



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Special Meeting***

***24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 - Council Chamber***

**Presiding:**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Maria Murphy

**Councillors Present:**

Councillors, Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O' Rourke, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan.

**Apologies:** Councillors Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Johnny Guirke, Suzanne Jamal, Stephen McKee, Claire O' Driscoll, Bryan Reilly, Seán Smith, Gillian Toole.

**Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, Barry Lynch

**Planning Staff:** Pat Gallagher, Seán Clarke, Wendy Bagnall, Mark Harrington, Fergal O'Bric, Turlogh King, Sarah Lynch, Jennifer Murtagh, Jennifer McQuaid.

### **1. Preparation of the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2019-2025**

Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report to receive directions from the members of the Planning Authority regarding the preparation of the draft development plan in accordance with Section 11 (4) (d) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2016.

*'Any such direction shall be strategic in nature, consistent with the draft core strategy, and shall take account of the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government, and the Chief Executive shall comply with any such directions'*

In issuing directions under paragraph (d), the members shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates.

The Members received a comprehensive presentation from Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, on the Chief Executive Report and complimented Wendy and the Planning Staff on



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the contents of same. They also welcomed the extent of public participation during the public consultation period.

The Cathaoirleach suspended the meeting at 11.55am due to an issue raised about speaking time. The meeting resumed at 12.10pm.

The Councillors gave direction on the preparation of the draft Development Plan as follows;

### **Vision and Core Strategy**

- Improve the quality of life for our citizens
- Sustainable 'Live Work' Communities
- Sustainable Rural Communities
- Need to prioritise the building of houses

### **Economic Development and Tourism**

- Need to build on the policies of the Economic Strategy which must be the driving force of the County Development Plan
- Economic value to the County of the proximity of Dublin airport
- Need to promote Meath more in terms of being an integral part of 'Ireland's Ancient East'
- Promote joined-up thinking with regard to Tourism, Heritage and Biodiversity.
- Development of greenways

### **Housing and Settlement Strategy**

- Lands that are to be zoned should be serviced and ready to be built on
- Community facilities to be provided in tandem with the delivery of housing
- Issue of hoarding of lands should be addressed

### **Social Strategy**

- Need to provide lands for community and recreational facilities
- Proposed the use of school campuses to provide youth and recreational facilities in the community
- Promotion of further well planned school campus development



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- Promotion of the development of a Regional Hospital in Navan

### **Heritage, Cultural and Natural Assets**

- Need to protect our coast line from coastal erosion
- Protection of our World Heritage Site
- Collaboration with the OPW regarding the management of heritage sites

### **Infrastructure & Movement**

- Promotion of sustainable modes of transport as an alternative to car based solutions
- Take advantage of Enfield's transport links particularly its rail connectivity to the national gateway
- Improvement of transport links to airport
- Requirement for the delivery of the rail line to Navan
- The need for the planned western rail station in Dunshaughlin to move to the east to serve Dunshaughlin and Ratoath
- Promotion of green infrastructure

### **Environmental Services**

- Provision of recycling facilities
- Provision of solar panels on all new commercial developments
- Restoration of derelict buildings in our towns and villages

### **Rural Development**

- Need to improve on broadband services
- Renewal of rural settlements so as to support rural schools
- Acknowledged the need for one-off housing in certain circumstances but also encouraged the conservation and revitalisation of our villages

### **Miscellaneous**

- The difficulty the Planning staff had in preparing the draft Development Plan in the absence of the National Planning Framework and the final census statistics was acknowledged by the Councillors.



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- The focus the Chief Executive's Report had on community was noted.

### **2. To fix dates for a schedule of meetings in July to receive the Draft Chapters on the Meath County Development Plan 2019-2025**

The Executive advised that two days would be required in order to receive presentations from the appointed consultants on the draft chapters relating to the County Development Plan. It was agreed to hold these meetings on week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> July, with proposed dates of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

### **3. To fix a date in early September to receive the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2019-2025**

It was agreed to defer this item until the July monthly meeting.