OPR Ref: IP-018-23



30th June 2023

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

Re: Pre-Draft Issues Paper Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030

A chara,

Thank you for your authority's work in preparing the pre-draft Issues Paper for the proposed Dundalk Local Area Plan (the Issues Paper). The Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030 (the LAP) is a mandatory local area plan under section 19(1)(b) of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended (the Act).

The Office welcomes the timely commencement of the plan-making process, through the publication of the Issues Paper, in view of the provisions under sections 18(4)(b) and 19(2B) and in view of the recent adoption of the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 (the Development Plan).

As section 20(1) does not prescribe the requirements for public consultation at pre-draft stage for LAPs, the planning authority is commended for publishing an Issues Paper, engaging proactively with the public and notifying the Office of the intention to prepare the LAP. The future LAP has the potential to deliver on key objectives of the Development Plan, including housing, employment and services.



In accordance with the provisions of section 31AO of the Act, the Office is obliged to evaluate and assess local area plans in the context of certain statutory parameters including:

- matters generally within the scope of section 19;
- consistency with the objectives of development plan, its core strategy, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (the RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA);
- consistency with the transport strategy of the National Transport Authority (NTA);
- ministerial guidelines made under section 28;
- ministerial policy directives issued under section 29; and
- such other matters as the Minister may prescribed under section 262 or otherwise prescribe.

The Office has set out some broad issues, relevant to the preparation of most, if not all LAPs, in addition to some specific issues of particular relevance to the preparation of this LAP, under the following eleven themes:

- 1. <u>Strategic policy framework</u>
- 2. <u>Development plan and core strategy</u>
- 3. Zoning, compact growth and infrastructural services
- 4. Regeneration
- 5. Education, social and community amenities
- 6. Economic development and employment
- 7. Transport and mobility
- 8. Environment, built and natural heritage
- 9. <u>Climate change mitigation and adaptation</u>
- 10. Implementation and monitoring
- 11. Other matters



The Office's comments are offered without prejudice to any observations and recommendations as may be forthcoming from the Office at future stages of the planmaking process. They do not affect the obligation on your planning authority to comply with the relevant legislative requirements, or to be consistent with the fullness of the detailed policy context of the higher order plans and strategies and Ministerial guidelines.

1. Strategic Policy Framework

The planning authority will be aware that section 20(5) of the Act requires the LAP to be consistent with the objectives of the RSES, in addition to the *Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework* (NPF), the specific planning policy requirements (SPPRs) of section 28 guidelines, and the relevant development plan.

The provisions of the RSES have generally been transposed through the Development Plan. Therefore, in ensuring consistency with the Development Plan and its core strategy, the planning authority can ensure that it is also generally consistent with the RSES and NPF. However, the Office encourages the planning authority to liaise with the EMRA in preparation of the draft LAP to ensure consistency with the RSES, particularly where clarity is required on the objectives and guiding principles set out therein.

The Issues Paper demonstrates a clear understanding of the role of the settlement of Dundalk which is designated as a Regional Growth Centre in the RSES. The RSES recognises Dundalk as an established centre of agglomeration strategically located on the Dublin – Belfast rail corridor and M1 motorway in proximity to both the metropolitan centres of Belfast and Dublin. The RSES identifies Dundalk as one of the fastest growing towns in the country, with the potential to form part of a sustainable network of urban centres of scale, including Newry connected by public transport within the region and within the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor.

In aligning with the RSES, the LAP should consider the strategic vision, goals and guiding principles of the RSES, in addition to consistency with the relevant regional policy objectives (RPOs), in particular RPOs 4.19 - 4.25.



2. Development plan and core strategy

Section 19(2)(b) of the Act also requires the LAP to be consistent with the objectives of the relevant development plan and its core strategy. A key message from the section 28 *Local Area Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2013) (LAP Guidelines) is that consistency between LAPs and the core strategy of development plans is an essential requirement, particularly in relation to the quantum and location of lands identified for development.

The Office therefore cautions against the introduction of any objectives that would conflict with the detailed provisions of the core strategy and the housing supply target for the settlement.

The Office notes that the revised housing supply target and quantum of land zoned to provide for the delivery of residential units over the plan-period was incorporated via Variation 1 to the Development Plan, which came into effect on 18th July 2022. The Office notes Variation 1 was required in order to update the Development Plan to take account of the methodology and housing projections as set out in the section 28 guidelines *Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning* (2020) and the Projected Housing Demand by Local Authority 2020 – 2031 ESRI NPF Scenario Housing Supply Target.

The preliminary census figures for County Louth indicate that the population has increased by approximately 7.9% (10,216 persons) which is broadly in line with the population projections for the new plan-period and to promote Dundalk as a Regional Growth Centre of scale with a population of 50,000 people by 2031. The Office notes the revised household allocation introduced through Variation 1 seeks to provide for 2,447 (previously 2,606 in the adopted Development Plan) additional housing units with a requirement for 225.7 Ha of New Residential land (Phase I and Phase II) for Dundalk.

3. Zoning, compact growth and infrastructural services

The objectives of the LAP are required to be consistent with the policy objectives of the RSES, which seek to *…support the development of Dundalk as an attractive, vibrant and highly accessible Regional Centre and economic driver…*¹.

¹ RPO 4.19



The key priorities set out in the RSES seek to support the compact growth of Dundalk as a regional driver of city scale, capitalising on its location on the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor and to drive the linkage between Dundalk and Newry to strengthen cross border synergy in services and functions.

The RSES requires the LAP to facilitate the sustainable, compact sequential growth and urban regeneration in the town core by consolidating the built-up footprint through regeneration of the town centre core character area with a focus on Clanbrassil Street / St. Nicholas Quarter and development of key town centre infill and brownfield sites.

A critical issue for the LAP is the need to prioritise future urban development on infill / brownfield sites and include mechanisms to activate underused, vacant or derelict lands for residential development to provide for compact growth consistent with RPO 3.2.

The LAP should also consider how the delivery of housing in locations that are well serviced in terms of the social and physical infrastructure, and are easily accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, can be supported and prioritised. The Office also notes the commitment to reviewing the Infrastructure Assessment in relation to ensuring sufficient site servicing / infrastructure as part of the LAP for Dundalk under Objective CS9 of the Development Plan.

In this respect, the Office advises the planning authority to liaise closely and collaborate with the relevant prescribed authorities concerning the delivery of essential services and infrastructure.

The Office welcomes the ambitious targets in its existing core strategy within the Development Plan which seek to accommodate c. 67% of new housing within existing brownfield / infill sites for Dundalk. Therefore, the Office encourages the planning authority to include appropriate land activation measures to ensure these brownfield development targets are implemented as part of the LAP.

Compact growth will play a central role to the achieving the National Climate Objective and the Government's obligatory target of 51% for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction by 2030 and for a carbon neutral economy by 2050.



The Office also welcomes the intention of the LAP to provide for suitable locations for taller buildings in Dundalk and how this can assist in achieving higher densities and compact growth.

Furthermore, any provisions or standards for residential density or building height in the LAP should have regard to relevant section 28 guidelines, including *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Cities, Towns & Villages* (2009), *Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2018), and *Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2018), and *Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New SPPRs therein.*

4. Regeneration

Both the NPF (NPO 4, 6, 18a, 18b and 35) and the policy objectives and provisions of the RSES place a strong emphasis on urban regeneration to create attractive, liveable, well-designed, high quality urban places that provide for a high quality of life and well-being. Regeneration and revitalisation of settlements through reuse of brownfield sites and vacant / underutilised buildings will play a crucial role in mitigating climate change and in achieving the Government's obligatory target of 51% for GHG emissions reduction by 2030 and for a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

The Office commends the planning authority for the successful delivery of Urban Regeneration Development Fund-funded regeneration projects in Dundalk, which includes the delivery of the public realm scheme on Clanbrassil Street, as well as the ongoing redevelopment of The Long Walk and St. Nicholas Quarter. It is understood that the Long Walk consists of the *Carroll Village and Long Walk Shopping Centres, Dundalk Bus Station* and areas to the east of the Long Walk Road. The Office encourages the planning authority to further advance these regeneration projects and seek to explore further mechanisms and opportunity sites to address vacancy and decline.

The RSES also identifies regeneration opportunity sites such as *Williamsons Mall* and *Dunnes Park Street*. These opportunity sites and others should be clearly identified in the forthcoming LAP, including measures to support their activation. The regeneration of the Seatown / Port Harbour Area as set out in the *Urban Design Framework* (2008) should be



delivered through the LAP, which will provide further opportunities to create a water based urban quarter and recreational location in Dundalk.

Furthermore, an evidence-based approach should be taken to the identification of additional regeneration sites, or vacant or underutilised buildings, generally, in accordance with the guiding principles of the RSES for urban infill and regeneration, where applicable.

The designation of *'regeneration areas'* in the LAP is a requirement for the implementation of the Vacant Site Register under the *Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015*. In larger settlements such as Dundalk the guidelines advise that the identification of *'regeneration areas'* should be coordinated with the identification of *'Settlement Consolidation Sites'* determined by the planning authority. The will be a critical element for the LAP to consider as it progresses.

The LAP should also align with the objectives of the regeneration strategy of the Development Plan and focus development on the key regeneration sites identified as well as the related policies / objectives set out in the county plan including, *inter alia*, Strategic Objectives SO 3 and SO 14, as well as Policy Objectives CS 2, CS 5 and CS 22.

There is pressing need to implement a strong policy framework to support the utilisation of existing buildings, brownfield / infill sites, and derelict and underutilised sites. The planning authority should prioritise land activation measures to facilitate appropriate redevelopment of key opportunity sites particularly within the context of RPO 3.2 and the aforementioned Development Plan objectives / policies. As part of the measures to advance brownfield development the government intends to legislate for enhanced powers of compulsory purchase of privately owned sites to ensure the necessary physical restructuring and transformation of places in need of regeneration.

It is expected that local authorities will purchase vacant properties through their compulsory purchase powers and should also utilise the existing *Buy and Renew Scheme and Repair and Leasing Scheme* to maximise opportunities to return vacant properties to productive use.

Also important in this respect is the Government's *Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns* (Town Centre First), which policy envisages Town Centre First plans as central to informing the future direction of towns and the priority investment interventions supported through Town Centre First-aligned funding streams.



The identification of intended sources of funding to facilitate, support or complement key regeneration projects, such as the recently announced *Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme*, is a further land activation measure to be considered in the LAP.

5. Education, social and community

Access to quality childcare, education and health services is a National Strategic Outcome of the NPF. In this regard, the LAP should be consistent with NPO 31, which seeks to align population and employment growth with investment in childcare and education facilities on well-located sites within or close to the existing built-up areas to meet the diverse needs of local populations. The LAP should also be consistent with the objectives of the RSES for education facilities including RPOs 6.25, 6.26, 6.27. 9.20, 9.21, 9.22 and particularly RPO 4.22 which seeks to support the role of *Dundalk Institute of Technology* as a centre of excellence for education. It should also have regard to the provisions for social audits under the *Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2022) (Development Plans Guidelines), (or civic infrastructure audits under the LAP Guidelines).

It is an objective (NPO 4) of the NPF to ensure the creation of liveable places that are home to diverse and integrated communities and (NPO 28) providing improved integration and greater accessibility in delivering sustainable communities and associated services. This includes planning for the housing / transport / accessibility and leisure needs of an aging population (NPO 30) and for the Traveller community. The LAP should also be consistent with the objectives of the RSES for social and community facilities.

The Office notes that the *Louth Economic and Community Plan* (LECP) 2023 - 2029 is currently at draft stage following the closure of the first round of public consultation. In this regard, given the timelines of the LECP and the emerging LAP for Dundalk are broadly in line, the planning authority should seek to align the policies / objectives contained therein to ensure the LAP has regard to the proposals and objectives in the LECP particularly in relation to community and social development. In this context, the planning authority should be cognisant of the RSES RPOs in relation to social and community development particularly RPO 9.19 which seeks to support the implementation of local authority LECPs in collaboration with Local Community Development Committees.



Having regard to NPO 33 to prioritise new homes that can support sustainable development at an appropriate scale of provision relative to location, it is important that the LAP takes an integrated approach to the planning of education, social and community facilities and amenities. The LAP should consider the capacity of existing facilities, including community centres, leisure, amenity and cultural facilities to serve existing and future residents. In addition, and aligned with the need for a sustainable settlement and transport strategy, the LAP should also ensure that education, childcare, social and community facilities can be easily accessed by walking or cycling from existing and proposed new residential areas.

6. Economic development and employment

The LAP Guidelines state that LAPs should include objectives to promote local economic development and employment growth by focusing on issues such as the creation of vibrant and dynamic city and town centres where local businesses can thrive and start-up businesses are provided for.

The Offices notes that Dundalk is the primary centre of employment for County Louth with a strong economic and employment base of almost 14,200 jobs representing c. 40% of the total jobs in County (jobs ratio 0.99). Dundalk has a healthy balance between resident workers and jobs including an established Pharma hub, commerce and trade industries and professional services concentrated in the IDA Business and Technology Park. This solid employment base is reinforced further with the Dundalk Institute of Technology which acts as a key driver for enterprise and education along with existing sectoral clusters.

The proposed preliminary core strategy map should consider how it can prioritise employment and commercial sites that will contribute to the delivery of compact growth consistent with the National Strategic Objective of the NPF and will help implement the Government's Town Centre First policy.

The LAP should also have regard to the town's proximity to the border with Northern Ireland and the linkages between Dundalk and Northern Ireland and the need to ensure economic resilience. The RSES recognises the strategic location of Dundalk between the Dublin and Belfast Metropolitan areas with access to deep harbour markets in both regions.



The facilitation of retail facilities will also need to be considered to provide for the anticipated future population growth. Regard should be had, in particular, to the sequential approach to the location of retail development and other provisions of the *Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2012) (Retail Guidelines), and the position of the settlement in the retail hierarchy of the Development Plan and RSES (table 6.1).

An integrated approach to land use and transport planning for enterprise, employment and commercial development will also play an important role in mitigating climate change and in achieving the Government's obligatory target of 51% for GHG emissions reduction by 2030 and for a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

7. Transport and Infrastructure

The objectives and provisions of the NPF (NPO 27, NPO 33 and NPO 64, among others) and the RSES recognise the importance of implementing an integrated land use and transportation approach. The Office notes that Dundalk is a multi-modal settlement that benefits from good rail and road links between Dublin and Belfast as well as a strong network of local roads that link Dundalk with the main settlements in the county and the wider area.

The Office welcomes the recent funding in principle for the Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway which will provide for linkages between the urban centre of Dundalk and Carlingford Lough which has added potential to connect with the Newry Canal Way between Newry and Portadown. The development of this greenway will support the delivery of the National Cycle Network through County Louth and has the potential to unlock further tourism opportunities.

The Office also welcomes the proposed preparation of a Local Transport Plan (LTP) as part of the LAP to support more sustainable patterns consistent with the RSES and Policy MOV5 of the CDP. The RSES supports improvements and protection of public transport provision including accessibility by rail in order to support sustainable productivity while protecting the intra-regional capacity of the existing motorway network.

A mandatory national target of 51% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 will be implemented through the *Climate Action Plan 2023*, which commits to delivering an additional 500,000 daily sustainable journeys by 2030 (an increase of 14% on current



levels) through, among others, a significant increase in walking and cycling, supported by the goals of government's *National Sustainable Mobility Policy* (2022).

An integrated approach to land use and transport planning will be central to achieving these targets. In addition to the above, the LAP should be informed by the guiding principles and be consistent with the RPOs of the RSES relating to integration of land use and transport planning, where applicable.

The LAP should also set out an ambitious (but realistic) modal share target for Dundalk which will be key to informing the objectives, policies and measures in the LAP so that this target can be achieved. The NTA's and TII's *Area Based Transport Assessment Advice Note* (December, 2018) (ABTA) and ABTA *How to Guide Guidance Document Pilot Methodology* (September, 2021) should be considered by the planning authority in preparing any LTP.

The transport strategy of the LAP should also demonstrate consistency with 'Avoid-Shift-Improve' principle, the implementation of the 'Decide Provide' approach and the '10-minute town concept'.

The proactive implementation of the *Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets* (revised 2019), including in particular 'filtered permeability', will ensure that over time the area will better accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, in addition to public transport where available. Similarly, the implementation of the NTA's *Permeability Best Practice Guide* will also ensure enhanced pedestrian and cycle routes within the area of the LAP.

In respect of the provision of wastewater and water infrastructure, there is a need to work proactively with Uisce Éireann to progress projects that deliver infrastructure for the county's settlements and support development in strategic development areas consistent with the NPF and RSES. The provision of waste infrastructure is a necessary component for the future development of the region and can be of equal importance to other infrastructure in securing economic development. The Office encourages the local authority to have regard to RPOs 8.8 - 8.11 in relation to wastewater infrastructure, and RPOs 8.12 – 8.23 in relation to water services infrastructure.



8. Environment and natural and built heritage

The planning authority is the competent authority for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. The planning authority will be aware of its obligations and responsibilities under the SEA Directive and under the Habitats Directive. The Office notes that a significant portion of the plan area contains Dundalk Bay which is identified as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA)

In this regard the planning authority is required to have regard to the revised section 28 *Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities* (2022). It should also consider the *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities* (2009), as revised.

It is an objective (NPO 52) of the NPF to ensure that the planning system responds to national environmental challenges and that development occurs within environmental limits. The planning authority should ensure the LAP is consistent with objectives of the NPF concerning environmental protection (NPO 52, NPO 57, NPO 58, NPO 60, NPO 62, NPO 63, NPO 64 and NPO 65,) as well as policy objective NBG3 in the existing plan, in addition to the objectives or guiding principles of the RSES. In this regard, the planning authority's attention is drawn to RPO 4.25 which seeks to support the proposed Dundalk Flood Relief Scheme, subject to the outcome of appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process.

In particular, the Office highlights the importance of integrating green and blue infrastructure into the LAP, in accordance with NPO 58 and the objectives and guiding principle of the RSES. Planning for green and blue infrastructure, such as public parks and water bodies can contribute to climate change adaptation, in particular flood risk management through nature-based solutions. It can also make a positive contribution to climate mitigation, when integrated with greenways, and have positive impacts on biodiversity.

Regarding built-heritage, NPO 17, the RSES and several section 28 guidelines (LAP Guidelines and the Development Plans Guidelines, among others) recognise that protecting, conserving and managing sites and features of special interest, in addition to public realm improvements, can instigate a heritage-led regeneration of settlements to



generate economic benefits in terms of tourist footfall, improved retail environment and improved quality of life. The re-use of built heritage will contribute to compact growth and regeneration and to climate change mitigation having regard to embodied carbon.

Although the key built-heritage related objectives and policies are contained in the Development Plan, the planning authority should consider what location specific objectives or measures would assist in the protection or improvement of built heritage over the period of the LAP. In this regard the planning authority should have regard to the *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2004), as amended.

9. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

It is a National Strategic Outcome of the NPF to transition to a low carbon climate resilient society. It is an objective (NPO 52) of the NPF to ensure that the planning system responds to national environmental challenges and that development occurs within environmental limits. The NPF acknowledges climate change as a national environmental challenge and it is an objective (NPO54) to reduce Ireland's carbon footprint in support of national targets for climate policy mitigation and adaptation, including targets for GHG emissions reduction.

The Office notes and welcomes the *Dundalk 2020* project which recognises Dundalk as Ireland's first sustainable energy community under the SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Programme and key a partner in the EU funded Concerto Project. The Office notes that the *Dundalk 2020* is an exemplar project which was a collaborative approach between state agencies and professional organisations with the aim of reducing energy use and achieving energy-efficient targets as well as installing renewable energy infrastructure.

Having regard to the *Climate Action Plan 2023* and to the objectives of the NPF and the RSES, the transition to a low carbon economy, the Office encourages the planning authority to continue to demonstrate such leadership in the forthcoming LAP which should imbed appropriate climate action measures.

Regarding climate change mitigation measures pertinent to section 10(2)(n) of the Act and section 8.4 — Transport Investment Priorities (including RPOs 8.8 - 8.12 of the RSES) are



of relevance regarding the integration of land use and transport planning. The local authority should also have regard to RPO 7.42 in relation to Electric Vehicles (EVs).

In terms of climate adaptation, flood risk management is the most critical climate change adaptation measure to be addressed in the LAP, informed by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The planning authority should ensure that it has regard to the detailed requirements and provisions of section 28 *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2009), including the staged approach to flood risk assessment and, in particular, the application of the sequential approach and the requirement to carry out the plan-making justification test.

The Office also requests that the flood risk zones are overlaid on the land use zoning maps in the draft Plan and that a copy of digital mapping data is made available to the Office and to the OPW to facilitate assessment.

The planning authority is strongly advised to liaise with the OPW in relation to the preparation of the SFRA to avoid issues arising at draft plan stage.

10. Implementation and monitoring

The NPF and the RSES place increased emphasis on and recognise the importance of monitoring the implementation of statutory strategies and plans, as a measure of plan effectiveness and to continually update a relevant evidence base to inform future planning strategies.

The planning authority will be aware of its duty and function under section 15(1) and 15(2) of the Act to secure the objectives of the Development Plan and report on progress in achieved in securing those objectives. As the implementation of the objectives of the LAP derive from the objectives of the Development Plan, the obligations under the aforementioned subsections are also relevant to the LAP.

The planning authority is therefore encouraged to provide for monitoring of implementation of the objectives of the LAP, having regard to the provisions of the Development Plans Guidelines and the Local Area Plans Guidelines.



11. Other matters

The Office invites the planning authority to submit a digital copy of all mapped data in respect of the proposed draft LAP in order to better facilitate its evaluation and assessment of the plan. In this regard, all spatial data should be in the format of either Web Map Service (WMS) or shapefile format, with the relevant attribute information attached.

Summary

In summary, the Office commends your authority for the preparation of this Issues Paper for the Dundalk LAP. The Office advises your authority to pay particular attention to the following issues in the preparation of the plan:

- The LAP should consider should consider how to prioritise housing delivery in areas close to the facilities and services of the town centre where land is already served by appropriate infrastructure or is capable of being serviced within the plan period, and is accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. This should also be informed by a review of the (CDP) Infrastructure Assessment to ensuring sufficient site servicing / infrastructure.
- A key objective should be to facilitate a significant proportion of future urban development on infill / brownfield sites including the renewal and regeneration of underused, vacant or derelict lands. Consideration should be given to a range of land activation measures to ensure the infill/ brownfield development targets in the Development Plan can be implemented as part of the LAP.
- The LAP should be informed by the preparation of an LTP and should integrate land use and transport planning to provide for enhanced active and sustainable transport modes. The planning authority is advised to consult with the NTA and TII in this regard.
- The LAP should also have regard to the town's proximity to the border with Northern Ireland and the linkages between Dundalk and Northern Ireland to ensure economic resilience.



- The LAP should include an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and include policies and objectives in relation to the implementation of SuDS and nature based solutions as a means for managing surface water run-off at key development sites. The planning authority is advised to consult with the OPW in this respect.
- The planning authority should include appropriate climate action measures which give effect to objectives in the Local Authority's Climate Action Plan as relevant to Dundalk.

The Office looks forward to reviewing the future draft LAP and is committed to continued positive engagement with your authority in implementation of national and regional policies at the county and local level.

Please feel free to contact the staff of the Office in the context of your authority's responses to the above, which we would be happy to facilitate. Contact can be initiated through the undersigned or at plans@opr.ie.

Is mise le meas,

OUNU

Anne Marie O'Connor

Deputy Regulator and Director of Plans Evaluations