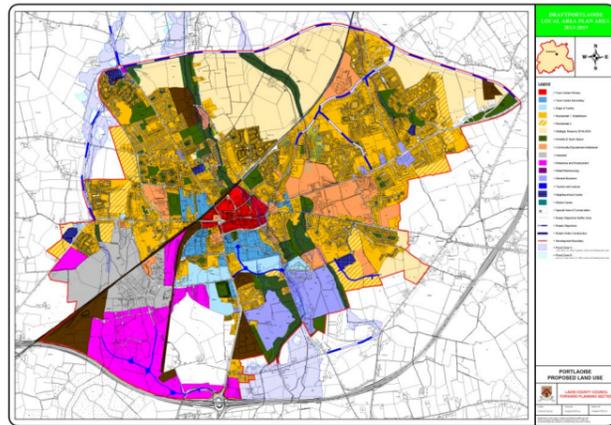


## Who Makes the Plan?

The responsibility for making the LAP rests with the elected members of the Portlaoise Municipal District (red shaded area on map) of Laois County Council, 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 the Council's website [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie).

An open morning will be held for members of the public at Portlaoise Library, Dunamaise House, Lyster Square, Portlaoise on Thursday, 19th October 2017, between 10am and 2pm.

Submissions can be made via the addresses below:

- Email: [PortlaoiseLAP@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:PortlaoiseLAP@laoiscoco.ie)
- Address: Senior Planner, Planning Department, Laois County Council, Aras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

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



[www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie)



## PORTLAOISE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2018—2024

### PRE-DRAFT PUBLIC CONSULTATION *Have Your Say ...*



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



*New Primary School Campus,  
Aughnaharna,*



*Fort Protector—  
Archaeological Testing in the  
site of the new Library, Main  
Street*



*New Housing Conniberry Way,  
Old Knockmay*



*Regeneration of Pairce Uí  
Phobail*

#### Why Prepare a Local Area Plan For Portlaoise?

Laois County Council is legally required to prepare a Local Area Plan for Portlaoise every 6 years, to guide and control development.

It will contain land-use zonings to control the physical development of the town, together with policies and objectives, which the Council will promote and prioritise, in order to ensure that a high-quality environment is provided for residents, workers and visitors to the town.

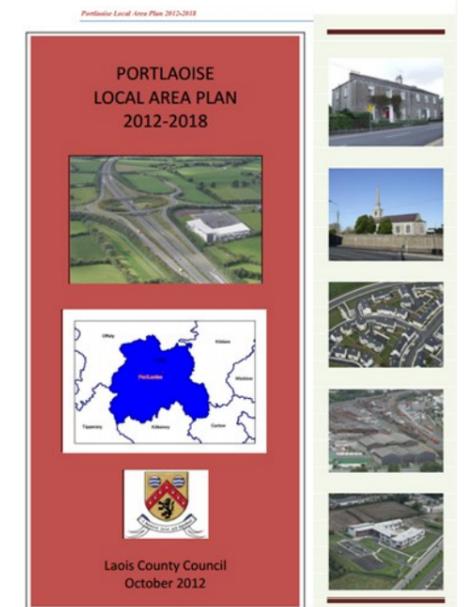
It is important that the future development of Portlaoise is plan-led, so that its existing heritage, character and vibrancy is maintained and enhanced when planning for the current and future needs of the town.

This is our opportunity for ideas to be heard and to help shape the future development of Portlaoise.

Laois County Council has commenced the preparation of a new Local Area Plan for Portlaoise and intends to publish a Draft Plan for public display and comment in early 2018.

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

The Council is now seeking initial feedback from residents and interested parties, to ensure that local ideas and opinions will be heard and taken into consideration as part of the preparation of the Draft Plan.



## Laois County Development Plan 2017–2023

The new Laois County Development Plan 2017–2023 came into effect on 25th July 2017. It provides a planning framework for County Laois, identifying the broad locations for the provision of key infrastructure over its lifetime.

Portlaoise is identified as the principal settlement in the county and is identified for significant further development, in terms of new housing, commercial, economic and employment, civic, educational and amenity developments. The new Local Area Plan for Portlaoise will determine where within the town this critical infrastructure should be located.



## Portlaoise Public Realm Strategy

Laois County Council prepared a Public Realm Strategy for Portlaoise in 2017. The Strategy sets out a series of long-term proposals and interventions, focused on public spaces, buildings and walkways, which seek to improve the quality of public realm within the town.

The new Local Area Plan for Portlaoise will contain policies and objectives which seek to action the proposals and interventions set out within the Public Realm Strategy, where possible.



### Strengths & Opportunities

- Identified by Midland Regional Planning Guidelines as a 'key transport node with the capacity for associated economic and logistics activities';
- Proximity to major cities such as Dublin, Limerick and Kilkenny;
- Proximity to Dublin Airport and 6 major ports;
- Water, energy and telecommunications infrastructure;
- Availability of strategic greenfield employment development land;
- Young and growing population;
- High labour force participation rate;
- Improve pedestrian & cycle access;
- Provide community facilities, including schools, open spaces, etc.
- Retain biodiversity.

### 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;
- Under qualified population;
- 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;
- Broadband speeds;

### Town Development

What do you like most about Portlaoise?
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 Process

### 1. Pre-Draft Stage

Forming the issues to be addressed in the Plan and gathering information from consultation with relevant stakeholders and interested parties.

### 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 the adopt the Plan.