



Drogheda
Joint Local Area
Plan

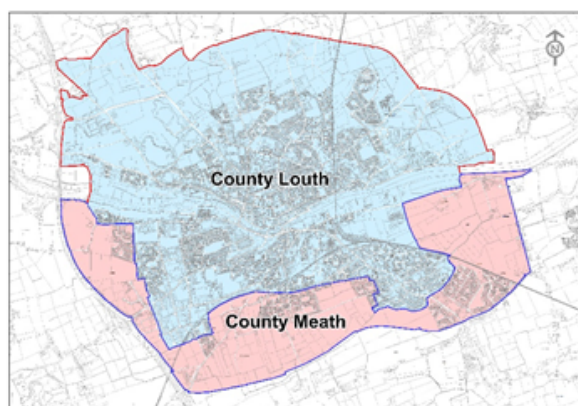
ISSUES PAPER

FEBRUARY 2024

Introduction



Louth County Council in partnership with Meath County Council intends to prepare a Local Area Plan (hereafter referred to as 'The Plan') for Drogheda. The town crosses the County boundary between Louth and Meath, with the 'Southern Environs' of the town located within Meath. Below is a map of the development boundary of Drogheda as set out in the Louth and Meath County Development Plans 2021-2027.



This Plan will set out a land use strategy for the future growth and sustainable development of Drogheda focusing on issues including population and economic growth, delivery of housing and community facilities, regeneration of vacant and under-utilised lands, the potential impacts of climate change, environmental protection, and investment in transportation and water services infrastructure. The duration of the Plan will be 6 years from the date of its adoption.

Purpose of the Issues Paper

This Issues Paper is intended to give a broad overview of the main development issues in Drogheda and encourage engagement and dialogue in the preparation of the Plan. The views of individuals or groups on the content of the Plan are welcomed.

If you wish to contribute to this Plan, which will shape the future growth and development of Drogheda, a submission can be made at this Pre-Draft stage on or before 4.30pm on Friday 15th March 2024. Further details on how to make a submission are set out in the Joint Consultation Portal <https://consult.drogheda.ie>

What is a Local/Urban Area Plan?

A Local Area Plan is a statutory document prepared by a Planning Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It includes a written statement that sets a narrative along with the policy objectives for the Plan. Associated with the written statement will be a book of maps that will indicate the land use zoning and areas of environmental interest.

Regional Policy Objective 4.11 of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region requires that a Joint Urban Area Plan is prepared for Drogheda. National Policy Objective 70 of the National Planning Framework (NPF) indicates that Urban Area Plans will be prepared under the provisions of the legislation for local area plans. In the absence of legislation that expressly provides for 'Urban Area Plans', this Plan is being prepared in the first instance as a Local Area Plan.

Who makes the Drogheda Plan?

The making of the Plan is a reserved function for the elected members of the Local Authority. As Louth and Meath Planning Authorities are co-operating in preparing the Plan, the elected members of Louth and Meath County Council will vote to make the Plan. The elected members will be assisted and advised by officials from both Louth and Meath County Council at each stage of the plan process.

How will the Plan affect me?

The Plan will provide a spatial planning framework for the future growth of Drogheda. It will identify the areas for residential and employment related development and where community and neighbourhood facilities such as schools, playing fields, shops, and local services will be provided. Planning applications are assessed against the land use zoning and policy objectives of the Plan together with any associated guidance documents and relevant national, regional, or county development plan policy.

National and Regional Policy

The national hierarchy of plans has been updated in recent years. The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the overarching document at a national level. This is supported by the National Development Plan (NDP), which sets out the investment strategy in capital infrastructure projects to be progressed and delivered across the country. Combined these documents are known as Project Ireland 2040. The NPF is currently being reviewed and is due in Draft format in Q1 2024. This review will include an analysis of population and housing targets, taking account of data from Census 2022.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region (RSES) sets out the mechanism for delivering the NPF at a regional level. The regional role of Drogheda is recognised in national and regional policy through its designation as a Regional Growth Centre (RGC) in the NPF and RSES.

The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 provide the framework and strategy for implementing national and regional policy at a County level. This is demonstrated in the prioritisation of Drogheda for growth and the position of the town at the top of the settlement hierarchy in the respective Development Plans.

The Plan is required to be consistent with the County Development Plan and demonstrate how national and regional policy is being implemented at a local level.

Louth and Meath County Development Plans 2021-2027

Louth and Meath County Council adopted their County Development Plans in 2021. Each County Development Plan includes a written statement and associated zoning map for Drogheda. These written statements and zoning maps provide the framework for the preparation of this Plan.

There are currently four proposed variations under Section 13 of the P & D Act 2000-2022 to the Meath County Development Plan (MCDP) 2021-2027. Variation Number 03 is in response to a decision of the High Court in *Protect East Meath Ltd v Meath County Council* [2021 No 958 JR]. A relevant summary and background are outlined in Appendix 1 of this document and the full decision can be viewed via the link below. Variation Number 03 shall address all issues raised in the aforementioned High Court decision and relevant orders.

<https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/meath-adopted-county-development-plan>

Why prepare a Plan in co-operation with Louth and Meath Local Authorities?

The requirement to prepare a Joint Plan stems from a recommendation in the Report of the Drogheda Boundary Review Committee published in 2017. Policy Objective RPO 4.11 in the RSES requires the preparation of a Joint Plan for Drogheda. Both Louth and Meath County Council recognise the benefits of co-operating in preparing the Drogheda Plan so as to deliver a unified vision for Drogheda that will build on its designation as a Regional Growth Centre and improve the opportunities and quality of life for all residents living in the town.

Strategy for Future Development in Drogheda

Drogheda is a designated Regional Growth Centre in national and regional policy with the town having a targeted population of 50,000 by 2031 (as set out in the RSES). The growth strategy for Drogheda will focus on prioritising growth in the right locations, supporting economic development, strengthening the urban core, facilitating regeneration, enabling climate resilience, and supporting infrastructure investment that will improve connectivity and unlock undeveloped lands for employment and residential related uses.

Whilst there will be a strong emphasis on delivering more compact growth the Plan will also facilitate the orderly release of greenfield lands where high quality serviced neighbourhoods can be developed. The release of these lands will need to be carefully managed and in this regard phasing may be introduced as part of the Plan. This will involve active land management and ensuring and delivering of high quality residential neighbourhoods and typology of residential units to cater for a young and fast growing population.

Height and Density

The 'Urban Development and Building Heights – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2018), recognises the role of building heights in delivering compact growth through the enhancement of the scale and density of development. The preparation of the Plan will include an analysis of suitable locations for taller buildings in Drogheda and the role that such buildings will have on the future development of the town. Your thoughts on how taller buildings can integrate into the Drogheda streetscape would be welcomed and, in particular, the areas of the town that could potentially facilitate the development of taller buildings.

Urban Design and Placemaking

One of the challenges of creating more compact settlements through taller buildings or increased densities is ensuring that the built environment in such developments is attractive and adaptable to meet the needs of the local community. It is also critical that provision is made for the appropriate level of community services and open spaces to meet the needs of an increased population in more central locations. Your thoughts on what you consider important in creating an attractive and balanced urban environment will be welcomed.

Residential Development/Compact Growth

Whilst there is a strong emphasis on delivering compact growth it is recognised that in order to achieve the projected population increase for Drogheda as set out in the Louth and Meath County Development Plans, there will also be a need to facilitate residential development on appropriate greenfield lands. There is an extensive landbank of residentially zoned lands within the plan boundary.

As part of the NPF update and review, the government are developing an initiative known as Transport Orientated Development (ToDs). The key aim of ToDs is to focus and deliver large volumes of residential units based around high quality public transport corridor e.g. Dart / Dart + and Bus Connects. Both Louth and Meath County Council have put forward a number of candidate sites under a recent ToD request from the DHLGH (including parts of Drogheda) and these are currently being considered by the Department at present.

Residential Development / Compact Growth - Key Questions

1. How should the Joint Plan promote the concept of compact growth and what areas should be targeted for consolidation?
2. Where higher density development is proposed, how can we ensure that appropriate standards of urban design and architecture are promoted to ensure sustainable and liveable communities?
3. What criteria are important in the assessment of higher density proposals?
4. What areas of Drogheda are suitable for taller buildings?

Climate Action

Land use and spatial planning has a fundamental role to play in reducing our carbon footprint. The Climate Action Plan 2023 seeks to put the country on a more sustainable path by cutting emissions, creating a cleaner, greener economy and society, and protecting people from the consequences of climate change.

This Plan will have a key role in facilitating and promoting tangible actions to address climate change.

As part of the preparation of the Plan both Councils will engage with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) to assist in the integration of climate adaptation and mitigation into the policy objectives of the Plan. These will be closely aligned with the objectives of the Louth and Meath Climate Action Plans, which are currently being finalised. Adaptation measures refer to measures which can reduce the negative impact of climate change, while mitigation measures refer to measures that can be undertaken to reduce emissions.

Examples of ways in which the Plan can influence climate change include promoting and facilitating compact growth and sustainable transport projects, minimising/reducing the risk of flooding, enhancing green infrastructure and biodiversity, promoting energy conservation and efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy.

Climate Action – Key Questions

1. How can the Drogheda Joint Plan facilitate Drogheda's transition to a low carbon community?
2. How can the Joint Plan address the challenges associated with climate change in order to ensure Drogheda becomes a more climate resilient place to live?

Regeneration

As part of the policy of promoting compact growth there will be support for the regeneration of vacant and under-utilised lands throughout Drogheda. The following areas, in particular, have been identified for regeneration:

- The North and South Quays in the Docklands area
- The Westgate area
- A Former Quarry north of Cement Road

You are invited to suggest any other areas of Drogheda that the Plan could highlight and support for regeneration purposes.

Regeneration – Key Questions

1. How can the Joint Plan promote and encourage the redevelopment of under-utilised lands?
2. What areas of Drogheda should be identified and prioritised for regeneration?
3. What measures should be considered to encourage the use of vacant sites, the upper floors of buildings and underutilised infill sites?

Quality Housing

A fundamental element in the successful development of Drogheda as a Regional Growth Centre is ensuring that the town is an attractive location in which to live and work. This includes the creation of attractive, safe, and well connected neighbourhoods that encourage social interaction and a healthy lifestyle. It is important that there is a suitable mix of housing that meets the needs of the entire community in close proximity to local services and community facilities.

Housing - Key Questions

1. What are the key housing related issues in Drogheda?
2. What type of housing would you like to see built in Drogheda?
3. What areas in Drogheda would you like to see housing developed?

Sustainable Communities

The provision of social and community infrastructure in appropriate locations is an essential component of building sustainable, properly planned, and healthy communities. With a significant population increase projected in Drogheda it is important that the Plan considers how the town will cater for new and growing communities and an increasingly diverse population.

In addition to facilitating the provision of social and community infrastructure the Plan will also seek to respond to the issue of social exclusion and socio-economic disadvantage by creating inclusive communities where everyone has access to services, housing, and facilities to meet their needs.

Sustainable Communities - Key Questions

1. Are Drogheda's neighbourhoods delivering quality of life and what would make your community a more 'liveable' space?
2. Are the provision of community, education, sport, and recreation facilities in Drogheda adequate to meet the needs of the existing population in the town, and if not, what additional facilities or infrastructure are required?
3. How can we plan for different sectors of society including an ageing population, people with disabilities, children, young people, and ethnic minorities?

4. Are there any learnings we can take from the Covid-19 pandemic we can utilise in creating resilience in local neighbourhoods and communities?

5. What type of community facilities and local services are needed in existing and new residential communities and the town as a whole?

6. How can individuals, families, and community groups be encouraged to engage in the planning and delivery of community facilities in their area?

7. What type of additional sports and recreational facilities would you like to see in Drogheda?

Economy and Employment

Drogheda is strategically located along the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor with excellent access to Dublin and Belfast City Centres, airports, and ports. The designation of Drogheda as a Regional Growth Centre is recognition of the importance of Drogheda in facilitating future population and economic growth along this corridor.

With over 12,000 jobs in the town and a Jobs:Workforce Ratio of 0.76 in 2016 the economic benefits associated with the strategic location of the town, and in particular, the strength of the employment base are apparent.

The Plan will continue to promote the strategic location of Drogheda and strengthen economic links along the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and improve the economic competitiveness of the town. The IDA Business and Technology Park in South Drogheda has recently been subject to a new development by a multinational company. The IDA has also recently acquired a strategic landbank to the north of the town centre. In conjunction with the IDA and EI, both LCC and MCC shall continue to promote support and develop all lands for economic and employment related development.

Drogheda Port is an important asset to both the town and local businesses. It provides for both general freight and container services and can handle various types of cargo.

The Docklands Area of Drogheda has significant regeneration potential including the creation of a new urban quarter on both sides of the River Boyne. Port activities have ceased on the south inner quays with docking still taking place on the north inner quays. In the short term, the South Inner Quays have more potential for redevelopment however, with proposals to consolidate Drogheda Port at the deep water facility at Tom Roe's Point, the North Inner Quays may also become available in the future.

Economy and Employment – Key Questions

1. How can the Plan support existing businesses and increase economic growth in Drogheda?
2. How can Drogheda best maximise its attractiveness and strengths for economic investment?
3. How can the Plan address issues of economic deprivation in Drogheda and spread the benefits of economic growth to all sectors of society?
4. How can the Plan support the new work practices that have been introduced following Covid-19?

The 'Town Centre First Approach' is a national policy that recognises the importance of a holistic, cross-sectoral, and collaborative approach in the revitalisation of town centres. It is founded on the 'Town Centre Health Check' and seeks to facilitate the re-invigoration of towns, addressing issues of vacancy and under-use of building stock, and ensuring they become vibrant places for living and working.

Retail and Town Centre First Approach

Changing consumer habits combined with advances in technology continue to have a significant impact on the retail sector. Gradual changes in retailing have been accelerated by Covid-19 as the extended periods of retail outlets being closed resulted in consumers becoming more reliant on online retailing. This has resulted in many well-known and high profile shops being closed. Revitalising and developing the resilience of Drogheda town centre area is a key challenge of the Plan.

Whilst Drogheda town centre is a vibrant and attractive location with a strong sense of character that can enable people to enjoy a cultural experience the primary role of the town centre as a retail destination is facing significant challenges. This is evident by the high levels of vacancy both along West and Narrow West Street and the principal shopping centres; Scotch Hall and the Laurence Centre. The edge of centre Retail Parks at Mell (M1 Retail Park) and the Donore Road in addition to the Southgate Shopping Centre at Colpe Cross have all resulted in a displacement of shoppers from the town centre. For the town centre to remain competitive and resilient it must respond to these challenges and attract people back to the principal shopping streets. This is a significant challenge however there are opportunities to build on existing strengths in order to promote a broader town centre experience.

The publication of the Westgate Vision and Townscape Recovery Guide in 2018 identifies opportunities for improvements to the public realm and built environment, and the sensitive adaptation and re-use of vacant lands and buildings for new homes and businesses. Funding for the planning phase of the Westgate Vision has been received under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. An application for public realm works in the Westgate area is currently with An Bord Pleanála for consideration.

Retail - Key Questions

1. How can the Plan support retailing in the town centre and ensure the town centre remains the primary shopping destination in the town?
2. What do you think the appropriate balance and mix is between retail and other town centre uses such as leisure, hospitality, and retail services?
3. Do you think a greater emphasis should be made on the role of the town centre in facilitating and delivering cultural experiences in the Plan?
4. What policy approach should the Plan have towards vacant units on shopping streets and what temporary uses (if any) should be encouraged on these streets?
5. How can Drogheda Town Centre be improved in terms of its physical attractiveness and destination as a prime shopping location?
6. What aspects of the Westgate Vision are most important in the revitalisation of the town centre?
7. Would pedestrianising parts of the town centre make it more attractive for shoppers and visitors and would this have a positive or negative impact on businesses operating in the town centre area?
8. Are you satisfied with the variety and quality of shops in Drogheda? If not what improvements/changes would you like to see?
9. How can the evening and night-time economy be developed for the benefit of Drogheda?
10. How can the 'Town Centre First Approach' assist in revitalising Drogheda town centre and addressing the issue of vacancy?
11. What are your thoughts on facilitating residential development in vacant buildings in the town centre?

Tourism

Drogheda has significant tourism potential, both within the town itself where its rich urban heritage is evident in the archaeology and architecture within the historic town core, and also as a gateway to heritage sites outside the town in the Boyne Valley. The town benefits from significant heritage assets, ranging from St Laurence's Gate and the historic town walls to St. Peters Church and the Shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett.

Drogheda is also a Fáilte Ireland 'Destination Town', an initiative to boost the attractiveness and tourism potential of the town. It is recognised that the River Boyne is an asset in the town that can be utilised to develop water based recreational activities.

Tourism - Key Questions

1. How can the Plan assist in Drogheda maximising its tourism potential?
2. Are there areas in the town that have the potential to be developed for tourism and recreational purposes?

Movement

There is a strong emphasis at national, regional, and county level to integrate land use and transportation and encourage a shift from the private car to walking, cycling, and public transport. A Local Transport Plan will be prepared for Drogheda as part of the Plan which will seek to ensure the integration of land use and transport planning. It will also provide a framework for the development of transport infrastructure in Drogheda. This will include a focus on developing sustainable development around the existing public transport hubs and shall be reinforced through the identification, confirmation and development of Transport Orientated Development sites.

In addition to investment in walking, cycling, and public transport infrastructure, the Plan will continue to support the progression of the Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR). Phase 1 of this road is currently under construction. This includes the construction of the road from the Rosehall roundabout to the Ballymakenny Road and the upgrade of Twenties Lane. The road is a critical piece of enabling infrastructure that will have the dual benefit of removing HGVs and port related traffic from the town centre whilst also releasing strategically located lands to the north of the town centre for residential and employment related uses.



As part of the upgrade and modernisation of the rail network it is proposed to extend the DART along the northern line from Malahide and Howth where it currently terminates, to Drogheda. This project, known as DART+ Coastal North is a major infrastructure project that will be delivered on a phased basis. Works will include the electrification and re-signalling of the rail line from Malahide to Drogheda and the reconfiguration and upgrade of the rail depot at Drogheda. This project has been included in the National Development Plan. There is presently no funding available for additional rail stations in Drogheda.

Movement - Key Questions

1. How do we encourage more people to travel sustainably such as walk, cycle, and use public transport?
2. What are the key connectivity and movement issues affecting workers, residents, and visitors within Drogheda?
3. How can the safety of pedestrians and cyclists be improved?
4. How can we reduce harmful emissions from transport?
5. What improvements would you like to see in public transport services both within Drogheda and connecting Drogheda to other centres?

As Drogheda continues to grow it is important that a balance is achieved in the management of the natural assets in the town in a way that people can continue to enjoy their recreational benefits whilst also protecting the habitats and designated sites for future generations. This includes investment in existing and the provision of additional riverside walks and cycleways such as the extension of the Boyne Greenway from Drogheda to Mornington.

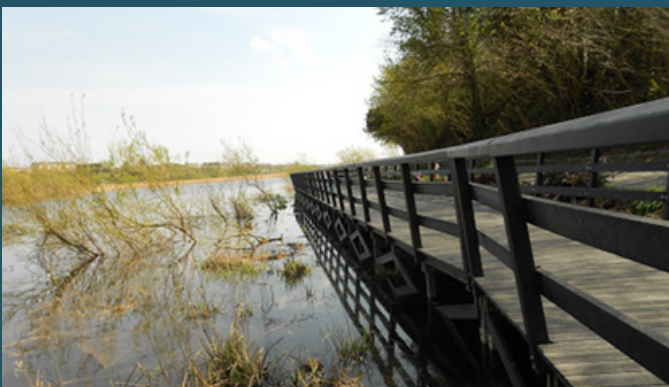
The Plan will also seek to identify the potential role that open spaces and amenity areas in Drogheda can play in mitigating against the impacts of climate change through carbon capture, enhancing biodiversity, sustainable water management and flood resilience.

Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Recreation, and Natural Heritage – Key Questions

1. How do we promote the health, environment and heritage benefits of green infrastructure?
2. How do we integrate green solutions within compact urban development?
3. How do we manage our natural assets as the population of Drogheda continues to grow?
4. How can the Plan protect and enhance the biodiversity of Drogheda?

Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Recreation, and Natural Heritage

The location of Drogheda along the River Boyne provides the town with a wide network of ecologically important habitats that are rich in biodiversity. This is reflected in the designated sites in Drogheda which include the Boyne Estuary Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA), the River Boyne and Blackwater SAC and the Boyne River Islands proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). These habitats, in addition to the other green spaces in the town such as parks and open spaces, perform multiple functions that deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits.



Built Heritage and Archaeology

Drogheda is one of the most historic towns in the country, with the town being built as two planned walled towns either side of the River Boyne more than 800 years ago. The town has distinctive street and lane patterns, streetscapes and historic sites in addition to an abundance of archaeological sites. The rich heritage of Drogheda is an important asset in promoting the town as a tourist destination. Protecting and enhancing the built heritage will therefore be an important aspect of the Plan.

Built Heritage and Archaeology – Key Questions

1. How can we encourage the sensitive reuse of redundant or derelict historic buildings?
2. How can we achieve a balance between protecting the built heritage of Drogheda whilst also facilitating the redevelopment and regeneration of the urban core of the town?
3. How can Drogheda's archaeological and built heritage be protected?

Water Services Infrastructure and Utilities

The sustainable growth of Drogheda is dependent on the provision of water and waste water infrastructure to meet the needs of the future population and businesses. Uisce Éireann is responsible for the provision of water services. Louth and Meath County Council, through Service Level Agreements with Uisce Éireann, are contracted to manage and maintain all aspects of water service provision.

Wastewater in Drogheda is directed to the Wastewater Treatment Plant on the Marsh Road. There is currently capacity in the treatment plant to accommodate additional loading associated with population and economic growth.

Uisce Éireann are currently preparing a strategic plan for the servicing of undeveloped lands in Drogheda. A Drainage Area Plan for the town is also under preparation.

Water supply in Drogheda is sourced from the South Louth and East Meath Water Resource Zone. The main water source is abstraction from the River Boyne at Roughgrange where it is pumped to the Staleen Water Treatment Works for treatment. The Uisce Éireann National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) will develop options for addressing any capacity issues in the water supply in Drogheda.

As part of the management of flood risk in Drogheda, Louth County Council, in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW), are advancing the Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Scheme. On completion, it is anticipated that this Flood Relief Scheme will provide protection to approximately 450 properties from 1 in 100-year flood events.

Water Services & Infrastructure - Key Questions

1. What water services infrastructure projects should be prioritised during the Plan? Are there any deficiencies in piped services which might affect the development of Drogheda?
2. How can we ensure that developments in Drogheda do not contribute to the deterioration in water quality including groundwater, rivers, and coastal waterways?
3. In addition to supporting the progression and implementation of the Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Scheme, what other measures should this Plan include to manage the risk of flooding of both existing and new development areas?

Environmental Assessment

Environmental assessments of the Plan are a crucial element of the process, assessing the potential environmental impacts of the implementation of policy objectives.

This will include Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). The Plan can only be adopted if it will not adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will provide an assessment of all types of flood risk within Drogheda and will assist in making informed strategic land-use planning decisions and formulate flood risk policies.

Reports in relation to all of the above assessments will be available for public inspection in conjunction with the Draft Plan.



Next Steps

Following completion of the pre-draft stage of public consultation, Louth and Meath County Council’s will commence the preparation of the Draft Local Area Plan, informed by the submissions received as part of the pre-draft consultation/stakeholder engagement.

When the Draft Plan has been prepared, the statutory process will begin and the Draft Plan will go on public display for a period of 6-weeks, during which time there will be an opportunity to make a submission and attend public consultation events.

Making a Submission

Submissions should be made by **one** medium only, in **writing** or via our **online consultation portal**, the details of which are set out hereunder. Please note late or emailed submissions **cannot** be considered and will be returned.

All written submissions should include your name, address and, if applicable, details of the organisation or group you represent, on a separate sheet to the actual submission.

There will be a series of ‘drop in’ sessions, so you can come and talk to us directly about what you think the Joint Plan should include.

Further details on the Issues Paper and how to make a submission are set out on the online consultation portal at <https://consult.drogheda.ie>

WHERE DO I SEND MY SUBMISSION?

Submissions should be marked “Pre-Draft Issues Paper Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan” and sent:

Via our online Consultation Portal
<https://consult.drogheda.ie>

In Writing to:

Planning Section, Louth County Council, Town Hall,
 Crowe Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth A91 W20C

or

Senior Executive Officer, Planning Section, Meath
 County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan,
 Co. Meath C15 Y291

QUERIES

Any queries in relation to this Issues Paper or the Joint Plan can be emailed to:

Louth – jointdroghedalap@louthcoco.ie

Meath – jointdroghedalap@meathcoco.ie

Public Consultation Drop-In Sessions

Drogheda Library, Stockwell Lane, Moneymore, Drogheda,
 Co. Louth A92 PY20

Date

Thursday 8th February, 2024

Tuesday 13th February, 2024

Time

4:30pm - 7:45pm

4:30pm - 7:45pm

Stages of a Local Area Plan



Submissions/observations in relation to this Pre-Draft Issues Paper can be made during the public consultation period, from Wednesday 31st January 2024 to Friday 15th March 2024 (inclusive).

APPENDIX 1

The Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 had 5 JR challenges post adoption on 03 November 2021, one of which was *Protect East Meath Ltd v Meath County Council* [2021 No 958 JR]* and in South Drogheda. The decision of the High Court on 03rd May 2023 was that Humphreys, J 'granted limited certiorari of the plan together with an interlocutory stay on effect being given to the zoning being quashed and to any current or future planning applications or appeals thereby affected'.

Significantly, the subsequent orders of Humphreys, J were outlined in paragraphs 37, 76 and 69 of the decision and are relevant to the development of the Draft Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan. In accordance with the orders, Meath County Council are currently preparing a proposed variation of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 under Section 13 of the P & D Act 2000-2022 that will both respond and remedy the court orders and ensure that appropriate zoning is considered and in place for inclusion in the Plan for Drogheda. This variation process shall run in parallel and concurrent with the development of the Draft Joint Local Area Plan for Drogheda and is expected to be completed in May / June 2024.

<https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/meath-adopted-county-development-plan>

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