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Planning Department.

6th February 2020.

Matthew McAleese,
A/Director of Services,
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department,
Fingal County Council,
County Hall,
Swords,
Co. Dublin.

RE: Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Fingal County Development Plan 2017–2023

Dear Matthew,

This submission has been prepared in response to the publication of the proposed Variation No.2 of the Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023. The intention of the proposed variation is to ensure alignment with the adopted Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (hereafter "RSES").

In line with the provisions of Section 13(2) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2019 (hereafter "*the Act*"), Meath County Council was notified of the preparation of the proposed variation, as outlined above. It is noted that the variation has been prepared in line with the requirements of Section 11(1) of the Act which requires that a City or County Development Plan is consistent with the requirements of the relevant RSES. It is noted that the legislation provides two options to ensure this consistency (a) through the preparation of a variation to the Development Plan or (b) through the review of the entire Development Plan. Fingal County Council has chosen to vary their Development Plan, whereas Meath County Council is incorporating the requirements of the RSES through the Development Plan review process. In this regard, the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 is currently on display (<https://consult.meath.ie/>) and the closing date for submissions is the 6th March 2020.

Given the process that has been undertaken for the Meath County Development Plan review, Meath County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed Variation No. 1 to the Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023, as these plans have the potential to provide improved co-operation between the counties as well as ensuring the delivery of the objectives of the RSES.

1. Proposed Core Strategy Changes

As part of the proposed variation the Settlement Hierarchy has been updated to reflect the required consistency with the RSES as well as proposed levels of growth for the county. In relation to these settlements, there are contiguous development areas along the Fingal/Meath boundary such as Clonee/Ongar, Ashbourne and Stamullen where co-ordination will be important to ensure the compact and sustainable growth of each of these important settlements. Meath County Council

welcomes the proposed variation as it will ensure the growth of these contiguous development areas in a sustainable manner and will allow for the co-operative relationship between Fingal County Council and Meath County Council to continue.

It is noted that as per National Policy Objective (NPO) 68 of the NPF, that the transitional population projections methodology allows for up to 20% of the phased population growth targeted in Dublin City and suburbs to be re-allocated to other areas in the metropolitan area. These areas are specified as the Key Growth Towns of Bray, Maynooth and Swords and the quantum of population to be transferred is to address by the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) Implementation Group (as set out in Section 5.7 of the RSES).

In the context of Swords, it is noted that any additional population that is to be agreed will be finalised as part of the on-going work of MASP Implementation Group. Meath County Council support the approach to provide this transitional population to the Key Growth Towns such as Swords, which is an important settlement along the M1 Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor which includes settlements in Co. Meath such as the southern Drogheda environs. The development of this corridor as well as other corridors identified in Table 5.1 of the RSES will ensure that “live work” communities can be provided as envisaged in the RSES.

2. Potential for Co-operation

There is the potential for a significant quantum of infrastructure to be delivered in or have a significant influence on both counties and some of this infrastructure is outlined in the RSES, particularly Table 5.1, which relates to the MASP. An area where additional cross boundary infrastructure will be required is the Dunboyne/Clonee/Pace area that bounds Ongar in Fingal. Meath County Council has commissioned a Transportation Study for Dunboyne & Environs and the findings of this study note a number of interventions, some of which will involve co-operation between Meath County Council and Fingal County Council as well as other bodies such as Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

A specific piece of infrastructure that could span both counties is a link between the N3 and N4, with an exact route to be determined by TII. This proposed link is subject to a separate proposed variation of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and the exact route of this link road, which is yet to be determined. It is projects such as this where co-operation between both local authorities will be vital in delivering infrastructure that allows for an improved and more attractive economic environment for both counties.

It is noted that Objective MT43 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, states that Fingal County Council will:

“Support and facilitate the TII, Meath County Council and Kildare County Council in the planning and delivery of the N2 Upgrade north of Ashbourne and a possible link between the M3 and M4.”

With regard to providing such co-operation, it is requested that this objective is retained and strengthened as part of this variation as well as the scheduled Development Plan review, which is due to commence next year.

3. Conclusion

We trust that the above clarifies Meath County Council's comments on the Proposed Variation No.2 to the Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023. Meath County Council look forward to working closely with Fingal County Council on the delivery of growth along the M1 Dublin -Belfast Economic Corridor and the North-West corridor as identified in Table 5.1 of the RSES.

Should you have any further queries on the below please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



*PP*Kevin Stewart,
Director of Services.