

19th July 2019

Planning Department Meath County Council Buvinda House, Dublin Road Navan - C15 Y291

RE: Proposed Variation No.1 to the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

To whom it concerns,

Thank you for your authority's work in preparing Proposed Variation No.1 to the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020.

The Office of the Planning Regulator has evaluated the Proposed Variation above under the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018, under which the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) was established on 3rd April last.

As your authority will be aware, one of the key functions of the OPR includes the assessment of statutory plans and strategies to ensure their consistency with legislative and policy requirements relating to planning.

The Office notes the content of the Proposed Variation to the Trim Development Plan which includes provision for additional residential and employment lands on the eastern side of the town positioned between the Navan Road (R161) and the River Boyne. The Proposed Variation provides background detail and rationale on the changes proposed and the indicated changes to the plan.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and Meath County Development Plan

The OPR seeks to ensure broad policy consistency between national, regional and local levels of the statutory planning policy hierarchy, from the National Planning Framework to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and to your authority's County Development Plan. The OPR notes the recent finalisation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and the subsequent review of the Meath County Development Plan (CDP) which the Council is now obliged to progress in accordance with statutory requirements. This comprehensive new county wide CDP will incorporate the former Trim town council development plan area and will be required to ensure strong consistency with the policies and objectives of the RSES and the National Planning Framework including in relation to core strategy, housing and economic policies. As such, the OPR therefore notes that the development policies for Trim, including for residential and economic development, will be considered as part of this statutory CDP process and that the current Trim Development Plan will be superseded appropriately by this process.

If you have any further queries please contact me, using the details provided below, or any of the staff of the Office of the Planning Regulator at <u>plans@OPR.ie</u>

Yours sincerely,

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Gary Ryan Director, Office of the Planning Regulator

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