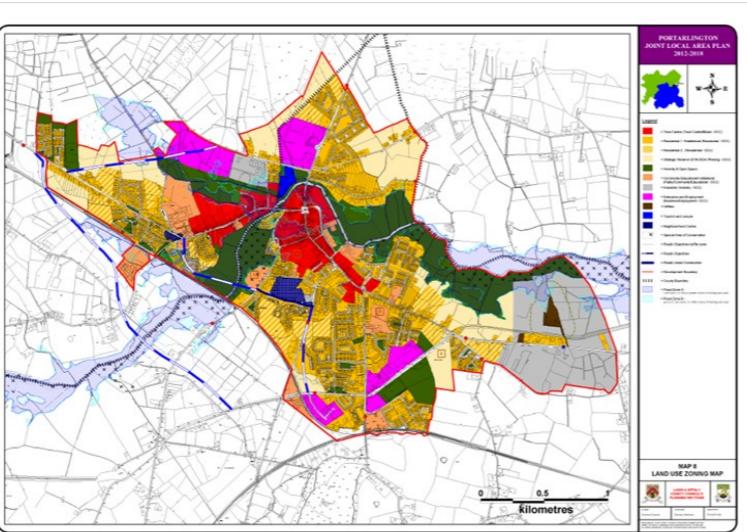


## Who Makes the Plan?

The responsibility for making the LAP rests with the elected members of Laois and Offaly County Councils in accordance with legislative framework and published Ministerial guidance.



*This pre-draft consultation ensures that local ideas and opinions will be heard and taken into account before a Draft LAP is drawn up.*

## Making a Submission:

Public consultation will take place until 5:00pm on 1st November 2017. This leaflet and other information can be viewed on both councils websites at [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie) and [www.offaly.ie](http://www.offaly.ie).

An open morning will be held for members of the public in the Portarlington Library, Main Street, Portarlington on Wednesday, October 18th, 2017 from 10 am to 2pm.

Submissions can be made via the addresses below:

- By email to: PortarlingtonLAP@laoiscoco.ie or [www.portlap@offaly.ie](http://www.portlap@offaly.ie); or
- By post to:

Senior Planner,  
Planning Department,  
Aras an Contae,  
JFL Avenue,  
Portlaoise,

or

Senior Planner,  
Planning Department,  
Aras an Chontae,  
Charleville Road,  
Tullamore,  
Co. Offaly

Submissions and observations should state the name, address and where relevant, the body represented.

**WWW.LAOIS.IE**

**WWW.OFFALY.IE**



# PORTARLINGTON

## JOINT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2018-24

### PRE-DRAFT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

*Have Your Say ...*



### ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE LAST LOCAL AREA PLAN



Presentation Primary School,  
Station Road.



Refurbishment of Public Library,  
Main Street.



Streamlined Signage for Industrial  
Units at Botley Lane.



Support and promotion of new  
and existing business

### Why Prepare a Local Area Plan (LAP) for Portarlington?

Laois and Offaly Local Authorities are currently reviewing the Joint Portarlington Local Area Plan 2012-2018 in order to prepare a new Joint Local Area Plan for Portarlington from 2018-2024.

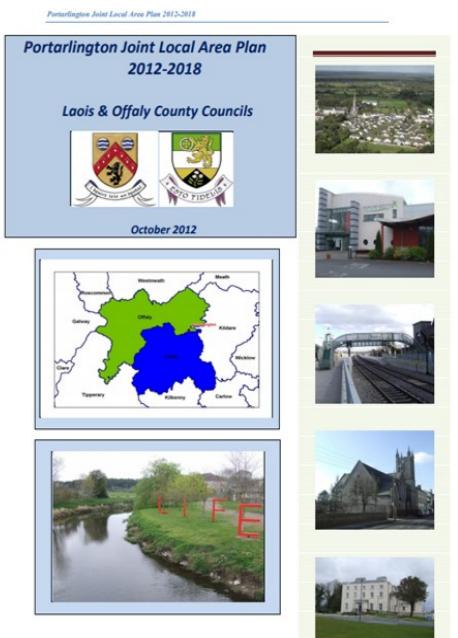
The plan sets out the landuse framework for the development of Portarlington together with policies and objectives, which the Councils will promote and prioritise, in order to ensure a high-quality environment is provided for residents, workers and visitors to the town.

It is important that the future development of Portarlington is plan-led, so that its existing heritage, character and vibrancy is maintained and enhanced when planning for the current and future needs of the town.

This is your opportunity for ideas to be heard to help shape the future sustainable development of Portarlington.

The preparation of the new Joint LAP will allow for an updated assessment of the current situation for the town and the formulation of a series of responses that reflect changing economic and social circumstances.

The Council is now seeking initial feedback from residents and interested stakeholders to ensure that local ideas and opinions will be heard and taken into consideration as part of the preparation of the Draft Plan which will be published for public display and comment in early 2018.



## Laois and Offaly County Development Plans

Both development plans outline the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Laois over the period 2017-2023 and County Offaly over the period 2014-2020. It provides a planning framework for both counties, identifying the broad locations for the provision of key infrastructure over its lifetime. Portarlington is designated as one of five Key Service Towns for the Midlands Region under the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines 2012-2018. The new Local Area Plan for Portarlington will determine where within the town this critical infrastructure should be located.



### Strengths & Opportunities

- Identified by Midland Regional Planning Guidelines as one of five Key Service Towns for the Midlands Region;
- Excellent location in relation to national road and rail infrastructure, ensuring easy access to the GDA, Dublin Port and Dublin Airport;
- Availability of relatively cheap, zoned and serviced industrial and commercial land, and existing floorspace;
- Strong industrial & entrepreneurial tradition;
- Tourism potential of town;
- Good water, energy and telecommunications infrastructure;
- Young and growing population;
- Improve pedestrian & cycle access;
- Provide community facilities, including schools, open spaces, etc.

### Challenges & Threats

- High levels of out-commuting of residents for work;
- Need to improve public realm within town centre;
- Low representation of private sector employment;
- Poor permeability within town centre;
- Requirement to plan for additional schools places;
- Sustainable management of surface water/flooding;
- Potential erosion of heritage features within the town;
- The delivery of housing;
- Changing national spatial context - new National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

### **Town Development**

What do you like most about Portarlington?

What do you think works well and should be maintained?

What do you feel needs to be changed and why?

What type of housing development is required? (eg. rental, first time buyers, social housing)

Where in the town should housing be located?

Is dereliction/vacancy a problem within the town? How can this be addressed?

Tourism - What are the attractions? What can be improved or exploited, are there any problems with developing tourism?



## Key Stages in the Local Area Plan-Making

### 1. Pre-Draft Stage

Forming the issues to be addressed in the Plan and gathering information from consulting relevant stakeholders.

### 2. Draft Plan Stage

Following a review of collated information a Draft Plan will be prepared by the Planning Authority. The Draft will afford the public the first opportunity to gauge the direction that the final Plan is heading.

### 3. Notice of Draft Plan

The Draft Plan will be available for inspection for at least 6 weeks. We will publish a notice in local papers letting you know that the Draft is available for inspection and inviting your submissions.

### 4. Chief Executive's Report

A Chief Executive's Report will be prepared based on the submissions received and containing the opinion of the Chief Executive and his recommendations in relation to the Plan.

### 5. Consideration by Elected Members

The Elected Members will consider the Chief Executive's Report and then make, amend or revoke the Plan as appropriate in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Executive.

### 6. Material Alterations

In the event of material alterations or amendments we will publish notice of this & invite further submissions . A similar process to that outlined at stages 4 & 5 is then repeated.

### 7. Final Plan

Following consultation on Material Alterations, a further Chief Executive's Report will be prepared, to be considered by the Elected Members. The Elected Members will consider the report and adopt the Plan.