

**An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills**



Administrative Officer
Review of the County Development Plan,
Forward Planning Unit,
Longford County Council,
Áras An Chontae,
Great Water Street.
Longford,
N39 NH56

20 November 2019

Re: Issues Paper - New Longford CDP 2021-2027

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

The Department notes that Local Authorities, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), are obliged to make all their statutory plans consistent with the core strategies and objectives of the NPF and the relevant RSES. In this regard, population projections as outlined in the RSES will have an influence on the review/amendment of current plans and the formation of new ones. In this regard, the Department notes with interest the Settlement Strategy and Housing section of the Issues Paper, where it states that *"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"*. The current NPF population projections for County Longford indicate a potential increase of cc 6,100 persons. If this projected population increase materialises, a requirement for additional education provision at both primary and post-primary level may emerge over the lifetime of the RSES, which incorporates the new CDP.

Therefore, in an effort to identify future education requirement within the county, it is vitally important that all future engagements between the Department and the Council take into consideration both the short term and the longer term population projections as outlined for County Longford in the RSES. The Department will continue to work closely with the Council in relation to the provision of new schools and the development of existing schools and emphasises the critical importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient and appropriate land is zoned for this purpose. In this regard, the Department would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in advance of the publication of the Draft Plan to discuss potential educational requirements.

Site Acquisitions and Property Management Section

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