

Laois County Council Planning Dept

30th January 2026



Comhairle Chontae
Laoise | Laois
County Council



Background

- Laois is rapidly expanding
- 2,674 houses built from 2021 to 2025 (Q2)
- 811 social houses delivered since 2022.

- Need to zone for additional houses following NPF review and section 28 guidelines – increase from 560 units per annum to 1,800 per annum
- Additional houses will require the provision of additional jobs
- Estimated at 2,100 new jobs per annum if we achieve house provision target.

Infrastructure

- Issue arose over network capacity in Portlaoise (specific areas)
- Potential delay to development of a derelict site which was CPO'd by the council and which had an approved part 8 for housing
- Delay to private developers also



Collaboration

- Established a local team with LA Planning, Housing and the ESB to discuss issue and find solutions
- We presented future plans for towns through LAP maps
- Work around was found

- ESB also brought forward more permanent solution by upgrading the existing substation in Portlaoise
- Development of housing is secure for the medium term

Move-in date for Portlaoise homes delayed due to lack of power

Updated / Tuesday, 15 Jul 2025 08:13



Some of the Sand Wood homeowners pictured outside their new houses which have yet to be connected to the ESB mains power grid

Employment

- Meeting with IDA identified an issue with grid capacity in Portlaoise in Q2 2025
- Set up a monthly meeting with ESB and IDA in relation to securing a development site for a new substation in Portlaoise which will provide adequate capacity for industrial developments.
- New site secured and ESB have commenced the planning process with ACP – delivery will take 5 years approx.

Conclusion



Engage with all service providers
early and often



Get the right people in the room to
deal with the issue