

CHAPTER 1



CHAPTER 1
Introduction

1. Introduction

The Draft Westmeath Development Plan 2021 – 2027 was placed on public display from 28th February 2020 until 5th May 2020. This consultation period was, however, further extended up until 30th June 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A total of 158 submissions and observations were received during the prescribed period in response to this stage of public consultation. In accordance with the requirements of Section 12(4)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a Chief Executive's Report was prepared, which summarised and detailed the submissions received on the Draft Development Plan and provided the response and recommendations of the Chief Executive to the issues raised.

The Elected Council Members, having considered the Draft Westmeath Development Plan 2021-2027 and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received, resolved, following Council meetings dated 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 24th November 2020, to amend the Draft Westmeath Development Plan. These proposed amendments, if made, constitute a material alteration to the Draft Westmeath Development Plan 2021-2027. Accordingly, the Council resolved to place the proposed amendments on public display for a period of not less than 4 weeks, in accordance with Section 12(7)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

1.1 Proposed Amendments to the Draft Westmeath Development Plan 2021-2027

This document is accompanied by amendments to the maps contained in Volume 2 Book of Maps. Volumes 3-5 contain the SEA, AA and SFRA Screening of the proposed amendments to the Draft Westmeath Development Plan 2021-2027. An SEA Environmental Report and Screening Determination (which includes information on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed amendment) and an AA Screening Report and AA Determination have been undertaken, in order to inform and assist the public and other interested parties in consideration of the proposed amendments to the Draft Westmeath Development Plan.

Written observations or submissions submitted during the consultation period, regarding the proposed amendments and the likely significant effects on the environment of their implementation will be taken into consideration before the making of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021 - 2027.

After the consultation period ends, the Chief Executive will prepare a report on all submissions and observations received during the prescribed period and submit the report to the Elected Members for their consideration. Having considered the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received, the Elected Members may, by resolution, make the Westmeath Development Plan 2021-2027 with or without amendment (of a non-material nature).

1.3 How to Make a Submission/Observation

Written observations or submissions regarding the **proposed amendments only** must be received between:

15th December 2020 and by 5:00pm on 20th January 2021, either;

- Online at:
<https://consult.westmeathcoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-westmeath-county-development-plan-2021-2027>

Or

- In writing to:
Administrative Officer, Forward Planning, Westmeath County Council, Civic Offices, Mount Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91 FH4N

Submissions/observations to be made by **one** medium only and should include:

- Proposed Amendment(s) **Reference Number(s)** as shown in the document
- Full Name & Address of person making submission/observation
- Details of organisation/community group/company which you represent where relevant.

Please note that submissions that do not relate to a proposed amendment, cannot be taken into consideration.

1.4 How this Document is Organised

Written Statement

Proposed amendments to the text of the Draft Plan are assigned a Reference Number and their location in the Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027 is referenced where applicable (references to page numbers are to the Draft Westmeath County Development Plan page number).

The proposed amendments to the Written Statement of the Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027 are set out in this document. The text of the Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027 is shown in normal font.

Additions to the text are shown in green print, for example:

Reference Number: Proposed Amendment CE OPR 1.4

Update CPO 3.13 of the plan as follows:

Support the ongoing monitoring and review of the HNDA, **over the lifetime of the Plan**, in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government **having consideration to the outcomes of any revised Development Plan Guidelines, and where appropriate, take any steps considered necessary to align with the approach set out in these guidelines.**

Deletions to the text are shown in red print with strikethrough, for example:

Reference Number: Proposed Amendment CE OPR 1.25

Delete CPO 8.103 of the plan as follows:

~~Support the construction of a link road between the Killucan Road L1015 and the roundabout at the junction of the R446-2 and N4-1120, thereby creating a bypass of the Main Street, Kinnegad (See Map 7).~~

Volume 2 Book of Maps

The proposed Amendments to the maps of the Draft Westmeath Development Plan 2021- 2027 are set out in a separate Volume 2 Book of Maps.

Volumes 3-5 SEA, AA & SFRA

An Addendum to the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Natura Impact Report and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment includes proposed amendments to these respective documents and is set out in a separate accompanying document.

2. Chapters

2.1 Chapter 1 Introduction

Chapter 1		
Proposed Amendment CH 1.1		
Section:	Heading	Page No.
1.1	Introduction	2

Insert addition text under Section 1.1 of the plan as follows:

The Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027 sets out the Council's proposed policies and objectives for the development of the County over the Plan period. **In this regard the CPO's listed in the Plan constitute the policies and objectives of the Plan.** The Development Plan seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of the County.

Chapter 1		
Proposed Amendment CH 1.2		
Section:	Heading	Page No.
1.5	Legislative Context	8

Insert reference to both the National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs) of the NPF and the Regional Strategic Outcomes (RSOs) of the RSES under Section 1.5 of the plan.

1.5 Legislative Context

This plan should be read in the hierarchical context of legislation and plans that exist at International, National and Regional level. Since the adoption of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 there have been significant developments at national and regional level in terms of strategic economic and planning policy - in particular, the publication of the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040 (NPF), the National Development Plan 2018-2027 (NDP) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) 2019 – 2031.

- **The National Planning Framework (NPF)**

The NPF is the overarching planning policy for the state (published in February 2018 under Project 2040) and contains ten National Strategic Outcomes and 75 National Policy Objectives. This planning framework sets out where development and investment should be guided to shape the national,

regional and local spatial development in economic, environmental and social terms to 2040. The ten shared goals or National Strategic Outcomes prescribed in the NPF are as follows:



Figure 1.2 National Strategic Outcomes of the National Planning Framework, NPF Pg. 13

- **The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) 2019**

The principal statutory purpose of the RSES is to support the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the development of the Eastern and Midland Region. The development of Regional Strategic Outcomes in the RSES is also closely aligned and supportive of both the NSO's prescribed in the NPF and the UN Sustainable Development Goals as indicated below:

 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



Figure 1.3 Regional Strategic Outcomes, EMRA RSES, Pg. 21