

15th November 2021

Administrative Officer,
Forward Planning Department,
Áras An Chontae,
Longford County Council,
Great Water Street,
Longford,
N39 NH56.

Re: Adopted Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

A chara,

The Office of the Planning Regulator (the Office) acknowledges the adoption of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 by the members of Longford County Council on the 19th October 2021. The Office also acknowledges receipt of your letter of 8th November, further to section 31(AM)(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act). The Office has reviewed the adopted plan in accordance with the legislative requirements set out in section 31(AM) of the Act.

The Office welcomes the modifications made in the adoption of the Plan in response to recommendations 1 to 6 (inclusive) and observations 1 to 3 (inclusive). In particular, the Office commends the planning authority and its members for the modifications to the land use zoning maps in Ballymahon, Drumlish and Clondra. This demonstrates the planning authority's clear commitment to supporting compact growth and sequential development and avoiding areas at risk of flooding.

The Office notes, however, that no modifications were proposed by the chief executive or adopted by the elected members in relation to MA Recommendation 7 of the submission made by the Office in respect of the deletion of RPS No. 212, RPS No. 328 and RPS No. 345 from the Record of Protected Structures.

While the Office notes that no submission was made by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) regarding this matter, the absence of a submission does not, of itself, provide justification for deleting such structures from the Record without any clear heritage reason or rationale when the National Planning

Framework sets out a clear objective to enhance, integrate and protect our built heritage for future generations (National Policy Objective 17).

In this context, the Office advises your authority that careful consideration should be given to the matters relating to the record of protected structures and the protection of built heritage in the future.

Notwithstanding the above, the Office is satisfied with the overall outcome of the adopted plan and the manner in which the vast majority of its recommendations and observations were addressed at draft plan and material alterations stages.

In conclusion, the Office welcomes the adoption of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027, and looks forward to continued engagement with Longford County Council in the implementation of national and regional policy at the local level.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AM O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a diagonal slash at the end.

Anne Marie O'Connor
Deputy Planning Regulator

Annemarie.oconnor@opr.ie