



25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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

**Re: Proposed Variation No. 2 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027**

A chara,

Thank you for your authority's work in preparing the proposed Variation No. 2 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (the proposed Variation).

The Office of the Planning Regulator (the Office) wishes to acknowledge the considerable and evident work your authority has put into the preparation of the proposed Variation against the backdrop of an evolving national and regional planning policy and regulatory context, which included taking account of the *National Planning Framework* (NPF) and the *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy* (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

As your authority is aware, a key function of the Office is the assessment of statutory plans to ensure consistency with legislative and policy requirements relating to planning. The Office has evaluated and assessed the proposed Variation under the provisions of sections 31AM(1) and (2) of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended (the Act) and this submission has been prepared accordingly.

**Overview**

The Office welcomes the proposed Variation to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, including its policy objectives, development standards and general text, which demonstrate that it has had regard to the section 28 guidelines *Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2024).

The Office considers that the proposed Variation will assist the planning authority in implementing compact growth and sustainable development in accordance with the policy objectives of the NPF and the RSES.

### **Summary**

The Office's evaluation and assessment of the proposed Variation concludes that no recommendations or observations are warranted. The Office looks forward to continued positive engagement with your authority regarding the implementation of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Please note that at the end of the process, your authority is required to notify this Office within **five working days** of the decision of the planning authority in relation to the proposed Variation.

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 [plans@opr.ie](mailto:plans@opr.ie).

Is mise le meas,

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**Anne Marie O'Connor**

Deputy Regulator and Director of Plans Evaluations

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