

Annette Ryan

From: Garry, Mairead <mairead_garry@education.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 3 January 2023 13:37
To: Development Plan
Cc: Statutory Plans
Subject: Proposed Amendments to the Draft Clare Draft Development Plan 2023-2029
Attachments: 20230103 Final submission to Mat Amends.pdf

Hi,

Please find attached the Department of Education’s submission to the Material Amendments to the draft Clare CDP 2023-2029.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Regards
Mairead

Mairead Garry

Statutory Plans
Forward Planning & Site Acquisition Section

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03rd January 2023

Development Plan Review,
Planning Department,
Clare County Council,
New Road,
Ennis,
Co. Clare
V95 DXP2

Re: Proposed Material Alterations to the Claire County Development Plan 2023-2029

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the above. The Department of Education wishes to make the following submission to the proposed material alterations to the draft Claire County Development Plan 2023-2029.

As a point of information, the Department's title is now the Department of Education. Any reference to the Department of Education & Skills should be amended to reflect this change.

Table 3.4 Core Strategy Table

The Department notes the proposed amendment to reduce the Core Strategy Table 2023-2029 Population growth target from 11,637 down to 7,231. The Department also notes the proposal to remove the proposed South Clare/University of Limerick Economic Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) from the current draft CDP and that this SDZ is to be considered a more long-term objective for the Council. The full extent of the potential population within the proposed SDZ was 3,500 but as per Table 3.4 the 2023-2029, the proposed population target is now 197. This accounts for the vast amount of the total reduction as outlined above. The Department's requirements for the SDZ remains as outlined in its submission to the draft CDP but it is acknowledged that this will be considered if and when the proposed SDZ is re-instigated at some future date. The remaining reduction for the rest of the County Clare settlements is not significant to alter the Department's requirements as per its submission to the draft CDP.

Section 10.17.2 Primary and Secondary School Facilities

The Department notes and welcomes the new objective that new school sites in the Key Town of Ennis or within the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area should maximise opportunities whereby students and staff can travel by walking, cycling or public transport. The Department also notes the new objectives to ensure that all Local Area Plans and SDZ Planning Schemes should ensure that access by walking, cycling and public transport is a



key determinant in the location of new schools and that the design of new schools and the expansion of existing schools maximises the priority for pedestrians and cyclists above that of vehicular traffic and addresses conflict between motorists and pedestrians and cyclists. The Department also notes the amendment to ensure that planning applications for new schools or the expansion of existing schools should only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the road network in the vicinity of the proposed development can facilitate, or is planned to facilitate, safe walking and cycling and where the promotion of behavioural change measures regarding active and safe travel to the school site are demonstrated as capable of being implemented through mobility management planning.

Section 10.18 Dual Use of Community Facilities

The Department notes the amended objective to encourage and promote the sharing of the use of school facilities with community groups where possible having regard to the “Government’s guidelines on the use of School Buildings outside of School Hours”, Department of Education and Skills.

Section 11.2.5 Walking and Cycling

The Department notes and welcomes the new objective to support and promote initiatives such as Park and Stride, Green Schools Travel and Safe Routes to School Programmes and the concept of having safe routes to school.

Volume 3a 1.6.3 Other Sites in the Town Centre

The Department notes and welcomes the removal of the Holy Family School Site, Station Road from the county development plan.

Volume 3b Housing and Sustainable Communities

The Department notes and welcomes the amendment while it is acknowledged that the medium-term post-primary needs of the local community can be catered for by the post-primary schools in Shannon, it is considered that there may be a need for additional educational facilities in the town in the longer term, including a new Secondary School.

The Department acknowledges the crucial importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient and appropriate land is zoned for educational needs. The Department wishes to thank Clare County Council for the consideration given to the Department’s submission to the draft Development Plan. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

If you have any queries in respect of the above, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mairead Garry
Statutory Plans
Forward Planning Section