



Meath County Development Plan 2019-2025

Chief Executive's Report
Pre-Draft Consultation Phase
April 2017

MEATH:
EUROPE'S BUSINESS
READY REGION



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

SIGNED:



Chief Executive

DATED: 5th April, 2017.

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1.0 Introduction

Meath County Council commenced the review of the current County Development Plan and the preparation of a new County Development Plan for the period of 2019-2025 in December 2016. The new Development Plan will set out the strategic land use and planning policy for County Meath having regard to the National Spatial Strategy, the current Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022, planning policy documents and any other relevant Government Guidance¹.

The current Meath County Development Plan was adopted on the 17th December 2012 and covers the period 2013-2019. A review of the Development Plan and preparation of a new Development Plan is required not later than four years after the making of a Development Plan under S11(1) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2016. The formal review process commenced with the publication of a newspaper notice on the 14th December 2016. A Strategic Issues Paper was prepared to stimulate debate on the key strategic issues that the new plan will need to address.

The function of this stage of the plan review process is to determine the objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the development plan and formulate strategic planning principles underpinning the core strategy.

1.1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the Chief Executive's Report is to present the outcomes of the initial public consultation phase carried out prior to the preparation of the Draft Development Plan. The legislative requirements of the report are set out in the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2016.

The report is required to:

- List the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations, as well as any person or bodies consulted;
- Summarise the issues raised in written submissions and those raised during public consultation events;
- Give the opinion of the Chief Executive on the issues raised, taking account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any Minister of the Government; and
- Set out the Chief Executive's recommendations on policies to be included in the Draft Development Plan.

Submissions pertaining to the zoning of land are prohibited under Section 11 (4) (b) (ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2016, any submission received in this regard is required to be returned.

The report must be prepared no later than 16 weeks after giving notice that the Development Plan is to be reviewed.

¹ The National Planning Framework which will replace the National Spatial Strategy is being prepared at present and this process is running concurrently with the Development Plan review process. The Regional Planning Guidelines will be superseded by the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES), when completed.

1.2. Format of this Report

Part 1 sets out the reports introduction. **Part 2** contains a summary and analysis of all written submissions received, firstly the submission from the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly is summarised, followed by summaries of the submissions received from other statutory consultees. The remaining submissions are summarised in a group format by topic. Finally a summary of all the issues raised during the public consultation events is also set out by topic.

Part 3 sets out the Chief Executive's policy recommendations by topic.

Appendix 1 includes a list of written submissions and **Appendix 2** lists the Prescribed Bodies who were informed of the review.

1.3. County Development Plan Review Overview

Following the consideration of this Chief Executive's Report by the Elected Members and the issuing of directions regarding the preparation of the Draft Development Plan, there is a 10-week period in accordance with Section 11 (4) (e) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2016 allocated to facilitate the preparation of a Draft County Development Plan.

It is anticipated that a Draft Development Plan will be placed on display in September 2017.

1.4. Pre-Draft Consultation Phase

The pre-draft consultation stage was held from the 14th December 2016 to 17th February 2017.

282 submissions were received during this period. The views of all who attended the six public consultation events held around the County have also been considered.

Meath County Council wishes to express its appreciation to those who made submissions and /or attended the information events.

The consultation process comprised a number of elements as follows:

1) Public Consultation Events

Events were held in the following Municipal Districts: Ashbourne, Kells, Laytown-Bettystown (Duleek Civic Office), Navan, Ratoath (Dunshaughlin Civic Office) and Trim during the week 30th January 2017-3rd February 2017. The events were informal in nature. Members of the public were invited to review the Strategic Issues paper, which was presented on notice boards at each venue, and were encouraged to discuss any issues with the exception of zoning matters with planning staff. Each event was held over a duration of 2 hours. The information events were well attended with the highest attendance recorded in Laytown/Bettystown and Ashbourne.

2) Stakeholder Meetings

To date meetings have been held with Fingal County Council, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Department of Education and Skills,

Louth Meath Education and Training Board, Regional Assembly, Inland Fisheries, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Irish Water and the NTA.

Stakeholder meetings will be an ongoing part of the review process.

During the display period of the Strategic Issues Paper presentations were made to the Local Community Development Committee, the Later Life Network, the Age Friendly Alliance, the Housing, Community and Cultural SPC and the Planning and Enterprise SPC.

A workshop was held with Comhairle Na Nog.

3) Promotion

The commencement of the review of the Development Plan was advertised in The Meath Chronicle on 17th December 2016 and in the Irish Independent on 14th December 2016.

Notice of the public consultation/ information evenings were published in the Meath Chronicle on 21st January 2017 and The Drogheda Independent on 18th January 2017.

4) Online

A dedicated website has been set up for the review of the Meath County Development Plan, www.countydevelopmentplanreview.meath.ie, which had in excess of 7,000 'hits' or views during the public consultation period.

Meath County Council utilised Facebook and Twitter to notify the public of all issues related to the review of the Development Plan and raise the profile of the ongoing process.

For the first time as part of a County Plan review process, a facility was made available to accept submissions online.

2.0 Analysis and Summary of Issues raised, Chief Executive's Recommendations

2.1. Submission from the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

An overview of the role and function of EMRA is provided, with particular reference to the formulation, adoption, and implementation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES). It indicates that the Assembly expects to commence the formulation of the RSES in 2017. The Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-22 will remain in place until an RSES is prepared and adopted by the Regional Assembly.

The submission acknowledges that Meath has substantially met the population targets for 2016 set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines. The future growth scenario for the County should be informed by the population and housing targets and settlement hierarchy set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines. It is recommended that any change to the settlement hierarchy is directed by emerging policy in the National Planning Framework or upon the review of the Regional Planning Guidelines.

An evidence based Core Strategy should be prepared using up to date data including CSO regional population projections and housing data. The Core Strategy shall include details of demographic changes and projections, housing mix, infrastructure delivery, implementation, and residential densities.

The Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly considers that one of the challenges of the new County Development Plan will be to address the significant quantum of available zoned lands, including the Phase 2 lands in the current Development Plan. It is recommended that the location of residential zoned lands is closely informed by the Core Strategy and the key elements of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the GDA and the principles of sequential sustainable development.

The submission indicates that the Regional Planning Guidelines have identified Core Economic Areas across the Region to facilitate new employment opportunities and reduce the volume of long distance commuting.

It acknowledges that through the publication of the Local Economic and Community Plan, Meath County Council is performing its enhanced role in economic development.

It is recommended that the Development Plan should include policies to achieve critical mass for the development of the strategic economic growth centres identified in the Regional Planning Guidelines.

The Core Strategy should include an analysis of employment trends within Meath, including future demand, in order to inform the quantum of lands required for employment uses.

It is important that retail policies and retail development in Meath supports the policies and recommendations of the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area and economic growth areas identified in the Regional Planning Guidelines, and follow the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012.

The submission indicates that one of the challenges in the preparation of the County Development Plan will be the modal shift away from dependence on the private car towards walking, cycling, and public transport.

The Regional Planning Guidelines promotes higher densities for employment and residential uses around public transport.

The submission supports the provision of adequate infrastructure capacity to facilitate the sustainable and economic growth of the County.

It indicates that Local Authorities, through co-operation and co-ordination with other agencies, can assist in the provision of telecommunications and energy infrastructure. The submission suggests that Development Plan policies should seek to address infrastructure requirements and be informed by the National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 and the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2013.

The submission recommends that Development Plan policies should be informed and shaped by environmental directives and take into consideration issues of flood risk and flood risk management plans, river basin management plans, impacts on water quality, and landscape assessment.

The submission acknowledges that the Issues Paper refers to the preparation of a Climate Change Strategy as part of the Development Plan. There is a necessity to integrate climate change considerations into the strategic objectives of the Development Plan in conjunction with the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

The submission suggests that the concept of resilience in Development Plan policy making and the statement in relation to same in the Issues Paper is welcomed.

The submission notes that there are challenges in sustaining the viability of small towns and villages in Meath, having regard to the continued pressure for one-off rural housing, and the continued trend towards unsustainable travel patterns. It recommends that Development Plan policies in relation to rural housing and development in the rural area should be informed and shaped by RPG strategic policies and recommendations RP1 and RP2

The submission also makes recommendations in relation to social infrastructure, protecting the archaeological and built heritage (including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bru na Boinne), and green infrastructure, the importance of good urban and architectural design, and ensuring consistency between the Core Strategy and town Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The importance of tourism to the local economy was also highlighted.

Chief Executives opinion on issues raised:

It is noted that the submission confirmed that the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-22 will continue to have effect until a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is published.

The indication that the formulation of the RSES will commence in 2017 is welcomed.

An evidence based Core Strategy will be prepared as part of the preparation of the Draft Plan. Data that will be used to inform the Core Strategy will include preliminary census data for 2016, census data for 2011, and the CSO Regional Population Projections up to 2031 that were published in 2013. The Core Strategy will include population targets, details of the quantum of lands to be zoned for residential and mixed uses, and the distribution of population within the County, which will be consistent with the settlement hierarchy for Meath as detailed in Table 8 of the Regional Planning Guidelines. Details of retail development and public transport availability regarding residential and commercial lands will also be provided.

The period of this Development Plan will be 2019-25. This extends beyond the lifetime of the current Regional Planning Guidelines, which run up to 2022. This will present a number of challenges in the preparation of the Development Plan in terms of predicting population and housing growth beyond 2022. To ensure consistency with the Regional Planning Guidelines the population and household projections beyond 2022 will be based on the growth and projections included in the Guidelines together with more up to date data and projections.

An evidence-based and sequential approach will be taken to addressing any issues of excess zoning. It is confirmed that residential land use zoning will be informed by and aligned with the Core Strategy.

The sustainable economic development of Meath is a core objective of Meath County Council in terms of increasing the jobs ratio, reducing outbound commuting, and improving the quality of life for residents. The preparation of the Draft Plan will have regard to the objectives included in the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-21. The primary focus of economic development will be in the continued implementation of the Economic Strategy for County Meath, 2014-2022.

The Draft Plan will continue to support sustainable rural development, the development of the tourism industry, and the protection of the natural, cultural and built heritage in the County. It will also continue to promote high quality design in all new developments and support the advancement of key infrastructure projects.

The Climate Change Adaptation strategy will inform policies and objectives in the Draft Plan in terms of sustainable development, travel patterns, energy use, and the provision of green infrastructure.

The National Renewable Energy Action Plan, National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and National Landscape Strategy will inform the formulation of policies and objectives for the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan will be informed by environmental assessments and studies as required under National and European legislation including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

2.1.1. Stakeholder Submissions

P1-128 Transport Infrastructure Ireland

The submission presents an overview of the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T). The TEN-T is a planned set of transport networks across Europe. The TEN-T regulations define the objective of increasing the benefits for road users by ensuring safe, secure and high quality standards for road users and freight transport in a co-ordinated fashion to achieve integrated and intermodal long distance travel routes across Europe.

The core network in Ireland consists of the M1/M4/ M3 transport routes. The N/M2, N51 & N52 also provide important inter regional links within the country.

County Development Plan policies must therefore allow the network of national roads to continue to play their intended strategic role in catering for inter-urban and inter-regional transport requirements that will serve Ireland's economic competitiveness by providing faster, more efficient, safer access to ports, airports and cities.

Planned route improvements requested to be included in the County Development Plan are as follows:

- TEN-T N3 corridor
- Leinster Orbital Route
- N2 Slane by pass
- N2 Ashbourne-Ardee
- M3 Type 1 Motorway Service

The location of development should not compromise road planning and route options and should also not compromise the functioning of these roads. Schemes and improvements required on national routes as a result of development should be identified in County Development Plan, however it is outlined that TII may not be responsible for the payment of these works.

It is suggested to include the following in the County Development Plan:

- objectives for the improvement of any relevant national roads;
- policy to protect routes of national road schemes free from adverse development that may compromise the development of route options or the construction of preferred routes or add to overall cost of delivery of road schemes;
- policies to ensure the protection of all existing road schemes in the county of Meath.

While growth will be facilitated in key towns it cannot be to the detriment of investment in the national road network. Integrated land use and transport planning should be supported in the plan and the current situation with regard to economic and industrial land should be reassessed.

It is stated that residential, retail and employment objectives should guide developers to design for sustainable transport requirements at the early stage with high accessibility to a range of transport modes.

Lands should only be developed at interchanges or major junctions where there is capacity in the road networks and access to suitable transport alternatives. The plan must protect undeveloped areas adjoining national roads and junctions in order to cater for capacity enhancements. Any mitigation measures on national network resulting from local development will not be borne by TII.

The Local Authority is urged to consider the Retail Planning Guidelines when choosing the location of development. The use of Individual traffic assessments are not considered to be a substitute for carrying out full assessments at the time of allocating land uses. The LA should carry out area based transport assessment or Strategic transport assessment to support the preparation of the draft development plan, the following points should be taken into account when developing policy and assessing planning applications:

- Particular attention should be paid to areas such as Drogheda and Stamullen.
- Restrict new entrances onto roads where speed limit is higher than 50kph.
- Co-ordinate proposed entrances in zoned areas so as to reduce the number of entrances.
- Exceptional cases must be evidence based
- Design of development must address the functionality and safety of the road
- Refer to compliance with Road Safety Impact Assessment and Road Safety Audit
- Applications for large development should be accompanied by TTA and RSA
- Developments should be in accordance with Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) reference in Plan
- Reference NRA/TII Service Area Policy (2014) and DoECLG Guidelines should be made in County Plan
- Location of off line and online service areas should be in accordance with these guidelines.
- Need for service area between junction 4 & 7 M3
- Restrict non road signage on roads in accordance with DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines
- Developers should be obliged to provide noise mitigation measures plan should refer to S.I No. 140 of 2006.
- Draft development plan should have reference to the DoECLG's Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines which indicates the importance of evidence based approach at development plan stage and impact on roads
- Protection of the carrying capacity, efficiency and safety of roads is maintained

Overall it is recommended that an integrated approach to land use and transportation solutions throughout the County should be undertaken.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

Meath County Council acknowledge the interdependence between transport and land use planning and will promote sustainable settlement and transport strategies in urban and rural areas including the promotion of measures to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in energy demand.

The Draft Plan will support and encourage sustainable and compact forms of development which reduce the need to travel for employment and services. Development will be directed to areas that are served by public transport thus ensuring that the critical mass of population is achieved to maximise the return on public transport investment.

The Draft Plan will seek to ensure that road schemes in towns and the layout of new developments facilitate bus routes, walkways and cycle tracks to encourage a multi modal approach to travel. Large developments will be requested to submit Traffic and Transport Assessments (TTA's) and Road Safety Audits (RSA's) with planning applications in order to ensure that the development can be appropriately located with minimal impact on the surrounding road network. The Draft Plan will seek to protect the carrying capacity of the national road network from inappropriate development and only in cases of demonstrable exceptional circumstances (agreed with TII) will new entrances be permitted.

The provision of off line services will be promoted at appropriate locations in accordance with the NRA/TII Service Area Policy (2014) and in consultation with TII.

Reference will be included in the Draft Plan regarding the necessity of compliance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines.

The Draft Plan will seek to restrict the proliferation non road related signage in the County while ensuring that there is sufficient clear well functioning signage to facilitate tourism and business development in the County.

The Report of the Drogheda Boundary Review Committee, February 2017 recommended that no change is made to the existing boundary arrangements. The Report recommended that Meath County Council and Louth County Council collaborate to produce:

- i) A unified vision for Drogheda
- ii) A Joint Local Area Plan for the Greater Drogheda Area
- iii) A Joint retail strategy for Drogheda

The Draft Plan will include policies and objectives that will support the preparation of a Joint Local Area Plan and Retail Strategy for Drogheda between Meath County Council and Louth County Council.

A land use plan for Stamullen will be included in Volume 2 of the Draft Plan.

In summary, policies and objectives within the Draft Plan will seek to support and encourage sustainable and compact forms of development which have minimal impact upon the carrying capacity, efficiency and safety of the surrounding road network. Development will be directed to areas that are well served by public transport, pedestrian and cycle facilities in order to reduce reliance on the private car.

P1-130 Irish Water

Irish Water have been assessing the availability of Water Services in Meath and look forward to meeting representatives of Meath County Council in February.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

A meeting between officials from Meath County Council and Irish Water took place on 27th February 2017 regarding the preparation of the Draft Plan.

Meath County Council will continue to engage with Irish Water in regard to the availability of services within the settlements in Meath and any future projects to be included in the Water Services Strategic Plan throughout the plan review process.

P1-220 Dublin Airport Authority

A number of policy recommendations have been made by DAA as follows:

- 1) Support will be given to aviation policy as set out in the National Aviation policy for Ireland 2015. In particular through supporting the role of Dublin Airport as a *'key tourism and business gateway to Meath and the wider Midland and Eastern Region'*.
- 2) To strictly control inappropriate development and require noise insulation where appropriate within the outer noise zone, and actively resist new provision for residential development and other noise sensitive uses within the inner noise zone as shown on map 11.1

- 3) Under no circumstances shall any dwelling be permitted within the predicted 69 db LAeq 16 hours noise contour.

It is stated that comprehensive noise insulation shall be required for any house permitted in the public safety zones. Any planning application shall be accompanied by a noise assessment report produced by a specialist in noise assessment which shall specify all proposed noise mitigation measures together with a declaration of acceptance to the applicant with regard to the result of noise assessment report.

Further policy suggestions are recommended as follows

- Retain TRAN POL 1 for new CDP
- Retain TRAN POL 2 for new CDP
- Public Safety Zones to be included in CDP outer zone goes to Pace, Belgree, Calliagwee, and Mayne etc.
- Retain TRANS POL 3 & 4 for new CDP
- Show noise zones on zoning maps
- Include obstacle limitation zones on maps
- Retain TRAN POL 5 for new CDP

Enterprise 2025 sets out the national policy perspective for the period 2015-2025 it is entrepreneurs and enterprise that create jobs and drive sustainable growth

The role of Dublin airport should be recognised in the economic development of Meath, a further policy recommendation is made regarding this as follows:

'Dublin Airport's economic contribution to Meath is acknowledged as positively supporting employment, tourism, connectivity, and access, inward investment both domestic and foreign) and quality of life. Meath County Council is committed to continuing support of Dublin Airport as a gateway to Meath and as a strategic regional asset.'

While the development of sustainable energy is welcomed it is important for the Local Authority to prevent glint and glare from solar panels which interferes with aviation, in addition it is suggested that the Local Authority consider the following policy recommendation with regard to photovoltaic development, quarry application and tree planting:

- Planning applications for development proposals in respect of Solar Panel Photovoltaic arrays in the vicinity of Dublin Airport should be accompanied by a full Glint and Glare Study to rule out undue ocular impact with potential to impact aviation safety.
- Development which may attract birds located within 13km of Dublin airport should be referred to DAA.
- Planning applications for development proposals for major tree planting schemes, mineral extraction or quarrying, landfill, nature reserves or bird sanctuary and all applications connected with aviation use coming within 13km of the airport will be referred to the DAA and IAA as appropriate for further assessment and comment

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

Dublin Airport is the primary gateway into Ireland for business, tourism and recreational purposes. It is one of the most significant economic influences in Region. The role of Dublin Airport in the economic growth of County Meath is acknowledged and is strongly referenced within both the current County Development Plan and the Economic and Development Strategy for County Meath 2014-2022. The Draft Plan will examine and expand on current policies in this regard highlighting the important role the Airport has played in the development of the County.

It is acknowledged that the current and future operational, safety, technical and developmental requirements of Dublin Airport must be safeguarded and this will be taken into account during the preparation of the Draft Plan.

Policies to strictly control inappropriate development and require noise insulation where appropriate within the outer noise zone will be applied. Provision for residential development and other noise sensitive uses within the inner noise zone shall be subject to appropriate controls as will solar farm development.

Development which would be likely to have the potential to attract birds will be referred to the DAA for comment.

Overall the Draft Plan will seek to support and facilitate the development and expansion of Dublin Airport and provide policies to safeguard this important piece of strategic infrastructure into the future.

P1-105 Drogheda Port Company

The submission outlines the importance of the port in relation to the economic growth of the region and the importance of protecting the facility and promoting the long term development and growth of the Port to ensure a viable operational port into the future. It is stated that 50 % of the workforce for the port resides in County Meath. The long term vision of the port is to be outlined in a future Masterplan document which will seek to develop the port as Ireland's largest regional port

The port currently has 200 jobs and supports approximately 1000 jobs, it can be a key driver in attracting FDI and high value manufacturing industry, diversifying the employment base for the region. Drogheda port also has an important role as a regional freight distribution hub and has provided a competitive alternative to Dublin port for this use.

It is the largest and most commercially focused of the 5 regional ports of significance. The port makes a considerable economic contribution to its hinterland and immediate area especially through the handling of dry bulk and break bulk freight which includes the valuable agri-food sector which is a major local and regional employer. The growth of the port is thus intrinsically linked to the growth of the surrounding area.

As a maritime county it is vital that MCC actively support the ongoing operations of the port to expand on these for the betterment of job creation, tourism and the environment. The timely delivery of the network of distributor roads could be beneficial to opening up new development land options for the port. This includes the delivery of M1 Mill Road Connector.

Tourism

The Boyne is an underutilised regional asset, Drogheda port are involved in a number of tourist events in the area and consider there is a role for them in the development of a more robust beach and dune protection programme in conjunction with MCC.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

Drogheda Port is acknowledged as a important driver of economic growth in the region. The importance of protecting the facility and promoting the long term development and growth of the Port is recognised by the Council. The Council will seek to support the development of the port by facilitating the development and maintenance of the surrounding road network in County Meath. The Council is supportive of the development of the M1 Mill Road connector, the provision of which is identified and supported within the current Meath County Development Plan, the Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan 2011-2017 and the 'Planning Strategy for the Greater Drogheda

Area 2007'. The Draft Plan will reinforce this support and seek to facilitate the delivery of this important infrastructure.

The support of Drogheda Port in the protection of the sand dunes in this area is noted. The tourism potential of the Meath coastal belt will be examined as part of the review process.

P1-137 Louth County Council

With the re-ordering of the regional structures, Louth, and consequently Drogheda, will in its entirety be placed in the Eastern and Midland Region. This will be clarified in the preparation of the National Planning Framework and Regional Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region. A co-operative and mutual approach by Meath County Council and Louth County Council to the sustainable development of Drogheda is considered ever more important.

The Planning Strategy for the Greater Drogheda Area 2007 was commissioned to establish a cohesive and interlinked strategy for the Greater Drogheda Area up to 2024. Central to the strategy was a balanced approach to development both north and south of the River Boyne. The submission identifies the need for a collaborative approach between Louth County Council and Meath County Council in relation to this Strategy.

The Development Plan should identify the need for a joint approach between Meath County Council and Louth County Council to support the development of the M1 Dublin-Belfast economic corridor.

The submission identified capacity issues in the road network at the Bullring and the junction of the Rathmullen Road and R132. Consideration should be give to the Drogheda Town Transportation Study (2006) and in particular the need for a link between the Bryanstown Cross Route (M1/R132), to Mill Road including bridge crossing.

The submission advocates a collaborative approach to addressing retail needs in Drogheda.

The submission acknowledges the successful joint implementation and marketing of tourism plans by both Local Authorities to date. The submission references the value in extending walkways and cycleways along the eastern coastline to Drogheda and Balbriggan and the Boyne Greenway.

The Strategic aim and objectives for Drogheda are set out including the town becoming a self sustaining development centre with a high quality living environment, sustainable economic development and the enhanced town centre.

In conjunction with Irish Water co-operation between Meath County Council and Louth County Council in relation to the provision of water and waste water services should continue in order to facilitate sustainable growth in the future.

The submission acknowledges the meeting request by Meath County Council regarding the preparation of the Development Plan. This meeting will be facilitated at a suitable date.

Chief Executives opinion on issues raised:

Meath County Council welcomes the inclusion of County Louth in the new regional structures and look forward to a co-ordinated and co-operative approach between the two Local Authorities in the future development of both counties.

The Report of the Drogheda Boundary Review Committee, February 2017 recommended that no change is made to the existing boundary arrangements. The Report recommended that Meath County Council and Louth County Council collaborate to produce:-

- A unified vision for Drogheda
- A Joint Local Area Plan for the Greater Drogheda Area
- A Joint retail strategy for Drogheda

The preparation of the Joint Local Area Plan and Retail Strategy will ensure that a co-ordinated approach is taken between both Local Authorities in the future growth and development of Drogheda.

The Draft Plan will include policies and objectives that will support the preparation of a Joint Local Area Plan and Retail Strategy for Drogheda.

The Draft Plan will support and encourage co-operation between both Local Authorities in the continued development of the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor, the provision of water services, and the protection and promotion of the Boyne Valley etc.

P1-009 Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation

The development of the 8 Regional Action Plans for Jobs in 2015 were a first step by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (DJEI) with stakeholders to put in place plans with targets for each of the NUTS III regions and taking into account different industry structures/profiles stages of development and location specific strengths and weaknesses. Meath's new County Development Plan can also take into account these different spatial characteristics while complementing the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHG) Action Plan for Rural Development: Realising our Rural Potential. The DJEI takes a strong regional approach and commends Meath County Council for the action in this area. It looks forward to the preparation of a robust, evidence based County Development Plan as economic development strongly features among the six strategic pillars of Meath County Councils Corporate Plan. County-level resilience will contribute to Ireland's overall ability to meet emerging challenges such as BREXIT and climate change and our ability to take opportunities to increase employment, innovation, productivity and prosperity across the country.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The promotion of economic development in Meath is a corporate goal of Meath County Council. The key challenge for Meath is to create more jobs within the County so that more people who live in Meath can work in Meath, and that the County is seen not only as a place to visit and live in, but also to invest and work in.

The Draft Plan will explore further means of putting Meath at the forefront of best practice for economic development. It will also seek to improve the County and region from a social and community perspective as well as economically. In doing so, the Council will proactively engage with and build relationships with businesses as well as the wide range of other stakeholders who have a role in economic development.

The Council considers the M1 Dublin to Belfast Corridor to be an important economic asset to the region. It is therefore important that economic strategies in corresponding council areas recognise the role of the corridor and the business bases located within this corridor. Meath County Council will seek to work in conjunction with adjoining Local Authorities in the achievement of sustainable growth in this area to meet the challenge of BREXIT and sustain economic gains achieved since the preparation of the County's Economic Development Strategy in 2014.

Meath County Council also considers the N2 corridor as a vital economic artery which is essential to facilitate strategic traffic movement and to maintain and improve accessibility to employment areas.

The NTA Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 includes an objective to provide enhancements of the N2/M2 national route to provide for *inter alia* additional capacity on the non-motorway sections of this route.

The Strategy specifically refers to the development of the Slane By Pass as a priority project for this area in order to improve both safety in the village and journey times along the route. It is considered prudent that a comprehensive strategy for improvements to the N2 route is developed in order to fully deliver upon the economic potential of the region.

P1-097 Northern & Western Regional Assembly

The Assembly considers that the plan may benefit from further consideration of the emerging issues within the National Planning Framework's Issues and Choices Paper 2017. It may also benefit from incorporating a regional element to an overall tourism strategy, particularly with regard to Ireland's Ancient East. There may be an opportunity to collaborate with other Local Authorities in the North East and Border area to expand the overall tourism product in the region. Due to Meath's strategic location it could serve as a gateway to the wider eastern and border region, including Louth, Monaghan & Cavan. The Assembly would request Meath to consider how best this can be put into policy and into effect.

The Assembly considers that when identifying greenway's Meath should consider the wider regional context of Ireland's Ancient East.

The DJEI Innovation's Action Plan for jobs sets out a strong emphasis on economic growth in the agri-food area which is traditionally strong in Counties Monaghan and Cavan and as such there may be an opportunity for collaboration in policy and practice.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Council recognises the important role that new and diverse tourist attractions can play in enhancing Meath's tourism sector and the role tourism has in the creation of revenue for the County. The Council is cognisant that the National Planning Framework 'Ireland 2040 Issues and Choices' document also recognises the economic value of tourism and the importance of a collaborative approach by Local Authorities both north and south of the border.

It is therefore the intention of the Council to explore appropriate strategic policies and objectives for the Draft Plan in order to both consolidate and further enhance the County's tourism product. Meath County Council has a strong track record of working in collaboration with neighbouring Local Authorities and will seek to reinforce Ireland's Ancient East as a tourist destination. It is also the intention of Meath County Council to explore opportunities to retain both domestic and overseas visitors in the region through the provision of a wide variety of tourism, recreation and leisure facilities.

Meath County Council will seek to expand the network of greenways, walkways and blueways which have been permitted / delivered within the County to date and will encourage and support the development of these facilities at appropriate locations throughout the County within the Draft Plan. Meath County Council will also seek to collaborate with adjoining Local Authorities in the development of larger cross border schemes of this nature.

P1-124 Fáilte Ireland

Fáilte Ireland have referenced a number of issues within their submission, they refer to the importance of identifying the importance of the tourism sector and the contribution it makes to economic development. It is stated that in 2015, 134,000 overseas

visitors spent €44 million in the County. In the same year there were 208,000 domestic visitors who spent €23.6 million. In light of this it is important to promote tourism in the County. Meath needs to define what the tourism experience is in the County, it needs to capitalise on the location close to Dublin and the Airport and also on Ireland Ancient East branding. Given the impact that tourism can have on economic development, Fáilte Ireland suggest that tourism should be a standalone chapter within the County Development Plan. It is further suggested that Local Authority supply maps of the county's tourism locations, transport routes, scenic routes, facilities etc within the plan.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The important role that new and diverse tourist attractions can play in enhancing Meath's tourism product and the role they have in the creation of revenue for the County is acknowledged. Appropriate strategic policies and objectives will be set out in the Draft Plan to consolidate the County's tourism sector and reinforce Ireland's Ancient East as a tourist destination. It is also the intention of the Council to explore opportunities to retain both domestic and overseas visitors in the region for stays of longer duration through the provision of a wide variety of tourism, recreation and leisure facilities.

The Council intends to continue to highlight the proximity of the County to the Airport in terms of attracting both tourism and business and will support the expansion of the facility into the future.

The provision of maps of the county's tourism locations, transport routes, scenic routes, facilities etc within the plan will be explored within the context of the Draft Plan, as appropriate.

P1-255 HSE

Within the HSE submission, reference was made to a number of different issues, given the extensive number of these points it was considered more appropriate to bullet point the issues as follows:

- Facilitate the production of food
- Promote community involvement and develop the voluntary sector
- Provide suitable premise for communities to meet
- Increase active school flag programme
- All developments for nursing homes and residential care homes should include gardens for recreational activities
- Have policies to promote areas for recreational activity in all developments
- Promote cycle and walking routes
- Location of parks in towns to promote recreational activity
- Develop framework for work place health and well being including physical activity
- Support walking groups, provide better signage and lighting to facilitate this
- Implement tobacco free playgrounds
- Facilitate community gardens
- Provide alcohol free spaces for youths
- Support the design of age friendly spaces
- Design age friendly urban environments
- Provide local biodiversity plans
- Consolidate development
- Restrict out of town development
- Developments to have travel plans and e-working facilities
- School travel plans
- Develop safe walking and cycling routes to schools
- Promote provision of cycle parking and shower facilities in workplaces

- Make state owned lands available for walking etc
- Promote car clubs
- Reduce HGV's in towns
- Improve junctions for cyclists
- Support the provision of signed cycle routes
- Ensure all surfaces are maintained for cyclist
- Support the retrofitting of roads with cycle lanes
- Promote energy efficient design
- Promote energy management programme for public buildings
- Promote 'Better Energy Communities Scheme'
- Develop waste prevention measures
- Community waste prevention demonstration programmes to be provided
- Re-use policy in public buildings
- Provide water usage audits of public buildings
- Ensure protection of ground water
- Support radon measurement in county and remediation works
- Consider noise in the context of new development
- Support policies to reduce air pollution

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Council notes all of the aforementioned issues submitted and given the wide subject range, it is considered that many of the points raised which are addressed hereunder are also relevant to other submissions. It is acknowledged that an integrated approach needs to be taken to land use and transportation in the Draft Plan in order to promote compact mixed use settlements and to reduce the need to travel.

The need to facilitate and support cycling and walking in order to increase modal share is recognised and it is intended to build upon the significant number of sustainable transport projects which have been delivered over the life of the current plan. Existing principles and policies will be reviewed during the preparation of the Draft Plan, and should continue to support and promote walking and cycling and require good connectivity between key settlements and destinations and at the local level within the County.

It is intended that the Draft Plan will support the development of sustainable communities into the future which will provide for all modes of transport in a safe and user friendly form. The support of more compact communities will assist in the achievement of a healthier population, reductions in pollution and promotion of recreation into the future.

P1-135 Department of Education & Skills

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) submitted that the demographics for Meath are reviewed on an ongoing basis and therefore requirements for educational facilities are constantly evolving. In light of this reservations for school sites should be made where possible. Multi-campus facilities on large sites where schools can be developed and expanded over time should be promoted where appropriate. In order to facilitate the appropriate development of school sites with higher buildings it is recommended that a buffer zone is put in place providing adequate separation distances between residential development and schools. School sites should also be located adjacent to green areas where they can access these areas for recreational purposes. With regard to particular projects currently under construction or due for construction details can be seen on the

capital investment programme for 2016-2021. In Navan there is a need for a 16 classroom primary school and a new site to accommodate St Ultans special school which would require 8 acres of land.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

Meath County Council acknowledges the strong link between a well-educated workforce and economic prosperity and support continued educational investment in the County. While the delivery of such services maybe outside the remit of the Development Plan process, it is nonetheless important that the County Development Plan provides an appropriate policy context to facilitate their provision. Population projections will be progressed using the most up to date data available from the CSO and the Council will continue to liaise closely with the Department of Education and Skills with regard to the requirements for educational facilities in relation to population growth projections.

The Draft Plan will support and facilitate the reservation of lands for both individual school sites and multi – unit campus facilities as appropriate. The Council is currently working with the Department to identify sites to accommodate the 16 classroom school and St Ultan’s School in Navan.

In response to the Departments submission the Draft Plan will also explore the provision of buffer zones around school sites and will seek to locate such sites adjacent to open space areas as appropriate.

P1- 088 Coillte

The submission is seeking that the Draft Plan acknowledge the tourism and amenity potential of Coillte Forested lands at Halfcarton, Oldcastle. The submission suggests the wording for an objective as follows:, ‘Meath County Council consider/permit forestry/amenity tourism type development that is sustainable and sympathetic to the general retention of tree cover in the area of Halfcarton.’

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Council are supportive of the use of Coillte lands for appropriate recreational use and the Draft Plan will seek to support development at Halfcarton for such uses.

P1-206 Kildare County Council

This is an opportunity for a co-ordinated approach to the development of Kildare and Meath in areas such as Maynooth, Kilcock and Dunboyne. In particular the submission refers to the potential for synergies in these areas with particular reference to a co-ordinated approach by both Authorities to the delivery of key infrastructure for these areas.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

Meath County Council recognises the importance of collaboration with adjoining Local Authorities in the achievement of cohesive development and efficient delivery of services. Meath County Council has built a strong working relationship with Kildare County Council. The Authorities have successfully collaborated on a number of projects in the past. It is the intention of Meath County Council to maintain this important relationship into the future for the betterment of both Counties.

P1- 11 Environmental Protection Agency

The review of the Meath County Development Plan should consider the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidance document which sets out the key environmental parameters they wish to have considered in the preparation of the draft Plan. They state that they will provide specific comments on both the draft scoping SEA document and Draft Plan upon receipt of same. The EPA

advise that notice should be provided to the statutory environmental authorities when a draft scoping SEA document is available.

The EPA have highlighted the seven key actions for Ireland set out within their latest environment report *"Ireland's Environment 2016"* and include inter alia Environment, Health and wellbeing, climate change, sustainable economic activities amongst others. They are seeking that these parameters be considered in the preparation of the Draft Plan. They state that the implementation of these actions *"will be important to deliver environmental protection and sustainable development"*.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

Environmental assessment is an iterative process as preparation of the Draft Plan progresses and the SEA process will significantly influence the development strategy, policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.

The seven keys actions identified in *"Ireland's Environment 2016"* are key parameters which will be considered and integrated throughout the Draft Plan and specifically within the climate change, environment and waste sections of the Draft Plan.

P 1- 34 Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHG)

The Department had no specific comments on the Strategic Issues Paper with regards to natural heritage, a number of scoping comments for the Plan, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening/Natura Impact Assessment were set out as follows:

- Key legislative provisions pertaining to biodiversity;
- How designated sites should be dealt with in the Plan;
- Protected species occurring outside designated sites;
- Article 10 of Habitats Directive;
- Hedgerows, bats and other protected species;
- River and wetlands;
- Impacts of water and water abstractions on Natura 2000 sites;
- Including policy to protect against introduction and/or spread of alien invasive species;
- Amenity developments – in particular a 10m riparian buffer is considered on both banks of river to protect otter habitat;
- The importance of green infrastructure;
- The implementation of All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020;
- The requirements pertaining to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment are set out.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Draft Plan will set out a number of policies and objectives to protect and conserve the county's biodiversity and natural heritage. In drafting the plan the Council will be guided closely by nature conservation scoping comments from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Rural, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) and will address issues raised in the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

P1- 250 Irish Peatland Conservation Council

The Draft County Development Plan should comply with requirements of the *National Peatland Strategy*. Meath County Council should explore the potential of peatland tourism. Intact peatlands have excellent water storage and filtration capacity and this should be explored as part of the Council's Surface Water and Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS). Increasing the number of protected peatlands in the county for carbon stores should be part of MCC's Climate Change Strategy. Meath County Council should map the designated peatlands in the county and assess ecological fragmentation. Where it occurs Council should seek to identify surrounding peatland sites to act as wildlife corridors.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Draft Plan will contain policies to conserve and protect peatlands within the county and promote their amenity, ecological and tourism value. In addition the role that peatlands play in climate change mitigation will be reflected in the Council's Climate Change Strategy. All designated peatlands within the county have been mapped e.g. Jamestown Bog National Heritage Area, etc.

P1- 89 Bat Conservation Ireland

Meath County Council should address the issue of light pollution, light spillage onto rivers should be stopped and a dark sky policy should be designated and implemented in certain areas. Old buildings should not be lit until a bat survey confirms no usage by bats. Corridors of hedgerows should be mapped and managed for wildlife connectivity. NHA and SAC designation should be prioritised.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Draft Plan will contain policies in respect of protected species (including bats). The designation of SACs and NHAs is a matter for Department of Arts, Heritage, Rural, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs and therefore outside the remit of Local Authorities and the Development Plan process. The Plan will contain policies and objectives to protect and conserve the conservation value of sites designated for nature conservation and encourage the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura2000 network.

While not directly related to the Development Plan review process, Meath County Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and green house emissions of which public lighting is a key contributor. The Council has a programme of on-going replacement of streetlights with energy efficient lights (LED's) and are using upgraded technologies for new installations.

P1- 256 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

The Draft Plan should be a framework to encourage the farming sector to embrace on-farm energy efficiency when planning applications for farm improvements are received and which would assist in realising national renewable energy targets and reduce carbon emissions generated.

The Draft Plan should encourage the development of more sustainable heating sources, for example the harnessing of solar power should be encouraged for example on the roofs of agricultural structures.

Resilience to climate change needs to be considered in strategic and spatial planning, however emphasis must also be placed on mitigation of climate change and adaptation measures should not negatively impact upon efforts to mitigate the effect of climate change. Approaches to adaptation should take into account climate change in the long term and include risk factors such as flooding, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscapes.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

A planned and sustainable approach to development will be proposed in the Draft Plan to achieve an appropriate balance between agricultural development, employment creation with the protection of the environment. The Draft Plan will respond to future challenges of climate change through encouraging development which reduces the need for unsustainable energy use.

Environmental legislation requires that the assessment of environmental issues is an iterative process which continues throughout all stages of the review process.

P1- 252 The Heritage Council

The Heritage Council's submission refers to a number of different issues, given the extensive number of these points it was considered more appropriate to bullet point the issues as follows:

- The value of robust public policy on county-wide, land-use planning and management of scarce/finite environmental resources should be communicated to the general public through a local public-education programme.
- Links with neighbouring counties along the Dublin-Belfast Corridor and M1 (EU Trade Route) should be reflected in the new plan, in light of BREXIT.
- The concept of cultural growth and development as fourth pillar of sustainable development should be promoted.
- The economic value of heritage should be recognised as a key driver of the tourism industry.
- The draft County Development Plan should map ecosystem services, built, cultural and natural heritage assets and underline the important of planning to enhance biodiversity and make specific commitment to managing NATURA 2000 sites.
- The plan should contain a strong policy statement to support the *National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025* and emerging National Landscape Character Assessment.
- The Plan should refer to Heritage Council initiatives that support historic towns e.g. Town Centre Health Check (TCHC) Training Programme, Irish Walled Town Network, and planned Historic Towns Network.
- Integrated coastal management, improved seascape assessment and the potential of climate change to form part of the draft CDP.
- The draft CDP process should include a participatory Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the PPN should be involved in any monitoring proposals.
- Climate change and renewable energies are referenced.
- The submission states that the scale of development in rural areas is not a sustainable pattern and has implications for public services and the parallel decline of many rural towns and villages.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Council intends to continue to collaborate with adjoining Local Authorities and in particular with our partner counties in the Eastern and Midlands Assembly to address matters of mutual interest including BREXIT.

The Council has recently established its Culture Team as part of *Creative Ireland* Initiative and will be working closely with this national initiative. The Draft Plan will reflect the economic and social value of our natural and cultural heritage and the contribution it makes to character of our landscape, our sense of place and quality of life and wellbeing.

Our key built, cultural and natural assets have been mapped in the county and the Council has recently expressed interest in engaging with the NPWS and all Local Authorities in Greater Dublin Area in relation to an EU Project called *EnRoute – Enhancing Resilience of Urban Ecosystems through Green Infrastructure*.

The Draft Plan will support the *National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025* and actions arising.

The Draft Plan will seek to ensure that towns and villages grow at a sustainable scale, appropriate to their position in the settlement hierarchy and as set out in the core strategy.

Trim and Kells are members of the Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN), the Council will continue to work with the IWTN for the betterment of these towns. The Draft Plan will outline policies and objectives, as appropriate, to sensitively manage change in our historic towns and villages and to further improve public realm.

The Draft Plan will support the development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

A Climate Action Team has been established within Meath County Council. A Climate Action Strategy will be prepared and the Draft Plan will contain detailed policies and objectives to mitigate against and adapt to climate change.

The Draft Plan will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

P1- 253 An Taisce

The submission prepared by An Taisce refers to a number of different issues, given the extensive number of these points it was considered more appropriate to bullet point the issues as follows:

- The Plan should be written in clear language and informed by a participatory process. Full SEA and AA should be undertaken.
- The importance of maintaining biodiversity is set out in the submission.
- In terms of architectural heritage, more Architectural Conservation Areas are required. Development levies for protected structures should be waived to encourage re-use and adaption. Important views and prospects must be protected. Any proposals to delist a protected structure must allow the public and prescribed bodies an opportunity to comment.
- The Plan must be compliance with all National Legislation and Guidelines.

- The submission refers to the need to encourage the use of renewable energy resources, sustainable transport, promotion of Smarter Travel policies etc.
- The submission advocates the encouragement of sustainable settlement patterns, promotion of development in town centres and support for local enterprise, farmers markets etc.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Draft Plan will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with article 6 of the Habitats Directive. All legislative requirements will be met. The mandatory objectives for Development Plans as set out in the Planning and Development Acts include the promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas.

The Draft Plan will have an objective to implement applicable objectives of the *National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016*. There is a County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 which is supported by the current Development Plan. The Draft Plan will continue to provide support for this plan and future plans.

There are 23 ACAs in the County which principally cover historic town cores and demesnes. The current Development Contribution Scheme for County Meath, 2016-2021 exempts change of use applications for protected structures from development levies and provides for a 25% reduction in levies for development works within an ACA. The current Development Plan identifies a significant number of protected views in the county.

The Draft Plan will seek to ensure towns and villages grow at a sustainable scale, appropriate to their position in the settlement hierarchy and core strategy.

A Climate Action Team has been established within Meath County Council. A Climate Action Strategy will be prepared. The Draft Plan will contain detailed policies and objectives to mitigate against and adapt to climate change.

Encouraging greater usage of sustainable transport is one of the emerging key themes of the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan will therefore address the integration of land use and transportation and will promote and support greater use of sustainable modes of transport in the County.

The Economic Development Strategy for County Meath 2014-2022 provides the framework within which further employment and enterprise develops in the County. The Strategy acknowledges the key role that the local enterprise sector plays in job creation in the County. The Draft Plan will support the current Economic Development Strategy and will contain measures to encourage job creation beyond the 2022 life of the current strategy.

P 1- 240 Inland Fisheries Ireland

- The plan should include policies to protect the water quality and fisheries habitat around the county's water resources;
- The Plan must recognise that protection of the aquatic environment/habitat not only requires the protection of water quality but also necessitates the protection and maintenance of physical habitat and hydrological processes regimes;
- The Plan must be consistent with the provisions of the Water Services programme of Irish Water;

- The Plan should ensure that the aquatic environment in riparian areas adjacent to watercourses are not interfered with in a manner that would lessen impacts to the habitats;
- The Plan should include a policy on the use of clear span structures on fisheries waters and that IFI be consulted on any such proposed developments;
- Parking areas should be provided for anglers in future road schemes where the opportunity arises near key angling locations;
- New forestry developments, except for broadleaf should be discouraged adjacent/within Natura 2000 sites/NHA's, in water quality and fisheries sensitive areas;
- An invasive species policy should be developed to prohibit their spread.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised

The need to maintain water quality and to manage surface water run-off into rivers and streams is acknowledged. The Council will work with all relevant stakeholders to protect water quality and the Draft Plan policies and objectives will address this matter.

There are policies/objectives in the existing County Development Plan which support and encourage sustainable forestry development, in particular that forestry should be planted and managed in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines. These policies will be continued in the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan will also include provisions which encourage the planting of broadleaf indigenous species in environmentally sensitive locations.

In terms of invasive species the Draft Plan will include policies and objectives regarding the management of these species which constitute a significant threat throughout the County.

2.2. Submissions by Topic

2.2.1. Vision and Core Strategy

The following submissions make reference to vision and Core Strategy for the County:

101, 115, 148, 169, 170, 183, 190, 196, 197, 193, 194, 209, 219, 229, 232, 248, 249, 268, 270, 271, 274, 281

The general theme of these submissions refers to the creation of sustainable communities and the consolidation of development and population growth in the major urban centres, the Metropolitan Area and along transport corridors. Investment in town centres and the redevelopment of brownfield sites was also regarded as being important in consolidating development in the urban footprint.

In terms of the future Vision for the County the key issues include an improvement in the quality of life for residents and the creation of an inclusive society. A reduction in the volume of commuting and the promotion and identification of more sustainable transport patterns were also considered important issues.

A number of the submissions related to specific settlements whereby the future growth requirements for the settlements were outlined. There were requests for the allocation of additional residential units in the Core Strategy in order to address the demand for housing in South Drogheda Environs, Dunboyne, East Meath settlements in particular Donacarney/Mornington, Julianstown, Ratoath, Clonee, Kilcock, Enfield, and Dunshaughlin.

Reference was made in a number of submissions to the pent-up demand for housing in the Greater Dublin Area and the consequent creation of rent pressure zones as an intervention response by the Government. The fact that said zones are located in Mid East Counties implies the housing market operates independent of county boundaries.

Reference was also made to the importance of the proximity of residential lands to employment centres when identifying future lands for residential development within settlements in order to reduce the need to travel.

The point was also raised that when identifying lands for residential development consideration should be given to the likelihood of such lands being developed within the lifetime of the Plan.

There were also requests to review the settlement hierarchy and elevate the position of Ashbourne, Enfield, Dunshaughlin, and Kilbride in the settlement hierarchy.

Concerns were also raised regarding an imbalance in the allocation of residential units between Navan and Drogheda Environs in the current County Development Plan whereby the allocation for Navan is much higher even though both settlements are identified as Large Growth Towns in the County Development Plan.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Draft Plan will include a Vision Statement. This Vision will be based around the themes of developing sustainable communities and promoting economic development, in the context of best environmental practice.

As part of the preparation of the Draft Plan a Core Strategy will be prepared. This will be based on the framework of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-22 (RPGs), pending the delivery of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). The RPGs outline the strategic vision and identify the main areas for growth and investment in the region.

The Core Strategy will be evidence based and will set out the strategic planning principles underpinning spatial development of the County in the medium term. It will outline the quantum, location, and phasing of development within the County and will form the basis for relevant policies and objectives in the Draft Plan.

In this regard the population and housing targets for Meath during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond will be identified in the Core Strategy. These will be informed by the population and housing targets allocated to Meath in Tables 5 and 6 of the Regional Planning Guidelines and will be influenced by preliminary census data for 2016, census data for 2011, and the CSO Regional Population Projections up to 2031 published in 2013.

A review of the household allocation for all settlements and the rural area will be carried out as part of the review process. There will be an emphasis on the consolidation of development in the higher order settlements and the Metropolitan area and the alignment of infrastructure investment with settlement growth in order to support the creation of sustainable, 'live-work' communities in the County.

The Chief Executive is aware of the current pressures in the housing market and of the critical need for the rapid delivery of housing units in the short term from a National perspective. In context of County Meath and having regard to the need to accelerate the delivery of housing specifically in the County's higher tier centres (in accordance with Department and EMRA guidance,) a particular need arises in the following centres: Navan, the Southern Environs of Drogheda and Dunboyne regarding the delivery of key strategic roads. Such strategic roads can only be delivered by the retention of lands designated for Phase 2 release and relate exclusively to the higher tier centres. The matter will be raised with the Department and EMRA in the context of the preparation of the Draft Plan Core Strategy.

Regarding requests to amend the settlement hierarchy, Table 8 in the Regional Planning Guidelines outlines the settlement hierarchy for the higher order settlements in the region i.e. Large Growth Towns I and II and Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns. The Draft Plan is required to be consistent with this settlement hierarchy. Any alterations to the position of settlements in the hierarchy will only arise in conjunction with the preparation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. It is understood that this process is due to commence in 2017.

The Draft Plan will include a review of the lower order settlements in Meath i.e. Small Towns and Villages. This review will also investigate the requirement for a additional settlement typology i.e. rural village. This review will have regard to the population of the settlements and level of services and infrastructure available to such settlements.

In relation to the identification of lands for development within the settlements a sequential and evidence based approach will be taken, with an emphasis on building outwards from the centre of settlements. Regard will be had to a targeted approach to housing delivery in conjunction with strategic infrastructure in accordance with relevant guidelines.

2.2.2. Economic Development and Tourism

The following submission made reference to the economic development and tourism of the county: 21, 23, 151, 169, 190, 196, 249, 30, 107, 197, 226, 232, 250, 009, 097, 105, 088, 008, 015, 106, 119, 195, 206, 175, 149, 204, 205, 201, 237, 234, 223, 220, 211, 259, 218, 243, 124, 255, 233, 235, 134, 241, 094

Industry and Enterprise

It is apparent from submissions received that there is a significant desire for people to live close to their place of employment, it is stated in a number of submissions that Meath County Council should promote the sustainable location of industry and enterprise within the County and make improvements in terms of infrastructure such as better broadband, roads improvements and town aesthetics in order to attract employers to the County and provide for more sustainable communities.

A number of submissions make reference to the provision of land for units to accommodate start up businesses and incubation units. Centres such as Ashbourne, Enfield, Navan, Dunshaughlin, Stamullen, Maynooth, Laytown, Bettystown and Mornington have been cited as suitable locations for such development. It has been stated that minimal rents for a certain period would assist in the creation of new businesses in the County, as would incentivised rate paying systems such as reduced fees for paying by direct debit.

The Plan should seek to support build of existing employment lands in areas such as Scurroughstown and Oakstown in Trim and should seek to capitalise on the fallout from BREXIT. Meath is strategically positioned adjacent to Dublin with good road networks and access to the airport. The County Development Plan must seek to optimise the full potential of the County. However concerns were raised over the compatibility of development with the policy of the Regional Planning Guidelines.

One particular submission refers to the location of service stations at junctions along the M3 with particular reference to lands at Dunshaughlin. It is submitted that there is a need for an interchange facility at this location.

Submissions were also received from extractive industry operators, these submissions made reference to the importance of this industry and its role in the economic development of the County. It is stated that the County Development Plan should encourage and support this industry and the development of associated products such as asphalt and concrete. It is stated that these quarry sites and pits can also provide an environmental benefit in the longer term providing new habitats to support biodiversity or their utilisation for recreational purposes. It is suggested that policy ED POL 8 is removed from the County Development Plan as it is considered too restrictive.

Retail

It is noted that a number of submissions place an emphasis on revitalising the retail functions of towns and outline the requirement of a robust retail strategy for the County. Complimentary uses should be located beside each other such as retail and leisure uses in order to increase footfall for retail units. Improvements to public realm in towns with the provision of high quality town squares have been suggested in order to attract shoppers to a number of our existing towns. The provision

of free parking in towns was also submitted as a solution to attract shoppers to town centres as well as the reduction in rates in order to attract retail businesses to set up in unused units.

A further number of submissions outline the need for an additional convenience retail outlet in Enfield which would provide local jobs in this town. Concern was raised over the development of Enfield as a dormitory town, it is stated that there is a need for jobs in Enfield and given the good transport links, proximity to the airport and the infrastructure present, Enfield would be a good location for a digital hub.

Tourism

A large portion of submissions make reference to the County as a tourist destination and the need to protect the rich heritage and tourism assets that exist. A number of suggestions were made in order to improve areas for tourists such as improvements to signage, support of cultural, sporting, and entertainment events, provision of safe cycle routes to and from historical sites and an increase in the provision of high quality hotels in the County in Navan or Ashbourne.

Development of greenways, blueways and walkways, in the County is encouraged as is the development of outdoor activity centres and access to existing demesnes for leisure purposes. Boyne Navigation have outlined that they have completed the restoration of a section of the canal system by repairing Oldbridge lock and dredging the canal in the area. They are now progressing onto Staleen lower lock. The benefits from restoring the canal include navigation connectivity between Navan and Drogheda and the provision of a linear walk along this route. It is considered that this facility would be area significant tourist attraction.

While a number of submissions reference that Tayto Park has been a positive addition to the County, an individual submission was received by the operators which requests that a specific policy is included in the County Development Plan which supports the growth and expansion of the park along with the provision of a hotel at the site.

The development of Laytown as a seaside town was also mentioned in submissions and the need for public realm improvements and appropriate development in order to achieve this is seen as essential. Policies which support the promotion and encouragement of beach sports and events should also be included in the Draft Plan

In a submission made by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council the development of peatlands as natural heritage visitor attractions has been outlined as was the implementation of policies encouraging the restoration of undesignated peatlands within the County. The Draft Plan will seek to protect and conserve peatlands in the interest of protecting bio-diversity.

It is suggested that policies are included in the Draft Plan that encourage and promote agri-tourism in the County. The Draft Plan should also seek to support the development of museums within the county in towns and villages such as Navan, Ashbourne, Kells and Slane.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

Industry and Enterprise

The promotion of economic development in Meath is a key corporate goal of Meath County Council. The key challenge for Meath is to create more jobs within the County so that more people who live in Meath can work in Meath, and that the County is seen not only as a place to visit and live in, but also to invest and work in.

This is critical to improve the lives of people living in Meath and to strengthen the social cohesion of communities in the County. The Draft Plan will support the policies of the Economic and

Development Strategy for County Meath 2014-2022, in seeking to attract 7500 jobs to the County over the life of the Strategy and will also seek to facilitate job creation beyond 2022 for the lifetime of the New County Plan to 2025.

The Draft Plan will continue to explore options for placing Meath at the forefront of best practice for economic development. It will also seek to improve the County and region from a social and community perspective as well as economically. In doing so, the Council will proactively engage with and build relationships with businesses as well as the wider range of other stakeholders who have a role in the promotion of economic development.

Appropriate locations for establishing start up / incubation units will be explored particularly locations served by public transport. The Local Authority will seek advice from the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and other stakeholders in this regard. The Council will also seek to encourage the 'build out' of existing industrial and commercial parks during the period of the plan.

The setting of business rates and rents is outside the scope of the Development Plan process and will therefore not be addressed as part of the Plan review.

The Council will seek to support development which addresses the needs of motorway users in conjunction with TII and the 'NRA Service Area Policy 2014' guidelines.

The importance of the extractive industry and its role in the economic growth of the County is noted. The Draft Plan will seek to support such development in appropriate locations subject to environmental and other relevant factors.

Retail

The retail sector performs an important social and economic function within the County. The current retail strategy encourages an enhancement of the retail offer in the County in accordance with the retail hierarchy and the sequential approach.

It is intended to prepare an updated retail strategy which will provide the context for retail policy in the Draft Plan taking into account of the changing economic environment and behaviour of shoppers in the County.

The Draft Plan will explore means of reducing retail leakage to adjacent Counties and will identify the need for further key investment in areas such as comparison shopping.

Maintenance of the viability and vitality of existing town centres will form a key component of the new County Retail Strategy.

An examination of the impacts of online retailing on existing town centres will form part of the review process.

The provision of free parking in the County towns is not within the scope of the County Development Plan and therefore cannot be commented on at this juncture.

Tourism

The Council recognises the important role that new and diverse tourist attractions can play in enhancing Meath's tourism sector and the role it has in the creation of revenue for the County. Appropriate strategic policies and objectives will be explored in the Draft Plan in order to consolidate the County's tourism sector and support attractions and reinforce Ireland Ancient East as a tourist destination.

The Council will encourage the further development of greenways, walkways and blueways which have been permitted / delivered within the County to date and will encourage and support the development of these facilities at appropriate locations throughout the County within the Draft Plan. The Council will also seek to collaborate with adjoining Local Authorities in the development of larger cross border schemes.

Policies will be explored with regard to tourism assets including the Boyne canal, and museum provision. The importance of peatlands in terms of their biodiversity value is acknowledged. The protection of these areas will be explored in the preparation of the Draft Plan.

The development of Laytown as a seaside town and specific improvements to public realm are within the scope of the East Meath Local Area Plan and will be explored at the time of review of that plan. The general protection of the designated River Nanny and Shore Special Protection Area and beach area of Laytown generally will be included in the policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.

2.2.3. Housing and Settlement Strategy

The following submissions make reference to the housing and settlement strategies:

007, 095, 101, 114, 127, 113, 148, 183, 187, 192, 207, 215, 221, 222, 227, 228, 236, 268, 270, 279, 271, 273, 274, 276, 278, 282, 235, 125, 260, 261, 262, 269, 272, 275, 277, 191

Housing supply and the provision of sufficient lands for residential development in the urban centres of the County was a recurring issue in the submissions received. It was recommended that the Draft Plan should encourage residential development in the areas where demand is greatest. The provision of social housing within the County was also considered important.

Other issues included the design and quality of housing, the design, layout, and size of estates, the quality and provision of open space in residential developments, and the provision of a mixture of dwelling types to provide a choice and meet the needs of people with different age groups. It was also suggested that provisions should be made for sheltered housing to accommodate the ageing population.

In relation to social housing it was recommended that a review of the number of vacant units in the County is carried out. It was considered that Approved Housing Bodies should continue to be used to deliver social housing in the County and social housing should be provided in all new residential developments.

It was recommended that the 'live-work' community model should be implemented in settlements in terms of the provision of housing in proximity to employment. The option of providing a home office in the design of dwellings to allow people to work from home was also considered important.

It was suggested that Guidelines should be prepared in relation to the provision of open space, which should outline the recommended size of such spaces and what should be provided in these spaces. These spaces should be designed and located so they accessible and could be utilised by both children and the elderly.

A number of submissions were received in relation to the position of settlements within the settlement hierarchy – Ashbourne, Enfield, Dunshaughlin, Kilbride, and Kilberry. It was suggested that an additional settlement type 'Rural Village' is included in the settlement hierarchy.

A detailed submission was also received in relation to the provision of a mixed use development at Hilltown, Dunboyne. This land is along the Clonsilla-Pace railway line and would have the capacity to cater for a population of 3,500-5,000.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Settlement Strategy must be consistent with the settlement hierarchy for County Meath as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines. It will provide direction for the management of future population and household growth in the County in accordance with the Core Strategy. This will involve a review of the population and household allocations for each of the settlements. It is anticipated that a very significant proportion of this growth will be directed towards the higher order settlements.

The Regional Planning Guidelines identify the position of the higher order settlements in the settlement hierarchy. Any alteration to the position of these settlements in the hierarchy can only arise as part of the review of the existing Regional Planning Guidelines. It is understood that the preparation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which will replace the Regional Planning Guidelines, 2010-2022 is to commence in 2017.

A review of the lower order settlements (small towns and villages) will be carried out as part of the preparation of the Draft Plan. This will also investigate the requirement for an additional settlement typology i.e 'Rural Village' in the hierarchy.

In regard to the submission identifying the lands at Hilltown, Dunboyne for a substantial mixed use development, the current County Development Plan sets a development strategy for the town of Dunboyne which identifies lands for future development. In the medium term the growth of Dunboyne will be concentrated on these lands and zoned lands proximate to the town centre and served by existing public transport.

A Housing Strategy will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This will set out an overall framework for the supply of land to meet the housing needs arising in the County. This will include an assessment of the housing requirements of the different categories of households, including the requirements of elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

The findings in the Housing Strategy will inform the policies and objectives in the Development Plan.

National Guidance including 'Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009), the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013) and 'Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments (2015) will constitute the applicable standards utilised in the design and layout of new developments in the Draft Plan.

2.2.4. Social Strategy

The following submission made reference to Social infrastructure:

21, 219, 23, 143, 153, 24, 155, 25, 28, 29, 156, 172, 198, 199, 200, 202, 30, 142, 151, 152, 159, 163, 164, 166, 171, 181, 150, 154, 157, 158, 160, 161, 162, 203, 165, 167, 174, 182, 184, 198, 208, 213, 219, 169, 177, 197, 196, 212, 232, 249, 002, 003, 004, 005, 031, 036, 037, 046, 047, 050, 051, 056, 057, 058, 060, 061, 062, 063, 064, 067, 069, 071, 075, 078, 079, 081, 082, 087, 093, 096, 098, 100, 101, 102, 104, 121, 183, 003, 004, 005, 035, 038, 039, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 049, 065, 066, 068, 072, 073, 074, 083, 084, 085, 086, 070, 077, 007, 020, 026, 055, 091, 141, 193, 221, 231, 274, 227, 188, 215, 210, 076, 214, 251, 110, 222, 247, 282, 108, 010, 109, 132, 246, 236, 257, 117, 140, 053, 054, 033, 258, 176, 785, 267

It is apparent from submissions received that the general public are supportive of the development of compact and sustainable communities. Submissions received are concerned largely with the provision of community and recreation facilities in close proximity to settlements. It is submitted by a large majority of submissions that there is a disconnect between the number of houses constructed in recent years and the provision of community facilities to serve the residents. A significant deficit has been identified in the provision of community spaces which groups and clubs can utilise in towns and villages in the County. Areas identified as being in particular need include Ashbourne, Enfield, Stamullen, Johnstown Navan, Oldcastle, Kells, Longwood and Trim.

It is requested that the County Development Plan seeks to support the improved provision and access to community spaces, playgrounds, public gardens, health facilities and educational facilities in towns and villages which are easily accessible by all members of the community.

Submissions were also received in relation to the lack of sporting facilities, art galleries and theatre spaces across the County and in particular in Ashbourne and Kells. The provision of a mobile library for towns not currently served by a library was requested in a number of submissions.

A significant number of submissions have been received from residents in Enfield and the Johnstown area of Navan. Residents in both areas have concerns regarding anti social behaviour and consider that this could be addressed via adequate provision of sports and recreational facilities and the presence of a Garda Station in both areas.

Submissions make reference to the need for the Draft Plan to ensure that the needs of the elderly be catered for adequately. The provision of retirement villages, nursing homes and the continued roll out of the age friendly initiative are requested to be considered in the preparation of the Draft Plan. The age proofing development and the support of programmes which promote good mental health should be encouraged.

A number of submissions have requested that provision is made for a secondary school in Enfield and a special needs school in Navan. Enable Ireland has stated that they urgently require appropriate accommodation in South Meath to deliver therapy and support services to children and families.

A request was received for the insertion of specific objective for the use and development of Blackwater Park in Navan, the continued support for the development of the linear park along Delvin River in Stamullin and the development of Ballybin forest for public use in Ashbourne.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Council is committed to developing a more socially inclusive society and promoting participation and access for all. The National Development Plan 2007-2013, the National Social Target for Poverty Reduction 2016, the updated National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2015-2017 and Towards 2016 are the national documents informing and supporting the development of a socially inclusive Meath.

The development of sport and recreational facilities and community-related projects will be promoted in the Draft Plan. The Council will seek to engage with key stakeholders/community groups to encourage shared responsibility for community development within the County. The Council will seek to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in and contribute to community life.

Submissions refer to a deficit in the provision of community facilities in the County. Centres identified where enhanced facilities were sought include Ashbourne, Johnstown in Navan and Enfield. Policies and objectives to support the provision of community facilities in the County will be explored during the plan making process based on the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan for Meath, (LECP)2016-2021.

The Council will work in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills with regard to the future educational requirements of the County. The Draft Plan will seek to support the provision of such facilities at suitable locations as appropriate where a need is identified.

In response to the need to provide appropriate housing for the elderly of the County, Department Guidance encourages a range of accommodation options which address life cycle needs. There is an opportunity to incentivise the release of larger housing units for young families by supporting provision of homes for older people (trade-down units) to allow people to continue living in their community. The Development Contributions Scheme will seek to acknowledge the advantages to society of such a measure.

The Draft Plan will also explore policies and objectives that seek to provide a mix of units, which are flexible in design and can adapt to the changing requirements of family life cycles.

The Meath Age Friendly County Programme was launched in 2011, and operated under a five year strategy which began in 2012. The programme is hosted under the leadership of Meath County Council, is supported by Age Friendly Ireland and operates within the World Health Organisation framework. The programme is built on the recognition of the valuable role that older people can and should play in shaping their communities.

The strategy gives commitments to improving key areas of infrastructure, transportation, services, information and an overall response to all older people's needs across the county. The Meath Age Friendly Committee has been actively involved in policy development through the LECP process.

The Council will continue to support the development of linear parks and other appropriate open space layouts at suitable locations readily from centres of population in County Meath.

2.2.5. Heritage, Cultural & Natural Assets

The following submissions made reference to Heritage, Cultural & Natural Assets:

112, 136, 217, 189, 280, 188, 173, 123, 238, 113, 222, 207, 217, 122, 132, 236, 253, 235, 255, 120, 178, 237, 218, 230

A number of submissions referred to the World Heritage Site, Brú na Bóinne and its associated townlands. Greater collaboration and acknowledgement of the role of local people and their community groups in sustaining life in the area is sought.

The protection of burial grounds and National Monuments is recognised as of important in a number of submissions. Engagement with and support of local groups to identify and preserve monuments, sites and buildings of importance is also referenced. Provision to preserve existing woodlands and develop new woodlands should be included in the Draft Plan.

It is considered that sites such as Tara and Slane have untapped potential from a heritage/tourism perspective. Thatch cottages should be protected and incentivised grant schemes encouraged. The River Boyne should provide for tour boats as depicted in the Lawrence Collection of the 19th century.

The absence of a museum or heritage centre in Navan is highlighted and it is recommended that a suitable premise be made available to act as permanent base for displays and exhibitions.

Green Infrastructure should be encouraged with the further creation of greenways, walkways, and cycle paths connecting residential areas to local employment zones.

There was a submission regarding the development of Ballybin forest in Ashbourne for public use with objectives for inclusion in the Draft Plan set out in the submission.

A submission was received regarding Tankardstown Demesne and development potential in terms of tourism, the submission sought that objectives to be included to ensure successful tourism development at this location.

It is submitted that the Bridle path (an unpaved public roadway from Raystown Road to Fairyhouse Racecourse) has been significantly degraded and should be restored as a vehicle-free walkway in Ratoath.

The Irish Wind Energy Association sets out its ideas about the further development of renewal energy policy and measures to assist Ireland meet its targets.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The protection, conservation, and presentation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne is provided by a range of international guidelines, national legislation, statutory and non-statutory guidance. The Council has always sought to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this internationally important site and to accommodate the needs of essential local development where this is compatible with the character of the landscape. The Council will continue to engage with the local community through established pre-planning clinics and encourage adaptive reuse of existing buildings etc.

The Council is planning a major re-configuration of Navan Library in late 2017 which will greatly extend the floor space available in the public library and provide a new flexible events and exhibition space. Meath County Library Service will be happy to work with Navan Historical Society and other interested parties to programme exhibitions highlighting the rich history and heritage of Navan and its environs.

The Council recognises the value of walking routes in the county. Potential for future walking routes will be explored as part of the preparation of the Draft Plan.

The Council recognises the value of the natural heritage and assets in the County and will continue to protect same and in 2015 adopted its second Biodiversity Plan.

2.2.6. Infrastructure & Movement

The following submissions made reference to infrastructure & movement:

008,012, 014, 016, 018, 118, 116, 017, 126, 105, 111, 186, 106, 131, 1129, 120, 195, 266, 265, 264, 220, 211, 218, 243, 255, 233, 128, 001, 002, 004, 031, 046, 048, 050, 052, 055, 056, 058, 059, 060, 061, 063, 064, 067, 069, 070, 071, 075, 081, 084, 087, 092, 093, 098, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 121, 141, 144, 180, 183, 187, 193, 221, 257,276, 21, 22, 219, 28, 219, 168, 190, 197, 248, 169, 190, 197, 196, 212, 226, 248, 249,257,235,263, 244, 146

It should be the policy of Meath County Council to promote sustainable modes of transport. The general consensus from the submissions received is the need for new and improved sustainable transport infrastructure within all towns and villages in the County. There is a significant emphasis on the provision of bus shelters, blueways, cycle ways, walkways and walking loops, pedestrian crossings and street lighting throughout the County as well as speed restrictions in urban areas to protect cyclist and pedestrians from vehicular traffic.

There are also a significant number of submissions which seek policies within the County Development Plan to support the provision of improved public transport links. The provision of strong public transport links has a significant impact upon the economic viability of towns and villages, the improvements of these links should therefore be a priority for the County.

Flexibus is a community based transport service which provides access to rural areas which are currently un-serviced by public transport. The service seeks to reduce isolation in rural areas and is available to all members of the public. In addition to the improvements outlined above it is submitted by Flexibus that a number of further improvements are required in public transport infrastructure and services. Flexibus has called for the provision of park and ride facilities at Motorways, collect and connect services, accessible transport to hospitals and healthcare centres and an overall reduction in fare costs.

The provision of a rail service to Navan is also present in a significant number of submissions as is the general consensus that there is an over reliance on the private car. The new plan should promote multiple uses within development sites in areas that are well serviced by public transport.

While there is a general requirement for improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure within all towns and villages, there have been a number of large projects mentioned within the submissions such as the provision of the Slane, Julianstown and Duleek bypasses, the provision of a bus station on the R147 in Navan, improvements to the N2, new slipway onto M3 off R161, traffic calming on the Skryne to Curragha rd, the provision of a feeder bus to M3 Parkway and the provision of the Leinster Orbital Route in order to provide greater economic opportunities along the route of this road.

Many submissions seek the provision of walking and cycling routes along town by pass routes, it is mentioned that these routes are utilised by the public as walking routes at present. A large number of submissions were received from residents in Johnstown, Navan and Enfield. A significant number of these submissions seek improvements to cycle and walking routes, more frequent public transport, improvements to public lighting and a reduction in public transport fares.

A number of these submissions pertain to the implementation of a permeability plan within Johnstown and the potential implications of this scheme for antisocial behaviour.

Submissions were received from Eirgrid & ESB and request the development plan should be supportive of their proposed developments.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

It is acknowledged that an integrated approach needs to be taken to land use and transportation in the Draft Plan in order to promote compact mixed use settlements and to reduce the need to travel. Growth will be targeted towards centres served by high quality public transport in order to maximise the investment made.

Although the Council is not a public transport provider, it has an important role to play in accommodating public transport within the County. The need to improve public transport services in rural areas is accepted and will be explored in the preparation of the Draft Plan. The Council will liaise with bodies such as the NTA and public transport service providers to identify future transport routes and ensure their reservation.

The need to facilitate and support cycling and walking in order to increase modal share and public health and well being is recognised and it is intended to build upon the significant number of sustainable transport projects which have been delivered over the life of the current plan. Existing principles and policies will be reviewed during the preparation of the Draft Plan, and should continue to support and promote walking and cycling and require good connectivity between key settlements and destinations and at the local level within the County. It is intended that the Draft Plan will support the creation of sustainable communities into the future which provide for all modes of transport in a safe and user friendly form.

The Council is supportive of the delivery of key pieces of infrastructure required including specifically the Navan Rail line, a bypass for Slane, the distributor road network in a number of key development centres including Navan, South Drogheda and Dunboyne and the Leinster Orbital Route. It is intended that policies and objectives supporting these projects will be included in the Draft Plan. The need for a bypass of Duleek and Julianstown will be examined as part of the review process.

In response to particular permeability issues raised in submissions locations such as Johnstown, it is important to note that strategic solutions to such issues are matters more appropriately addressed in the preparation of the Local Area Plan for Navan. The Draft Plan will support the general need to facilitate walking and cycling in order to promote connectivity between settlements and the location of particular projects will not be identified at this stage.

2.2.7. Environmental Services

The following submissions made reference to environmental matters:

113, 196, 249, 76,173, 222, 245, 109, 50, 91,101, 126, 111, 201, 211, 218, 254, 255,216,139,032, 179, 145

A number of submissions refer to the need for more bring banks/composting facilities/ litter bins/dog waste bins in the County. The need for recycling facilities for Ashbourne and Enfield is set out. Submissions regarding Enfield and Longwood refer to the need for restoration of derelict buildings and canal clean up.

Objectives are required to take account of Ireland's objective to achieve "Good Ecological status for all surface waters". Policies for developments adjacent to watercourses that intend to discharge surface water into our waters should include the construction of Integrated Constructed Wetlands to aid in the attenuation and reduction of pollutants from impermeable surfaces before entering water. The Draft Plan should ensure protection of ground water.

The submissions consider that strict adherence to all EU Directives on the environment generally, those referring to water quality, climate change, air quality, Natura 2000 site network are specifically referenced, is required.

A number of submissions refer to renewable energy and consider that solar panels should be installed on all public buildings. The Draft Plan needs to address section 15 of Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and National Planning Framework.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The submissions received in relation to environmental issues highlight the need for environmental considerations to be integrated with and influence the Draft Plan strategy, policies and objectives.

The mandatory objectives for Development Plans include objectives for the promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas including the promotion of measures to address the necessity of adaptation to climate change. Consequently the Draft Plan will have to have a strong focus on climate change.

There is a requirement to include objectives for waste management in the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan will address these issues having regard to the East and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 and relevant legislation.

The issue of illegal dumping is one which does not fall within the scope of the development plan review process.

The mandatory objectives for Development Plans include objectives for the promotion of compliance with environmental standards and objectives established for bodies of surface water by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009. Standards for the protection of groundwaters are provided by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, which standards and objectives are included in River Basin Management Plans. Therefore the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans will be key considerations for the Draft Plan.

Environmental assessment will be an iterative process within the Development Plan review process and it is expected that the aforementioned studies will significantly influence the development strategy, policies and objectives of the Draft Plan.

A key theme in the plan review is the sustainable renewal of our towns and villages and the Draft Plan will address this matter in considerable detail.

2.2.8. Rural Development

The following submissions made reference to rural development :

239, 147, 192, 138, 019, 238, 251, 207, 279, 169, 190, 196, 226, 248, 252, 221, 252, 204, 205, 211, 218, 242

The majority of submissions relate to rural housing and seek that the Draft Plan should encourage low density housing within smaller villages. It is considered that this will reduce the need for one off housing and focus development in designated villages/ settlement centres. A number of villages suitable for this type of development were specifically mentioned in the submissions including Batterstown, Skryne, Kilcloon and Kilberry. In villages such as Batterstown developments would provide a much needed boost by supporting and encouraging the growth of existing local businesses whilst also providing affordable housing in the area.

It is submitted that the scale of development in rural areas is not sustainable and has implications for public services and the parallel decline of many rural towns and villages.

One submission states that supports should be put in place for families in rural areas to build beside their parents. A number of submissions seek that housing is provided in a structured manner for local people, thus having the potential to negate the need for the proliferation of one-off rural housing. Fully serviced sites could be provided in small villages to facilitate local people with a local need access to affordable sites.

A submission raised the need to clarify and strengthen the rural housing policy to defined agricultural/horticultural needs.

Rural villages and towns must be examined in the Draft Plan in order to protect the rural shop, post office, school, GAA club and other sports clubs. Grants should be made available to encourage the redevelopment of existing dilapidated buildings.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was raised in a number of submissions and that bringing ICT services to rural areas is vital. Kilberry was specifically mentioned in this regard. Provision of broadband in rural areas and investment in connectivity to ensure good phone signals is important also.

It was submitted that St. Gorman's Spring in the townland of Ballynakill near Enfield should be listed as an SAC.

A number of submissions raised issues with regard to the natural environment and in particular the extractive industry. It is submitted that geological sites should be mapped and a clearer map of views and prospects produced. Preservation of geological features should be revised. Reference should be made in the draft plan to both 'Archaeological Code of Practice' document and the EPA

and Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Guidance documents for Quarries.

A number of submissions consider that it is difficult to obtain native species of trees for landscaping schemes. It was indicated that Tree Preservation Orders do not indicate the area of trees to be protected. A number of submissions raised issues with regard to retaining hedgerows when possible for one off houses. The Draft Plan should encourage tree planting especially native deciduous species and not the planting of leylandii trees.

Sustainable transport was raised in a number of submissions which considered that Improved public transport links are required in rural areas.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Draft Plan will consider relevant criteria and policies for one-off housing that addresses sustainability, environmental protection etc in accordance with national guidance.

As part of the review process, the Planning Authority will assess the rural settlement strategy to consider villages and settlements which are suitable to provide sustainable housing which in turn supports the vitality of local services and businesses. The Draft Plan will also promote sustainable social and economic development in rural areas.

The Draft Plan will support the continuing viability of agriculture, horticulture and other rural based enterprises within rural areas. Due to declining numbers working in agriculture the need for diversification and exploration of other employment opportunities in rural areas will be required. Forestry, equine and the extractive industry are other important rural resources with potential for development in a controlled and sustainable manner.

Broadband and connectivity ICT services in rural areas will be addressed in the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan will update the Tree Preservation Order list and clearly define the specified trees to be preserved whilst updating the relevant mapping.

In terms of the extractive industry, the Draft Plan will acknowledge that aggregates are a significant natural resource which needs to be developed with wider environmental issues as a key consideration.

2.2.9 Development Management /Urban Design/Architecture

The following submissions made reference to development management/urban design/architecture:

016,133,236,251,111,201

A number of submissions referred to the need for the application of good urban design and best practice principles to development in County Meath.

It is submitted that the design of urban areas should be sensitive to the history and heritage of the area.

Architectural input by Local Authorities is essential in good design and layout for urban living and best practice design by developers for live/work homes.

The design of rural homes should reflect agricultural/local heritage buildings.

High quality urban design will encourage more walking and cycling etc and poor urban design makes urban areas less desirable to live in.

New housing should be NZED –Nearly Zero Energy Building. Focus should be placed on energy efficient housing to achieve future emissions targets.

It is suggested that housing schemes should be community friendly and have proper provision for mixed development to cater for all aspects of society with open spaces, landscape design and children’s play area. Well planned public amenities essential for both urban and rural communities of all sizes.

Developments must be supervised to ensure a high quality is delivered.

There was a submission which related to Laytown specifically and how improvements to public realm and traditional aspect of Laytown are required.

A submission from the community in Julianstown is seeking that the plan would include objectives for restoration of key sites in the village, that the Draft Plan would support the principles of village design and that the environmental effects of plan implementation would be assessed on the village.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Draft Plan will set out good practice guidelines for urban design and improving the aesthetics of our urban spaces and places within the County in accordance with national guidance where applicable. The policies and objectives in the existing County Development Plan relating to issues such as design, layout, open space, height etc will be reviewed during the preparation of the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan will seek to continue to support the provision of imaginative, well designed mixed use developments to create sustainable communities and enhance the environment of town and villages.

Policies in relation to extensions to existing dwellings and open space provision will be reviewed in the Draft Plan. Policies in relation to open space will be reviewed also.

All settlements in the county will be considered as part of the plan review process.

2.2.10 Miscellaneous

A number of submissions did not readily fall into any of the topics listed above and are summarised as follows.

No: 67, 81, 84, 94, 101, 133, 141, 185, 196, 236, 249, 251

One submission suggests the Development Plan should be reviewed on a bi annual cycle to ensure the objectives are being realised and to allow for changing priorities. Development Plan priorities and objectives should be reviewed and measured if they have been achieved and if not, examine what needs to be done differently.

The Draft Plan must future proof our coastline and address the issue of coastal erosion.

There were a number of submissions regarding Enfield and specific issues raised including the following: a number of derelict buildings should be removed; Garda presence should be increased and public information sessions should be held when decisions are being made on Enfield.

One submission requested an extension to the submission date on the pre-draft stage of the review process to allow for more community participation, consultation and discussion.

One submission suggests a ban on betting shops on the main street of any town.

Chief Executives Opinion on issues raised:

The Development Plan review timeline is set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

All settlements in the county will be considered as part of the plan review process.

The Pre-Draft stage of the County Development Plan review included the publication of the Strategic Issues Paper with an eight week public consultation and submission period in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Information events were held in each Municipal District during the public consultation phase.

2.3. Overview of Issues Raised at Information Events

Ashbourne Municipal District

- Need for a significant parkland area to serve the residents of Ashbourne
- Facilities required for sports clubs and community organisations such as Scouts
- Development at Milltown rd area, damage to the public road and lack of pedestrian connectivity, need for careful planning of housing developments in tandem with facilities provision
- There is a lack of smaller dwellings, for example, 2 bed houses for older people looking to down size. Apartments are not suitable for them. Smaller size dwellings should be provided to accommodate this need.
- Tourist potential of Ashbourne
- Need for a planned approach to public realm improvements

Kells Municipal District

- Need to develop industry and enterprise in Kells and in the county in general
- Renewable energy development and other functions of the council and how the plan will help us meet our climate change targets
- Implementation /monitoring of One-way traffic system in Summer 2016, liaison with the local traders to seek their views on the success or lack of from the trial period would be valuable.
- Need for rejuvenation of town centres such as Kells
- Improvement of amenity walkways within the park at Lloyd in Kells
- Develop Greenways for walking and cycling in the county
- Status of the proposed Navan rail line
- Planning responses required to needs of ageing population including an appropriate range of accommodation options
- Parts of the County have no broadband and need to address this in the Draft Plan
- Need for more funding to go towards the counties road network
- Oldcastle and its position in the settlement hierarchy and the need for further development in the town.

Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District

- Residential development in the Bru na Boinne area
- Will the new CDP further develop the policies and objectives in relation to the development of integrated rural tourism complexes?
- Rejuvenation of village/town centres such as Julianstown, Donore, Stamullen and Gormanstown is needed
- Proposals to address the issue of illegal dumping in rural areas and to encourage owners of protected structures are required
- Proposals to encourage the formation of community/tidy town groups and aid their work are required
- Measures to be included to develop adequate car parking facilities in proximity to Laytown and Gormanston rail stations,

- Broadband coverage need to be addressed.
- Need for sustainable renewal of villages such as Ardcaith, Bellewstown.
- Retail development in Laytown

Navan Municipal District

- Need to attract more employment to Navan to reduce commuting
- Need to improve shopping experience in Navan
- Objections to permeability in housing estates
- Need to provide more linked up cycle tracks, and more off road cycle tracks within the towns and rural areas
- Need for more community facilities such as the Unity centre in Windtown
- Improvements in public parks
- Need to improve vitality in rural villages and Graigs
- Decrease rural one off housing
- Improve public realm in all areas
- Produce public realm plans
- Need for more secondary schools in Navan
- Need to improve the quality of development MCC are approving
- Need for mix in house types

Ratoath Municipal District

- The need for housing to be directed into the locations where it is most required
- Need for more community facilities
- Proposed M3 services area
- Heritage and protection and promotion of same
- Delivery of Infrastructure including extension of rail to Navan
- Ageing population necessitates the need to plan for a range of healthcare facilities
- Need for sustainable renewal of towns and villages

Trim Municipal District

- Lack of youth facilities in Trim & Enfield
- A number of queries regarding plans for the provision of a theatre in Trim.
- Requirement for a community centre in Trim.
- Need for improved cycle tracks and walks in the town.
- Need for improved bus service in villages to and from Trim
- Need for improved communications, broadband etc
- Need for greater financial input to the upkeep of protected structures,
- Need for the growth of Enfield given its strategic location
- Need for more public leisure facilities, i.e public parks in towns and villages

Comhairle na Nog

- More playgrounds at tourist facilities such as Oldbridge, Hill of Tara etc
- More use of the monuments for sporting/ cultural events
- More small museums in the County

- More publicity about heritage sites and more information boards at sites
- Improve upkeep of public parks
- More street lamps in rural villages
- Skate parks should be provided in public parks
- Encourage more public involvement in community
- Provide more council estates with bigger houses and refurbish council houses and disused houses
- Not enough housing in rural areas
- Build on disused land
- Lack of infrastructure in countryside
- Encourage business in rural areas
- Allow housing in villages and rural areas with local shop and school etc
- More wind turbines in the County
- Encourage use of Solar panels
- More bins in rural area
- Educate people about water conservation
- Put a library in Nobber
- More night classes
- Open libraries for longer
- More youth work facilities in rural areas
- Improved school buildings no more prefabs
- Restore Athlumney Castle and restore Spicers bakery
- Improve Trim castle and tourist facilities around it
- More advertising for Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth
- More places for religious worship
- Improve wheelchair access
- More use of the Irish language
- Improve Navan hospital
- More Art competitions to encourage the arts
- Annual business fair for Meath
- Central advertising location for all businesses
- Place shops closer together in the town centres
- Encourage the interaction with Meath youth groups and chamber of commerce
- Encourage more pharmaceutical companies into Meath
- Improve agriculture and protect agricultural land
- Provide bus timetables at all stops
- Complete a full cycle lane with a start and end destination
- Bus Eireann links in rural areas should be improved
- Improve facilities for electric cars

3.0 Chief Executive's Policy Recommendations by Topic

3.1. Vision and Core Strategy

The Draft Plan will be based on an overall vision which will be set out in a Vision Statement. This Vision will be based around the themes of developing sustainable communities and promoting economic development, in the context of best environmental practice.

As part of the preparation of the Draft Plan a Core Strategy is required to be prepared. In the absence of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the Core Strategy will be based on the framework of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-22 (RPGs). The population and housing targets for County Meath during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond will be identified in the Core Strategy. These will be informed by the population and housing targets allocated to Meath in Tables 5 and 6 of the Regional Planning Guidelines, preliminary census data for 2016, census data for 2011, and the CSO Regional Population Projections up to 2031, (published in 2013.)

A review of the household allocation for all settlements and the rural area will be carried out as part of the review process. There will be an emphasis on the consolidation of development in the higher order settlements, the Metropolitan area and the alignment of infrastructure investment with settlement growth in order to support the creation of sustainable, 'live-work' communities in the County.

The Chief Executive is aware of the current pressures in the housing market and of the critical need for the rapid delivery of housing units in the short term from a National perspective. In context of County Meath and having regard to the need to accelerate the delivery of housing specifically in the County's higher tier centres (in accordance with Department and EMRA guidance,) a particular need arises in the following centres: Navan, the Southern Environs of Drogheda and Dunboyne regarding the delivery of key strategic roads. Such strategic roads can only be delivered by the retention of lands designated for Phase 2 release and relate exclusively to the higher tier centres. The matter will be raised with the Department and EMRA in the context of the preparation of the Draft Plan Core Strategy.

In relation to the identification of lands for development within the settlements a sequential and evidence based approach will be taken, with an emphasis on building outwards from the centre of settlements. Regard will be had to the need for a targeted approach to housing delivery in conjunction with strategic infrastructure in accordance with relevant guidelines.

3.2. Economic Development

The promotion of economic development in Meath is a key corporate goal of Meath County Council. The challenge for Meath is to create more jobs within the County so that more people who live in Meath can work in Meath, and that the County is seen not only as a place to visit and live in, but also to invest and work in.

The Draft Plan will continue to explore options for placing Meath at the forefront of best practice for economic development. It is recommended that the Draft Plan contains policies and objectives which build on the successful implementation of the Economic Strategy to date. The Draft Plan should seek to continue to support and facilitate economic development at appropriate locations throughout the County. The Draft Plan will seek to work collaboratively with key stakeholders and businesses in order to achieve this goal.

The Council recognises the important role that new and diverse tourist attractions can play in enhancing Meath's tourism sector and the role it has in the creation of revenue for the County. Appropriate strategic policies and objectives will be explored for the Draft Plan in order to consolidate the County's tourism sector and support attractions and reinforce Ireland Ancient East as a tourist destination.

The importance of the extractive industry and its role in the economic growth of the County is noted. The Draft Plan will seek to support such development in appropriate locations subject to environmental and other relevant factors.

It is intended that an updated retail strategy will provide the context for retail policy in the Draft Plan taking into account the changing economic environment and behaviour of shoppers in the County.

3.3. Housing and Settlement Strategy

A Housing Strategy will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This will set out the evidence base for the overall framework upon which housing land requirements will be based in order to meet the housing needs arising in the County. This will include an assessment of the housing requirements of the different categories of households, including the requirements of elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

Policies and objectives within the Draft Plan will be in accordance with the findings of the Housing Strategy and it is recommended that they seek to appropriately address the housing requirements in the County.

3.4. Social Strategy

The Council will support measures that address the needs of communities within the County and will seek to provide the basis for a more socially inclusive society which promotes participation and access for all.

The development of sport, recreational facilities and community-related projects will be promoted in the Draft Plan.

Policies and objectives to support the provision of community facilities in the County will be explored during the plan making process based on the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan for Meath 2016-2021.

The Council will work in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills with regard to the future educational requirements of the County. The Draft Plan will seek to support the provision of such facilities at suitable locations as appropriate where a need is identified.

The Draft Plan will also explore policies and objectives that seek to provide a mix of units, which are flexible in design and can adapt to the changing requirements of family life cycles.

3.5. Heritage, Cultural & Natural Assets

The protection, conservation, and presentation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne is provided by a range of international guidelines, national legislation, statutory and non-statutory guidance. The policies and objective contained within the current Development Plan will be examined in the context of effectiveness in ensuring the protection of the integrity of the World Heritage Site and the surrounding landscape while facilitating appropriate development in this area.

It is recommended that policies and objectives are included within the Draft Plan which seek to protect the County's Built and Natural heritage sites, designated SAC's and SPA's etc

The Council recognises the value of walking routes in the county. Potential for walking routes will be explored as part of the preparation of the Draft Plan.

3.6. Infrastructure & Movement

It is acknowledged that an integrated approach needs to be taken to land use and transportation in the Development Plan in order to promote compact mixed use settlements and to reduce the need to travel. The Draft Plan will target growth towards centres served by high quality public transport in order to maximise the investment made.

The need to facilitate and support cycling and walking in order to increase modal share is recognised and it is intended to build upon the significant number of sustainable transport projects which have been delivered over the life of the current plan

Policies and objectives will be included in the Draft Plan which support and facilitate the provision of key infrastructure projects such as the Navan Rail line, the Leinster Orbital Route, the distributor road network in a number of key development centres including Navan, Southern Environs of Drogheda and Dunboyne and the Slane and Duleek bypass among others. The need for a bypass of Julianstown will be critically evaluated.

3.7. Environmental Services

There is a statutory requirement under Section 10 (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2016 to include objectives for the promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas including the promotion of measures to address the necessity of adaptation to climate change. Mandatory objectives are also required to provide for waste management. It is recommended that the Draft Plan contains reference to all of the required objectives.

In relation to relevant waste management policies and objectives, regard shall be given to the 'East and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015- 2021' and all other relevant legislation.

3.8. Rural Development

The Draft Plan will address the criteria and policies for one-off housing that promotes sustainability, environmental protection etc in accordance with national guidance.

As part of the review process, the Planning Authority will review and assess the rural settlement strategy to consider the future role of villages and settlements which are suitable locations for sustainable housing, thereby encouraging and supporting the sustainability and vitality of local services and businesses. The Draft Plan will thus focus on the promotion of sustainable social and economic development in rural areas of the County.

Broadband and connectivity ICT services will be addressed in the Draft Plan.

In terms of the extractive industry, the Draft Plan will acknowledge that aggregates are a significant natural resource which need to develop in harmony with wider environmental awareness.

3.9 Development Management /Urban Design/Architecture

The Draft Plan will set out good practice guidelines for urban design and improving the aesthetics of our urban places within the County in accordance with national guidance where applicable.

4.0 Appendices

4.1. Appendix 1 - List of Written Submissions

NO	NAME
P1-001	Celine Coffey
P1-002	Tara Bohan
P1-003	Lorraine Deering
P1-004	Simon McGrath
P1-005	Stephen Marten
P1-006	Cian Ó Tuathaláin
P1-007	Robert Purfield
P1-008	Miriam McKenna
P1-009	Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation
P1-010	Jonathan Carr
P1-011	EPA
P1-012	Fiona Kealy
P1-013	Fiona Kealy
P1-014	Fiona Kealy
P1-015	Fiona Kealy
P1-016	Niamh Bn. Uí Loinsigh
P1-017	Margaret Clarke
P1-018	Elayne Feerick
P1-019	Fiona Kealy
P1-020	Fiona Kealy
P1-021	Adam Forde
P1-022	Joan Ruddy
P1-023	Geraldine (surname not supplied)

P1-024	Eimear Uí Raghallaigh
P1-025	Tanya McConnell
P1-026	Emily Sweeney
P1-027	Henry Gaffney
P1-028	Lisa Noone
P1-029	Sarah Halpin
P1-030	Alva Paddle
P1-031	Suzanne McDonagh
P1-032	Aidan Collins
P1-033	Bridget Boyle
P1-034	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
P1-035	Nicola Halligan
P1-036	Nicola Halligan
P1-037	Alan Walsh
P1-038	Cheryl Forde
P1-039	Michael Farrell
P1-040	Marijke Morris
P1-041	Sharon Salmon
P1-042	Patrick Salmon
P1-043	James Buggle
P1-044	Joe Morris
P1-045	Michelle Keating
P1-046	Nicola McCullen
P1-047	Mary Foran
P1-048	Barry Breslin
P1-049	Paul Cahill
P1-050	Sally Redmond
P1-051	Grace Mulligan

P1-052	Marie Bagnall
P1-053	Myles Devine
P1-054	Michelle Farrelly
P1-055	Karen Ferguson
P1-056	Myles Devin
P1-057	Delia Hajar Mendoza
P1-058	Margaret O'Brien
P1-059	Michael Doran
P1-060	Sharon Flormar
P1-061	Susan Dunne
P1-062	Karen Boyd
P1-063	Catherine Cox
P1-064	Deirdre Murphy
P1-065	Joyce Hamilton
P1-066	Sylvia Sheehan
P1-067	Jessica O'Bryan
P1-068	Catriona Cummins
P1-069	Andrea Dixon
P1-070	Paul McCarthy
P1-071	Lorraine Deering
P1-072	Johanna Carroll-Browne
P1-073	Maura Beegan Gavin
P1-074	Catriona Reilly
P1-075	Sarah Barkoczi
P1-076	Jason McCann
P1-077	Jill O'Meara
P1-078	Lee Little
P1-079	Nichola Murray
P1-080	Traci Kennedy

P1-081	Marie Lane
P1-082	Amy Mooney
P1-083	Kenneth O'Toole
P1-084	Kavitha (surname not supplied)
P1-085	Nisha Cherian
P1-086	Shanthini Chandra
P1-087	Sharon & David Comerford
P1-088	Coillte
P1-089	Donna Mullen
P1-090	Malachy Bradley, EMRA
P1-091	Emma O'Neill
P1-092	Alison Walker
P1-093	Gerard Hanlon
P1-094	Keep Ireland Open
P1-095	Francis Lynch
P1-096	Sharmila Chandrasagaran
P1-097	David Minton
P1-098	Joanne Pasternak
P1-099	Joanne Pasternak
P1-100	Patricia Meehan
P1-101	Vera Kelly
P1-102	Aidan Cox
P1-103	Niamh McGettigan
P1-104	Kevin Mullan
P1-105	Joan Wiseman
P1-106	Hilary Lawson
P1-107	Myles Brady
P1-108	Andrew King
P1-109	Peter Brady

P1-110	Susan Keogh
P1-111	Jacinta McLoughlin
P1-112	Peter Mooney
P1-113	Gerard McCabe
P1-114	Cllr Francis Deane
P1-115	Dianne McDonogh
P1-116	Cllr Francis Deane
P1-117	Cllr Francis Deane
P1-118	Cllr Francis Deane
P1-119	Cllr Francis Deane
P1-120	Conor Brady
P1-121	Carol Doyle
P1-122	Ciaran Buckley
P1-123	Cllr. Wayne Harding
P1-124	Fáilte Ireland
P1-125	Hugh Lynn
P1-126	Patrick O'Brien
P1-127	Tony Horan
P1-128	Michael McCormack, TII
P1-129	Mary Bradley
P1-130	Suzanne Dempsey, Irish Water
P1-131	Gerard Murphy
P1-132	Ciaran Buckley
P1-133	Fiona Kealy
P1-134	Fiona Kealy
P1-135	Liz Marriott, Dept of Education
P1-136	Adam Ledwith
P1-137	Anthony Abbott-King,

	Louth County Council
P1-138	Cllr. Wayne Harding
P1-139	David Eves
P1-140	Colm McLoughlin
P1-141	Fergal Smyth
P1-142	Paul McQuillan
P1-143	Olesia (surname not supplied)
P1-144	Luc Hemeryck
P1-145	Meath Wind Information Group
P1-146	Colm Cummins
P1-147	Derek Iceton
P1-148	Dean Atwell
P1-149	Evan Newell
P1-150	Ciara McLoughlin
P1-151	Emma Kilroy
P1-152	Sabrina Fitzpatrick
P1-153	Rebecca Pullen
P1-154	Shane Carroll
P1-155	Andrius Kacinskas
P1-156	Niamh Rogers
P1-157	Catriona Murtagh
P1-158	Catriana O'Connor
P1-159	Sabrina Smith
P1-160	Roisin Matthews
P1-161	Martin Leonard
P1-162	Peter Heylin
P1-163	Karla O'Neill
P1-164	Michael Bunea
P1-165	Tony Fagan

P1-166	Geraldine White
P1-167	Piotr Bajdor
P1-168	Piotr Bajdor
P1-169	Gillian Kennedy
P1-170	Piotr Bajdor
P1-171	Emmanuela Dimida
P1-172	Tracy Quinn
P1-173	Eamon Regan
P1-174	Anna Idzikowska
P1-175	Ben Bailey
P1-176	Mark Quinn
P1-177	Caroline Kuyper
P1-178	Gearóid Dardis
P1-179	Paula Galvin
P1-180	Karen Mahon
P1-181	Raj (surname not supplied)
P1-182	Eduard Dichiel
P1-183	Angela Smith
P1-184	Therese Hogan
P1-185	Cllr. Sharon Keogan
P1-186	Cllr. Pádraig Fitzsimons
P1-187	Kevin Hughes
P1-188	Michael Loughran
P1-189	Gareth Kyne
P1-190	Eco Advocacy
P1-191	Carroll Estates (Dublin) Ltd
P1-192	Susan Keane
P1-193	McGarrell Reilly

P1-194	McGarrell Reilly
P1-195	Ashbourne Visitor Centre
P1-196	Cllr. Gillian Toole
P1-197	Cllr. Paddy Meade
P1-198	Pauline Sherry
P1-199	Maureen & John Taylor
P1-200	Dave Hewitt
P1-201	Laytown Development Association
P1-202	Alisha Hewitt
P1-203	Peter Heylin
P1-204	Aoife Byrne
P1-205	Aoife Byrne
P1-206	Kildare County Council
P1-207	Ann Kavanagh
P1-208	Therese Tormey
P1-209	Anthony & Ann Byrne
P1-210	Michael Mills
P1-211	Cllr. Enda Flynn
P1-212	Concepta McDonnell
P1-213	Lynda Carroll
P1-214	Mary Murphy
P1-215	Jim Matthews
P1-216	Donal O'Sullivan
P1-217	Ciaran McDonnell
P1-218	Minister Regina Doherty TD
P1-219	Alan Lawes
P1-220	Jane Roche
P1-221	Minster Helen McEntee TD

P1-222	Geraldine Reilly
P1-223	Kate Williams
P1-224	Cllr. Sarah Reilly
P1-225	Deputy Thomas Byrne TD
P1-226	Cllr. Trevor Golden
P1-227	Nicky Brunton
P1-228	Glenbeigh Construction Ltd
P1-229	Rockture 1 Limited
P1-230	Alan Haugh
P1-231	Kingscroft Developments Ltd
P1-232	John Callaghan
P1-233	Kieran Kennedy
P1-234	Ashbourne District Chamber of Commerce
P1-235	Cllr. Damien O'Reilly
P1-236	Eamon Walsh, Dunboyne
P1-237	Ciarán Burke
P1-238	Nick Wilkinson
P1-239	Jonathan, Joanne & Sarah Caffrey
P1-240	Noel McGloin
P1-241	TIO ICAV
P1-242	Michael O'Carroll
P1-243	Keating Family Clonee
P1-244	Sinead O'Malley
P1-245	Joe Bonner
P1-246	Ashbourne Playspace Network, c/o Future Analytics
P1-247	Enable Ireland
P1-248	Brendan Regan

P1-249	Cllr. Alan Tobin
P1-250	Irish Peatland Conservation Council
P1-251	Cllr. Jim Holloway
P1-252	Alison Harvey, Heritage Council
P1-253	An Taisce
P1-254	Ian Lumley
P1-255	Elish O'Reilly, HSE
P1-256	Liz McDonnell, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
P1-257	Pat Wigglesworth
P1-258	Silverstream Healthcare c/o Michael J.O'Donnell & Associates
P1-259	Colm Lynch
P1-260	Helen O'Neill
P1-261	Helen O'Neill
P1-262	Helen O'Neill
P1-263	Helen O'Neill
P1-264	Helen O'Neill
P1-265	Helen O'Neill
P1-266	Helen O'Neill
P1-267	Helen O'Neill
P1-268	Paul Kelly c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-269	James Kelly c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-270	John Paul McNeece c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-271	Eileen Kelly c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-272	Matthew Brady, Clonee c/o Brady Hughes Consulting

P1-273	Angela Reilly c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-274	Alan Berrill, Julianstown c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-275	Sean Boylan Dunboyne c/o Brady Hughes Consulting
P1-276	Shannon Homes c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-277	Shannon Homes c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-278	Shannon Homes c/o Brady Hughes Consulting Engineers
P1-279	Justin Kenny
P1-280	Peter Mooney
P1-281	Cllr. Tom Kelly
P1-282	Deputy Shane Cassells TD

4.2. Appendix 2 - List of Prescribed Bodies who were informed of the Review of the County Development Plan under the Statutory Process

	Organisation
1.	Heritage Council
2.	An Taisce
3.	Fingal County Council
4.	Louth County Council
5.	Dublin City Council
6.	Kildare County Council
7.	Cavan County Council
8.	Monaghan County Council
9.	Westmeath County Council
10.	An Bord Pleanála
11.	EPA
12.	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
13.	HSE
14.	Eirgrid
15.	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
16.	Department of Agriculture
17.	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
18.	Department of Defence
19.	Department of Education and Skills
20.	OPW
21.	HSA
22.	Regional Assembly
23.	Inland Fisheries
24.	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
25.	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
26.	Garda Commissioner
27.	Dublin Airport Authority
28.	Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.
29.	Irish Water
30.	National Transport Authority

	Organisation
31.	ESB
32.	Arts Council
33.	Fáilte Ireland
34.	Forfas
35.	Irish Rail
36.	Bus Eireann
37.	Bord Gáis
38.	Udaras na Gaeltachta
39.	Offaly County Council
40.	Wicklow County Council
41.	South Dublin County Council
42.	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
43.	Northern & Western Regional Assembly
44.	IDA