

Statement of Reasons for Recommending that a Draft Direction Not Be Issued under Section 63(11) of the Planning and Development Act 2024

Variation No. 2 to the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027

The Office of the Planning Regulator (Office) has carried out its assessment of the Variation No. 2 to the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 (Variation) in accordance with section 63 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Act).

In carrying out this assessment, the Office considered whether any of the following criteria is met:

- a) the Variation fails to establish an integrated overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the relevant area;
- b) the Variation is materially inconsistent with the National Planning Framework (NPF), the relevant regional spatial and economic strategy (RSES), or National Planning Policies and Measures (NPPM);
- c) the Variation departs from any relevant guidance set out in National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) and, in the opinion of the Office, no adequate explanation has been offered justifying that departure having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area;
- d) the Variation departs from any relevant transport strategy of the National Transport Authority (NTA) and, in the opinion of the Office, no adequate explanation has been offered justifying that departure having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area; or
- e) the Variation is not otherwise in contravention of the Act.

Conclusion

The Office has concluded that none of the above criteria are met and, accordingly, recommends that no draft direction be issued.

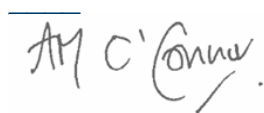
Basis for Conclusion

No recommendations in respect of the development plan were made by the Minister or the Office during the making of the plan.

In forming this view, the Office in particular, considered:

- the National Planning Framework First Revision (2025);
- the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly;
- National Planning Policies and Measures and National Planning Policy Guidance;
- any relevant transport strategy published by the National Transport Authority;
- the submission made by the Office at draft stage;
- submissions and recommendations made by the National Transport Authority and other prescribed bodies;
- the requirements of Chapter 5, Part 3 of the Act; and
- those matters in section 547(3) not referred to above.

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Anne Marie O'Connor

Deputy Regulator and Director of Planning Policy Implementation

Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015