

CHAPTER 9: IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

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9.1 Introduction

The function of this Development Plan is to guide development in Trim over the plan period. The Councils have a key role in ensuring that policies and objectives contained in the Development Plan are achieved. However the achievement of these is also dependant on the financial and human resources of others as the Councils are constrained by limited resources. External factors including the economic climate, political support, allocated Local Authority funding, and the availability of funding from other sources will influence if objectives are achieved within the life of the Plan. The Local Authorities will require developers to incorporate the objectives of this plan, including those relating to the provision of physical and social infrastructure, into their individual development proposals. Other objectives, particularly key physical infrastructural elements will require Government funding and support. Where appropriate, the Local Authorities will seek financing from specified sources, both the public and private sector, as well as from EU programmes and grants.

The nature of the statutory Development Plan is such that no budget is agreed in advance and therefore no funding of projects or implementation of all objectives contained within the plan is guaranteed in advance. However, the Local Authorities intends to exercise all of their legal powers to ensure that objectives are implemented. This includes using compulsory acquisition powers where necessary to facilitate site assembly or to secure the realisation of objectives contained in this Development Plan.

9.2 Phasing

It is an objective of the Planning Authorities to promote the implementation of the Development Plan in a rational and sequential approach that is in keeping with the proposed development strategy, and to ensure that essential facilities (such as road infrastructure, water, sewerage etc.) are secured and in place concurrent with proposed development projects. The Local Authorities reserves the right to refuse development on the grounds of incomplete infrastructure provision.

9.3 Public Private Partnerships

A Public Private Partnership (PPP) involves a partnership agreement between the public and private sector for the delivery of specific projects relating to public services and infrastructure. Such an approach can ensure a commitment to funding due to interlinked public and private assistance, and aims at ensuring the most economically efficient manner of development. Education, local services, health, housing, public transport, roads, solid waste, water/waste water and other public services can benefit from the approach of a PPP.

Other partnership approaches will be pursued with other state and public organisations, such as the Irish Sports Council, Failte Ireland and the Arts Council.

9.4 Additional Funding Sources

Additional national and EU level programmes include Urban and Village Renewal Grants, the RAPID programme, the Neighbourhood Scheme, National Lottery Facility Funding, Community Support Framework, as well as other funding mechanisms available from the various Government Departments. Such bodies have varying criteria regarding the type of developments they fund and may be useful to consider in the achievement of development objectives.

Urban and Village Renewal Grants

This grant scheme is administered by the Department of the Environment and Local Government under the Urban and Village Renewal measure of the Regional Operational Programme 2002-2006 (current programme at time of plan preparation). It is a grant scheme for local authorities to carry out environmental improvements.

RAPID Programme (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development)

Investment for this programme comes under the remit of the National Development Plan (NDP). Specific towns (and areas within larger towns) are targeted for renewal/revitalisation. The focus is on communities that are run-down/deprived and have not fully shared in Ireland's recent prosperity. A special co-ordinator appointed for each town will work with an Area Implementation Team, which will include local residents and estate agencies, to draw up an Action Area Plan for the towns in order to identify their needs. The targeted areas will then be prioritised for investment and development in a number of key areas, including health, education, housing, childcare and community facilities. When considering the regeneration of these areas, specific objectives within the Development Plan will also be considered.

NeighbourWood Scheme

This scheme is funded under the NDP through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and aims to develop woodlands within the urban environment to serve the local population. The scale of the proposed woodland areas can vary from local parks within residential areas, to larger woodland areas situated along the urban fringe or in greenbelts, as well as existing woodlands located outside towns and villages and used by local communities for amenity and recreation. This scheme can be used to develop new woodland on parts of sites identified for future housing, thereby establishing amenity facilities for future residents. The NeighbourWood Scheme provides funding for three areas, namely for the establishment of new neighbourhoods, improvement of existing neighbourhoods, and the installation of recreational facilities into new or existing neighbourhoods.

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism

Through the availability of National Lottery Facility Funding, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism administer the Sports Capital Programme. This programme provides funding to voluntary sporting and community organisations at local, regional and national level towards the provision of sport and recreational programmes. The Recreational Facilities Scheme enables voluntary community organisations to further improve and equip recreational, leisure and community facilities. This body in its support of community organisations and the development of sporting/recreational facilities, acts as a valuable source of funding for the implementation of recreational and community facility objectives. This Department also supports Local Drugs Task Forces and community-based responses to the drugs issue.

The Combat Poverty Agency

This Agency, which comes under the aegis of the Department of Social and Family Affairs, carries out research and advises the Government and relevant stakeholders such as voluntary and community groups engaged in anti-poverty work. It also oversees anti-poverty programmes and provides finance to towards community development initiatives.

EU Structural Funds

This programme identifies a number of areas for funding, two of which are the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. There also exists a separate programme, which is co-financed by the structural funds called Community Initiatives. Such EU programmes can be a valuable source of investment, through which specific policies and objectives as identified in the plan can be implemented.

9.5 Contributions

It is considered reasonable that contributions be paid towards Local Authority investment in the provision of infrastructure and services, by developers who benefit from such provision. Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 allows Planning Authorities to prepare and adopt a Development Contributions Scheme in respect of public infrastructure and facilities provided by, or on behalf of the Local Authority that benefit development in their area.

The following is defined as public infrastructure and facilities in Section 48:

- the acquisition of land,
- the provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities and amenities and landscaping works,
- the provision of roads, car parks, car parking places, sewers, waste water and water treatment facilities, drains and watermain,
- the provision of bus corridors and lanes, bus interchanges facilities (including car parks for those facilities), infrastructure to facilitate public transport, cycle and pedestrian facilities, and traffic calming measures,
- the refurbishment, upgrading, enlargement or replacement of roads, car parks, car parking places, sewers, waste water -and water treatment facilities, drains or watermain, and
- any matters ancillary to the above.

Meath County Council and Trim Town Council are entitled, pursuant to Section 48, when granting planning permission to include conditions which require the payment of a contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in their administration area and that is provided, or is intended to be provided by or on their behalf (regardless of other sources funding for the infrastructure and facilities).

Meath County Council adopted the County Meath Development Contributions Scheme on 1st March 2004. Trim Town Council adopted the Trim Town Development Contributions Scheme on 14th March 2004. The level of contributions is updated in March each year in accordance with the Wholesale Price Indices for Building & Construction published by the Central Statistics Office. The Meath County Development Contributions Scheme and the Trim Town Council Development Contributions Scheme are available on the Council's web site, www.meath.ie.

9.6 Monitoring & Review

The Planning & Development Acts 2000 to 2007 provides under Section 15 (1) that it shall be the duty of a Planning Authority to take such steps within its powers as may be necessary for securing the objectives of the Development Plan, and under Section 15 (2) that the Manager of the Planning Authority shall, not more than 2 years after the making of a Development Plan, give a report to the members of the Planning Authority on the progress achieved in securing the objectives referred to in subsection (1).

The Planning Authorities are committed to securing the Development Strategy presented for Trim in this Development Plan. In addition to the mandatory requirements for reviewing the success of implementation of the Development Plan as contained in the Planning & Development Act 2000, it is proposed to establish a Development Plan Implementation Group. This group will consist of elected members and officials from both Local Authorities, as deemed appropriate. The purpose of the Implementation Group is to re-evaluate the Development Strategy presented and the specific objectives contained in the Development Plan to achieve same in light of changing economic conditions which will affect public and private investment and the changing needs of the population of Trim. The Implementation Group will seek to identify and target funding mechanisms and also certify that developments on the ground comply with the objectives of the Development Plan.