

Review of Laois County Development Plan 2011-2017

PRE DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Forward Planning Section

Laois County Council

9th October 2015



What is the Purpose of this Document?

This document is designed to make you aware of the Development Plan review which is currently underway. The paper is also aimed at getting people involved and encouraging discussion before a draft of the next Laois County Development Plan is prepared. The document is intended to stimulate debate about County Laois and assess what are the important strategic planning issues that the Plan should address?

Why a New County Development Plan?

A planning authority is obliged to make a development plan every 6 years. Laois County Council therefore starts the preparation of a new County Development Plan on [Friday 9th October 2015](#).

The County Development Plan, prepared under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) is a six year plan providing a framework for the sustainable physical development of the County, while considering the conservation and protection of the built and natural environment. It also aims to carefully consider the needs of all groups and individuals within the County and promote equal opportunities. The Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Laois County in terms of social, cultural, economic and physical development and consists of a written statement supported by mapping and other appendices indicating the development objectives for the County. The Plan must also be consistent with the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 and the Midlands Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022. Planning applications are assessed against the policies and objectives set out in the Plan.

Who Makes the Plan?

The responsibility for making the Development Plan, including all the various policies and objectives, rests with the elected members of the Planning Authority, in accordance with legislative framework and guidance issued by Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Such guidance relates to a wide range of subject areas including residential development in both rural and urban areas, wind energy, quarries, flooding, retail and more.



Laois County Development Plan 2011-2017 is divided in three volumes: n Volume 1 identifies the main challenges faced by Laois and provides a response to these challenges in the form of the Core Strategy. It also sets out general policies and objectives for:

- Economic development, retail and tourism
- Housing
- Community facilities
- Natural and built heritage
- Transport and mobility
- Environmental infrastructure
- Environmental quality
- Energy and telecommunications

The last section of Volume 1 outlines development standards and guidelines, which represent criteria for assessing development proposals/planning applications.

n Volume 2 of the CDP includes 30 settlement-plans, i.e. village land-use plans that include locality-specific development objectives.

Volume 3 includes the following appendices

1. Record of Protected Structures for the county area,
2. Retail Strategy
3. Housing Strategy
4. Wind Strategy
5. Architectural Conservation Areas
6. Landscape Character Assessment
7. Rural House Design Guidance

The CDP is supported by an **Environmental Report** (Strategic Environmental Assessment), an **Appropriate Assessment Screening Report** and a **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**.



Envisaged changes

- The core strategy of the new CDP will provide the general planning framework for County Laois which will inform 4 Local Area Plans for Portlaoise, Mountmellick, Portarlington and Graiguecullen.
- While the structure of the CDP will remain largely unchanged, the extent of land currently zoned in local area plans and settlement plans needs to be reviewed.
- The new Housing Strategy and Retail Strategy for the period 2017-2023 must be prepared in the context of revised population growth scenarios for the County, and lower-tier settlements in County Laois.
- Other CDP sections - such as those relating to natural and built heritage, economic development, community and recreational facilities, transport, telecommunications and infrastructure - will be updated.
- Additions and deletions may be made to the Record of Protected Structures for the entire County area.

It is intended to organise the RPS by town, village and rural area in each of the two municipal districts.



What is Included in the Plan?

The Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) requires a County Development Plan to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. It also requires the inclusion of a Core Strategy, which shows that the development objectives in the Development Plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Spatial Strategy and the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines.

The Plan must also include a number of mandatory objectives including those for:

- the **ZONING OF LAND** for the use solely or primarily of particular areas for particular purposes (whether residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, as open space or otherwise, or a mixture of those uses), where and to such extent as the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, in the opinion of the planning authority, requires the uses to be indicated;
- the provision or facilitation of the **PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE** including (i) transport, energy and communication facilities, (ii) water supplies and waste water services (regard having been had to the water services strategic plan for the area made in accordance with the Water Services Act 2007), (iii) waste recovery and disposal facilities (regard having been had to the waste management plan for the area made in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996), and (iv) any ancillary facilities or services;
- the **CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT** including, in particular, the archaeological and natural heritage and the conservation and protection of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph;
- the encouragement, pursuant to **ARTICLE 10 OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE**, of the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species;
- the promotion of **COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES** established (i) for bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009; (ii) for groundwater, by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in river basin management plans (within the meaning of Regulation 13 of the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003);
- the integration of the planning and sustainable development of the area with the **SOCIAL, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS** of the area and its population;
- the **PRESERVATION OF THE CHARACTER OF THE LANDSCAPE**, including the preservation of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest;
- the **PROTECTION OF STRUCTURES**, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest;
- the development and renewal of areas in need of **REGENERATION**;
- the provision of **ACCOMMODATION FOR TRAVELLERS**, and the use of areas for that purpose;
- the preservation, improvement and extension of **AMENITIES AND RECREATIONAL AMENITIES**;
- the control, having regard to the provisions of the **MAJOR ACCIDENTS DIRECTIVE** and any regulations, under any enactment, giving effect to that Directive, of (i) siting of new establishments, (ii) modification of existing establishments, and (iii) development in the vicinity of such establishments, for the purposes of reducing the risk, or limiting the consequences, of a major accident;

- the provision, or facilitation of the provision, of **SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY** including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities;
- the **PROTECTION OF THE LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE GAELTACHT** including the promotion of Irish as the community language, where there is a Gaeltacht area in the area of the development plan;
- the promotion of **SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES** in urban and rural areas including the promotion of measures to (i) reduce energy demand in response to the likelihood of increases in energy and other costs due to long-term decline in non-renewable resources, (ii) reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and (iii) address the necessity of adaptation to climate change; in particular, having regard to location, layout and design of new development;
- the preservation of **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY** which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility, which public rights of way shall be identified both by marking them on at least one of the maps forming part of the development plan and by indicating their location on a list appended to the development plan, and
- **LANDSCAPE**, in accordance with relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or any Minister of the Government relating to providing a framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes and developed having regard to the European Landscape Convention done at Florence on 20 October 2000.



Context of the County Development Plan & Relationship with Other Plans

The County Development Plan has a close relationship with a number of associated plans, guidelines and legislative instruments. The Plan sits within a policy hierarchy and is required to be consistent with the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 and the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 and takes into account national guidelines, strategies and policy documents. It is also informed by environmental issues such as climate change, flooding, renewable and alternative energy.

Policy Changes Since 2009

There have been a number of changes to planning legislation and ministerial guidance since the current County Development Plan was adopted in 2011.

The Planning and Development Act 2010 brought about a number of significant changes, the foremost of which was the introduction of a requirement for a Core Strategy to be included in development plans. The Core Strategy will demonstrate how the County Development Plan is consistent with other plans in the hierarchy including detailed population targets for the urban and rural areas. In addition, requests or proposals relating to the zoning of land for any use can not be considered at this stage of the process.

There are also new Ministerial Guidelines relating to a wide range of areas including flooding, retail, and residential development in urban areas. This comprehensive set of guidelines is available on the Department of Environment Communication and Local Government's website. To learn more about any guidelines that relate to an area of your interest, visit the planning section on www.environ.ie and click on the guidance for planning authorities' link.

Regional assemblies

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 replaced the eight regional authorities with three regional assemblies (Northern and Western, Southern and Eastern, and the Greater Dublin Area), which have the power to make *regional spatial and economic strategies*.

County Laois, previously part of the Midlands Region, is now a component of the **Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly** which has 35 members and covers the county councils of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, South Dublin, Westmeath and Wicklow and the city council of Dublin.



Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies

The *Midland Regional Planning Guidelines* (RPGs) will remain in force until 2016, when they will be replaced by the **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy** due to be prepared by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

The principal objective of the RSES will be to support the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy (or its successor) and the economic policies and objectives of the Government, by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for regional development. The RSES will have a life of minimum 12 and maximum 20 years. The Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023 will have regard to the relevant provisions of the RSES.

Local Economic and Community Plan

An important requirement of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is the preparation by each local authority of a six-year **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**, focused on the promotion of economic development as well as local and community development in the functional area of the local authority.

While the local authority is responsible for drafting the economic element of the LECP, the community element must be prepared by the newly-established Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The LECP must be consistent with the core strategy and the objectives of the County Development Plan, and with the relevant regional planning guidelines or, as appropriate, with the regional spatial and economic strategy.

What do the LECP and the CDP have in common?

The promotion of economic development through the LECP involves, among other things, “identifying local attributes that are essential to enhancing local economic performance, such as the quality of the environment and the qualities of cities, towns and rural areas, including accessibility, physical character, and infrastructure”. The CDP already contains policies and objectives relating to the quality of the natural and built environment.

The promotion of local and community development under the LECP includes, inter alia, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities, investment in physical regeneration and environmental improvements. The CDP also contains policies and objectives in respect of physical and social infrastructure, including community facilities. Consistency between the CDP objectives and the actions to be prioritised in the LECP would ensure that available funding is allocated to specific projects which have been deemed necessary or desirable as a result of public consultation on both plans.

Laois’s first LECP, currently under preparation and due to be adopted by March 2016, will be consistent with the CDP 2011-2017 and with the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines 2010.

The next LECP must be prepared following the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region (2016) and will have to be consistent also with the core strategy of the CDP 2017-2023.

Contents of the core strategy

The Core Strategy for County Laois will contain the following :-

- A settlement hierarchy with details on town designations (e.g. Principal Town);
- designation of rural areas where the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines apply;
- information on relevant roads and rail routes;
- a map or diagram representing the above items;
- relevant information on policies and objectives issued by the Government or the Minister in relation to national and regional population targets that apply to the development plan area;
- details on population targets and projected population growth in towns, villages and rural areas;
- details regarding the size of the area zoned for housing or a mixture of residential and other uses;
- the proposed number of houses to be built on zoned lands;
- the size of any additional area proposed to be zoned for housing or a mixture of residential and other uses and details of any proposed phasing of development;
- information regarding compliance of retail development objectives with retail guidelines issued by the Minister;
- proposed roles or functions of the towns listed in the settlement hierarchy, including details on their potential for economic and social development.

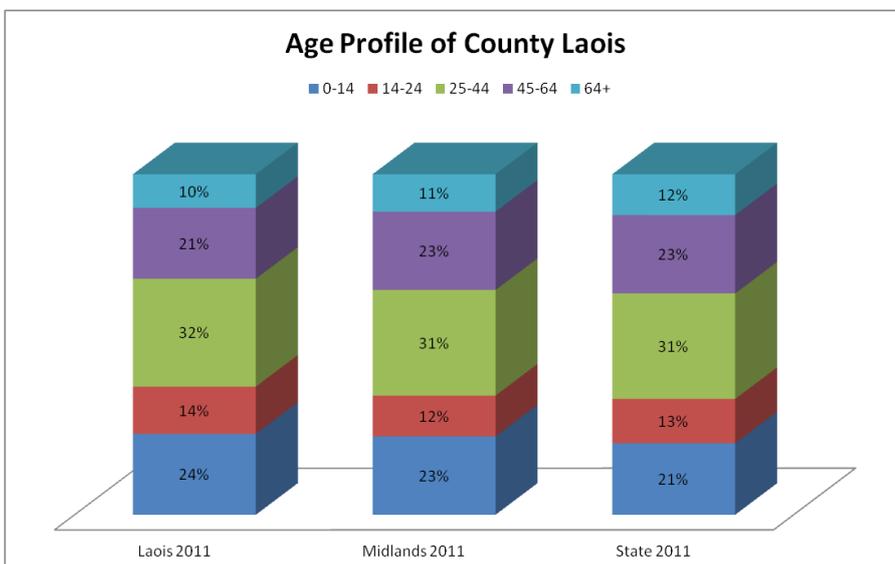
Population Change within Laois Towns			
Town	2006	2011	% Growth
Portlaoise Town (legally defined)	3281	3639	10.9%
Portlaoise Environs	11332	16506	45.6%
Portlaoise Town	14613	20145	37.8%
Portarlington (includes Offaly)	6004	7788	29.7%
Graigucullen	2529	3966	56.8%
Mountmellick Town (legally defined)	2872	2998	4.4%
Mountmellick Environs	1197	1737	45.1%
Mountmellick Town	4069	4735	16.4%
Abbeyleix Town	1568	1827	16.5%
Mountrath Town	1435	1661	15.7%
Stradbally Town	1056	1154	9.3%
Rathdowney Town	1212	1208	-0.3%
Durrow Town	811	843	4%

One of the main challenges faced is the population growth that occurred between 2006 and 2011 and how we provide services for this additional population. Laois is the only County to have experienced in excess of 15% growth during the period. The figure showing population growth on an electoral division basis shows strong growth was concentrated in Portlaoise and areas to the north east. The figure also indicates the strong growth focused in Dublin city and surrounding areas and strong growth along the line of the former Naas dual-carriageway, now the M7.

Our Young Population....

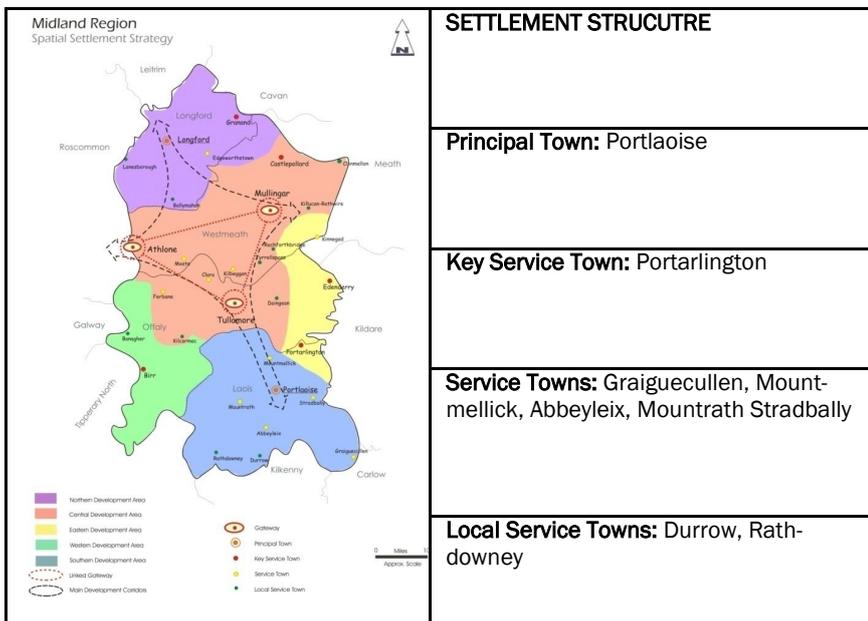
The County's substantial population growth also changed its population profile. Laois had a younger age profile in 2011 than in 2006. In 2011, Laois had a younger population profile than the Midlands Region as a whole (Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford) or the state.

This suggests the County would have a high youth dependency rate i.e a high number of persons are economically inactive and dependent as they are engaged in education. Also the population of working age in Laois is young relative to the Midlands or State as a whole.



Our Towns & Villages

The settlements of County Laois will be arranged in a hierarchy in accordance with their roles as set out under the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines.



Portlaoise
 Graiguecullen
 Abbeyleix
 Stradbally
 Mountmellick
 Mountrath
 Durrow
 Portarlinton

Spink Mountmellick
 Durrow Mountrath

Borrisin
 Ossory
 Rushhall
 Rosenallis
 Rock
 Portarlinton
 Killestin
 Ballyadams
 Swan
 Doonane
 Raheen
 Timahoe
 Fisherstown
 Ballybrittas
 Errill
 Coolrain
 Newtown
 Heath
 Clonaslee
 Raheenaniska

Ballylynan
 Portlaoise
 Canross
 Castletown
 Ballybrophy

Any remaining towns and villages will be subdivided into town and village tiers, resulting in a settlement structure which is based on the prioritisation of key urban settlements in terms of population and investment growth, supported by a strong road network while sustaining and revitalising rural areas.

The position of towns and villages within this tiered settlement hierarchy will be based on a number of factors, including:-

- economic development and employment potential of the area;
- the existing size of the settlements;
- the availability of infrastructure and services such as education facilities;
- public transport and the ability of the settlement to absorb such growth;

The position of a settlement within the Hierarchy provides an indication of the potential scale of population growth permissible over the lifetime of the Plan and therefore plays a key role in the appropriate delivery of the population targets in order to achieve balanced development at local level, through the strengthening of urban settlement structures, while ensuring that the resources of rural areas are developed in a sustainable manner in meeting the needs of its people.

The County Development Plan will contain detailed land use zoning maps for each of the settlements in the County. While submissions at this stage should not relate to land use zoning for specific sites or lands you do have an opportunity to suggest any other proposals with respect to how these towns and village function as places to live, work and visit.

Reasons to Make Your Voice Heard

Economic Development

Economic recovery and job creation will be essential over the next six years. Do you have something to say about how we can promote or facilitate economic development in County Laois. What are our 'competitive advantages' that can be harnessed to increase employment and inward investment? The Plan will support the new Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) in the implementation of their local and community development programmes and interventions and incorporate the proposed 'County Local and Community Plan' when it has been prepared and adopted.

Retail

Laois County Council will be carrying out a Retail Strategy as part of the Development Plan Review process. We are interested to know how you think Laois's retail sector is performing and how this impacts on the vitality and vibrancy of our town and villages. If you have opinions on any type of retailing, from local shops, department stores to supermarkets, let us know how they should be supported and promoted.

Built and Natural Heritage

Do you value our historic buildings, archaeology and natural heritage. Tell us how you wish to ensure their protection for the current generation and those who will inherit from us in the future.

Sustainable Communities

Tell us how you want to make the best use of existing services and infrastructure, maintain the viability of existing towns, villages and rural communities and so secure the future of communities at risk of decline.

Rural Development

Laois is primarily a rural county so how do we best manage our resources to ensure that the economy, agriculture and communities of rural areas continue to prosper and be promoted in a sustainable manner.

Environment & Climate Change

It is important to understand and appreciate the value of our environment and the potential impacts that climate change will have on all of our lives including increased flooding.



Flooding

Future communities should not be subjected to the disruption, significant cost and risk to life because of flooding. As part of the Development Plan Review process Laois County Council will prepare a detailed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the County towards which you can contribute.

Housing

Do you have opinions on the location of housing in the open countryside or in urban areas? What are your suggestions about the type of housing that is needed most now and in the future. You perhaps have comments in relation to the design and layout of housing areas to improve these areas for the residents who live there and for the overall visual enhancement of these areas.

Sport & Recreation

Sporting and recreational facilities and amenities for all age groups and enthusiasts are very important. What range of activities, and amenities would you like to see promoted to help endorse general health and well-being and to facilitate the expansion of existing sporting facilities.

Social Inclusion

Are you concerned about possible barriers to participation in your community including distance from services, lack of transport, discrimination / prejudice and have you any suggestions as to how the Council can work to remove or avoid these barriers.

Infrastructure

High quality infrastructure is essential to sustain economic growth and sustainable development. While the council does not have responsibility for the provision of these services, it is essential that we provide the policy framework to support the provision of high quality water, wastewater, waste management, energy and telecommunication infrastructure needed for the development of our county. How do you think the Development Plan can support the provision of this infrastructure?

Energy

Energy production has historically played a very important part in the economy of County Laois. Can you see the potential for the growth of renewable and non renewable energy generation in the County in the future and the employment that such growth will bring?

Town Centres

Do you enjoy visiting and spending time in our town centers and can you see their value in providing employment and services to our community and attracting visitors. What opportunity or threats do you see to their vitality and vibrancy in the future? How you think these issues can be addressed.

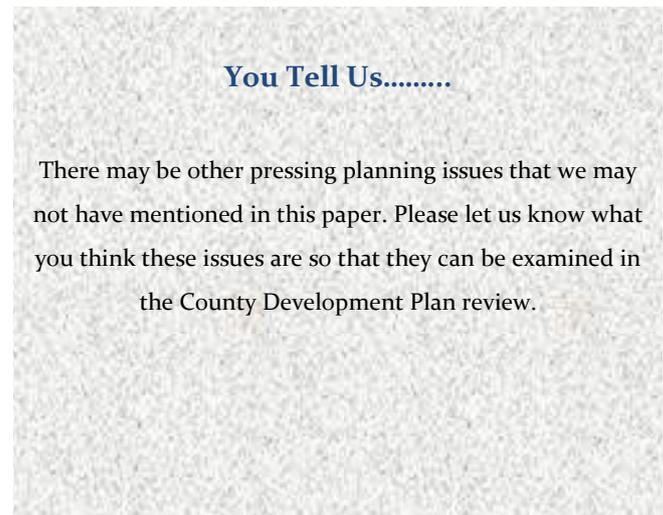
Sustainable Travel

Do you have something to say about improving both private and public transport? What forms of transport including walking, driving, cycling, bus or rail do you use and have you opinions on how each or any can be improved and how can we encourage use of more sustainable forms of transport.

Tourism

Situated in Irelands 'Ancient East', Laois has a wealth of natural, cultural and recreational assets. Laois is the perfect location for outdoor enthusiasts with the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and River Barrow and Nore Blue Ways and the County boasts a rich heritage which can be experienced on the Laois Monastic Trail and the Rock of Dunamaise for example. Synonymous with the festival experience tourism numbers have been growing year on year in the County.

What are the key assets that Laois has to offer the tourist market and how do you think the Plan can facilitate the expansion of the existing tourism product thereby improving the image of the County?



Preparing a new CDP — strategic assessments

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The European Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001, also known as the SEA Directive, was transposed into Irish law in the form of two sets of Regulations. The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011) apply to the preparation, review and amendment of land use plans.

As implemented into Irish law, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is mandatory for development plans for areas where the population or the target population is 10,000 persons or greater. Where the population or the target population is less, SEA screening is undertaken to determine the need to undertake SEA.

What is SEA?

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme. The procedure includes:

- preparing an environmental report where the likely significant environmental effects are identified and evaluated;
- consulting the public, environmental authorities and any EU Member State affected, on the environmental report and draft plan or programme;
- taking account of the findings of the environmental report and the outcome of these consultations in deciding whether to adopt or modify the draft plan or programme;
- making known the decision on adoption of the plan or programme and how SEA influenced the outcome.

SEA must run in parallel with the preparation of the new development plan for County Laois.

The first stage is scoping, which is intended to determine the range of environmental issues and the level of detail at which these issues should be addressed in the Environmental Report (ER) that will accompany the Draft Plan all the way to adoption. Scoping is done in consultation with the public and the prescribed environmental authorities, which include the EPA and the planning authorities of adjoining counties, among others..

When the draft CDP is published, it will be accompanied by a Environmental Report (ER) and a non-technical summary. The ER will indicate how alternative development scenarios were considered and how decisions were made to select a preferred scenario. It will also explain how the Draft Plan's policies and objectives were assessed against environmental objectives.

Upon adoption of the Plan, a SEA Statement will be published, showing how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan.

Appropriate Assessment

An assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) is commonly referred to as an Appropriate Assessment (AA) or a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) of a plan or project. This assessment relates to the likely significant environmental effects on a Natura 2000 site generated by the implementation of the plan or project.

Natura 2000 is a network of nature protection areas in the territory of the European Union. It is made up of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated respectively under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

There are 9 SPA/cSAC sites in County Laois:

- o Ballyprior Grassland SAC (002256)
- o Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC (000859)
- o Coolrain Bog SAC (002332)
- o Knockacoller Bog SAC (002333)
- o Lisbigney Bog SAC (000869)
- o Mountmellick SAC (002141)
- o River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)
- o Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC (000412)
- o Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160)



A Natura Impact Report (NIR) is required to be prepared in conjunction with the draft Development Plan.

Your contribution is valued and you are strongly encouraged to participate in the environmental assessment process.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

As part of implementing the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) into Irish legislation, the DoECLG and the Office of Public Works issued *Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009).

The Guidelines indicate that county development plans must establish the flood risk assessment requirements for their functional area.

Planning authorities must ensure that inappropriate development is not permitted in areas of high flood risk, particularly floodplains, except where there is no suitable alternative.

Having prepared Flood Maps (2013-2014), the Office of Public Works is currently drafting Flood Risk Management Plans containing specific measures to reduce flood risk, including both structural and non-structural measures.

Where to Next?

You are now invited to make a written submission on the review of the County Development Plan to the Forward Planning section of Laois County Council. A series of public consultation meetings will be held across the County. Here the public will have an opportunity to discuss, with County Council Planning Officers, relevant issues relating to the Development Plan review.



How to Make a Submission

- Submissions should be made in writing.
- Relate to proper planning and sustainable development.
- Include, on a separate page, the name and contact details of the person making the submission.
- Be received no later than 4p.m. on the 4th December 2015

Submissions or observations regarding the review of the existing Laois County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the preparation of the new plan shall be made to the Planning Authority from **9th October 2015 to 4th December 2015** (both dates inclusive) and can be submitted:

In writing to: Laois County Development Plan Review, Forward Planning Team, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

By email to: cdp@laoiscoco.ie.

Any group or individual can make a submission. Submissions should not:

- Be made in more than one format i.e. letter and email.
- Should not relate to a request or proposal for zoning of particular land for any purpose. Any submission requesting or proposing the zoning of land will not be considered or accepted at this stage. The submission can be on any other topic that you think might be relevant to the proper planning and sustainable development of County Laois.

Venues, Dates and Times are as Follows:

This public consultation period is your opportunity to discuss any planning issues that you may have with Laois County Council and help frame future policies and objectives of the Development Plan. If you are living in or near an unfinished estate and have suggestions about how these issues relating to or associated with unfinished estates could be addressed and resolved please let us know your views.

You are invited to attend a Public Consultation at one of the following venues to have your say in the next County Development Plan 2017-2023.

Date and Time	Venue
Thursday 22nd October 7.00p.m – 9.00 p.m.	Parish Centre Portlaoise
Tuesday 27th October 7.00p.m – 9.00 p.m.	Studio 2 Portarlinton Community Centre, Link Road, Portarlinton
Tuesday 3rd November 7.00p.m – 9.00 p.m.	Marion Centre Rathdowney Co Laois
Thursday 5th November 7.00p.m – 9.00 p.m.	Community Centre Killeshin Co Laois

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