

15th August 2022

A/Director of Services
Planning, Infrastructure & Economic Development
Louth County Council
Town Hall
Crowe Street
Dundalk
Co. Louth A91 W20C.

Re: Adopted Variation No. 1 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

A chara,

The Office of the Planning Regulator (the Office) acknowledges the adoption of Variation No. 1 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 (the Variation) by the members of Louth County Council on the 18th July 2022.

The Office also acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 4th August 2022, further to section 31(AM)(6) of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended (the Act).

The Office has reviewed the adopted Variation in accordance with the legislative requirements set out in section 31(AM) of the Act.

The Office's submission contained one recommendation which required the planning authority '*...to provide justification for the significantly reduced housing target of 20% for Drogheda over the plan period 2021 – 2027...*' and '*...to demonstrate that the reduced housing supply target will not impact on Drogheda's ability to reach its RSES population target by 2031*'.

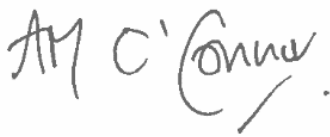
The Office's submission also advised the planning authority to review the future population figures for the individual settlements / tiers in column D so that they are consistent with the respective HST figure in column F.

The Office notes that no modifications were made to the core strategy table 2.17 in respect of the housing allocation to Drogheda or the projected population increase figures in column D over the 2021 – 2027 plan period.

The Office does, however, accept the reassurances provided by the Chief Executive that the reduced housing supply target figure for Drogheda will not impact on its ability to reach its Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy population target by 2031, and that development activity in each settlement will be closely monitored over the plan period in relation to the core strategy.

The Office welcomes the adoption of Variation No. 1 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, and looks forward to continued engagement with Louth County Council in the implementation of national policy at the local level.

Is mise le meas,



Anne Marie O'Connor

Deputy Regulator and Director of Plans Evaluations
