around relevant environmental issues;
- Encouraging more collaborative approaches to plan making by seeking to look at the interactions between future development requirements and the capacity of receiving areas;
- Ensuring that sufficient and well-planned green spaces, commensurate in scale to the long-term development requirements, are designated in statutory plans.

Key Questions:

- Do you think that there is a clear understanding regarding the principles of Green Infrastructure?
- How can the Council best promote, support and increase awareness of the benefits of Green Infrastructure?
- How can this plan ensure that the principles of Green Infrastructure are implemented in all new developments?
- What greening initiatives do you think should be considered for the county and incorporated into new developments proposals?

13.0 Climate Change and Energy

Ireland's climate is changing in terms of sea level rise, higher average temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, more frequent weather extremes, the spread of invasive alien species and increased risk of wild fires, for example upland gorse fires. It is an aim to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by reducing our carbon dioxide emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors.

According to the EU Effort Sharing Regulations 2018, E.U. member states have binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for the years 2021-2030 for the following sectors of the economy; transport, buildings, agriculture, and industry and waste that is not related to land use / forestry. This accounts for 72% of total greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland. Climate action will continue to be driven by the need to limit global temperatures, improve energy efficiency, increase energy consumption from renewable sources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, replacement of fossil fuels of high embedded carbon products with sustainable alternatives such as bio-based products, and also enhancing carbon sinks.

Population growth, labour force participation, and settlement patterns have an impact on travel demand. Effectively meeting travel demand in a manner that avoids congestion and limits greenhouse gas emissions requires effective spatial policies to be implemented. The spatial relationship between where a person lives, works, goes to school, shops and socialises forms the basis for travel demand. There are a range of renewable energy technologies available such as wind turbines and solar farms all of which contribute to a reduction in non-renewable energy demand.

Key Questions:

- What do you consider to be the main climate change issues facing Longford?
- What measures do you think the Council needs to undertake to promote climate change awareness?
- What policies and objectives do you think should be introduced to ensure that climate change is addressed?
- How do you suggest we transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society?
- How can we best co-ordinate and integrate land use and transport in order to reduce the demand for travel and dependence on private car transport?
- How do you suggest we reduce car dependency, and increase the use of sustainable mobility such as cycling, walking and public transport?
- What types of renewable energy should be pursued in County Longford and in what areas e.g. solar farms, wind farms?
- Do you think that parking standards for new developments should reflect the need to reduce car dependency?
- How can this Plan ensure that the principles of Green Infrastructure are implemented in all new developments?

14.0 Environment (SEA, AA and SFRA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) assesses the likely significant environmental effects of the plan proposals and to help to ensure a high level of protection of the environment. The SEA process is aligned with the review of the proposed land use strategy prior to adoption. All proposed policies and objectives shall be assessed with regard to their potential environmental impacts. Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required to protect flora and fauna sites within the Natura 2000 network. It is a requirement that an AA be carried out to ascertain if the plan or policies contained within same will have any impact, either individually or in combination on the protected Natura sites. A strategic flood risk assessment is required for the purpose of integrating flood risk assessment and management and to assist in the determination of spatial planning policies, objectives and land use zoning for the Development Plan.

The impact of the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan must be assessed in terms of the potential environmental impacts as part of the plan review process. The assessments include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The challenge of Climate Change impacts

on all our future plans and policies and requires us to adapt and adopt more sustainable development practices including the use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

Key Questions:

- What do you consider to be the main environmental issues facing Longford?
- What policies and objectives do you think should be introduced to ensure the environment is protected?
- What policies and objectives do you think would best support the use of renewable energy alternatives in new developments?
- Where do you think are the most suitable areas in the county for renewable energy developments?
- Are you satisfied with the Council's proposals to combat flooding? What additional measures do you think should be undertaken?
- What measures do you think the Council needs to undertake to promote environmental awareness and prevent illegal activities i.e. illegal dumping, pollution of rivers and lakes etc.
- What can this plan do to address climate change? What policies do you think need to be included in this regard?

15.0 Have Your Say

This is your opportunity to get involved in shaping the future of your County.

Public Consultation Sessions

Longford County Council intend to hold a number of public consultation sessions at various locations within the county during this first stage of public consultation. These public consultation sessions will be an opportunity for you to discuss any issue that you may have with a member of the Forward Planning Team and possibly help frame future policies and objectives of the County Development Plan. Details of these public consultation sessions will be announced in due course. If you consider that you have a disability, please give details of any special requirements for public consultation purposes that you may have in order that appropriate arrangements can be made if necessary.

Making a Submission

Submissions or observations regarding the review of the existing Longford County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the preparation of the new Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 may be made in writing to the Planning Authority from **Thursday 26th September 2019 to 4.00 pm on Friday 22nd November 2019** (both dates inclusive). *Please note these submissions will be published along with your name in accordance with the Planning & Development Acts, 2000-2019 (as amended), but **your contact details will not be published**.* Children or Groups or Associations representing the interests of children, are entitled to make submissions or observations.

Submissions Should:

- Relate to the proper planning and sustainable development of County Longford, from broad policy issues to specific types of development in identified areas.
- **Not include zoning proposals at this pre-draft stage**. Any submission requesting or proposing the zoning of any land for any use will not be considered at this stage.
- Include a map if you refer to particular locations or features.
- Be clear, concise, and to the point. If you need to make a lengthy submission, please attach an executive summary to it.
- Include your name and address on a separate page to the content of your submission in order to assist Longford County Council in complying with the provisions of the Data Protection Act, as submissions are legally required to be published on line.

- Be in **one medium only** i.e. online, email or hard copy. This will avoid the duplication of submission reference number and will streamline the process.
- Preferably be in typed format in the interests of legibility.

Submissions can be made via **one** of the following methods:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Online: | www.longfordcoco.ie |
| Email: | cdp@longfordcoco.ie |
| Hard copy: | Administrative Officer, Review of County Development Plan, Forward Planning Department, Áras An Chontae, Great Water Street. Longford, N39 NH56. |

Submissions must be received by Longford County Council no later than **4.00pm on Friday 22nd November 2019** as late submissions will not be accepted.

16.0 Next Stages

While the zoning of land will not be considered at this stage, there will be further opportunities to make submissions which will relate to the zoning of land when the Draft Plan is made available to the public (indicative date, Autumn 2020); and again should the Draft be amended by your Elected Representatives (indicative date, Summer 2021).

Following on from the receipt and consideration of the submissions received and the preparation of a Draft Plan (indicative date Summer 2020), please keep an eye on the local newspaper and the Longford County Council website for notifications of further opportunities to make submissions at the second and third stages of public consultation, which will relate to the zoning of land.

Make a difference

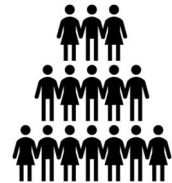


SHARE YOUR

VISION



OVER TO YOU



Your County - Your Future



Get Involved