



Senior Executive Officer
Forward Planning Section,
Planning & Transport,
South Dublin County Council
County Hall, Tallaght,
Dublin 24,
D24 A3XC

29 September 2025

Re: Proposed Variation No. 1 of the South Dublin County Development Plan for the Draft Clondalkin Local Planning Framework

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the above. The Department of Education and Youth wishes to make the following submission to proposed Variation No 1 of the South Dublin CCDP 2022-2028.

The department has considered the above document and notes that the purpose of the variation is to include the Framework Plan for Clondalkin in the South Dublin CDP 2022-2028.

In the context of future population trends and their potential impact on school place requirements, the department notes that this variation refers to the population growth identified for Clondalkin in the recent draft South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028. The department notes that the population scenario envisaged in South Dublin overall is the high NPF target of an additional 45,002 persons by 2028. The department made its submissions to the CDP regarding Clondalkin on the basis of the potential population growth within the settlement and its environs between 2022 and 2031.

In terms of this variation, the department is cognisant that the draft Local Planning Framework document department makes little detailed reference to future population growth figures. However, it is noted that section 5.2.1 Forecast Population in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) identifies a projected population growth of cc 5,200 to 5,400 with a projected population to cc 18,296 from a Clondalkin Census 2022 figure of 13,058. The department also notes that this section identifies a projected development of 1,940 residential units, 50% of which will be developed in the Ninth Lock Framework Area. If this growth materialises, it could result in a substantial additional requirement for school provision in Clondalkin. The Local Transport Plan further states that "Looking at the NPF forecast assumptions, population in Clondalkin LAP area is estimated to increase by 2,287 people by 2034 and 3,074 people by 2040, compared to the 2022 population of 13,058 people (an additional 787 in the six years between 2034 and 2040). These forecasts are in line with the assumption that up to 1,000 units will be built by 2034." The department is equally mindful that the current NPF review has the



potential to allocate a further projected population increase beyond what is stated in the LTP.

There are currently ten schools (seven primary and three post-primary schools) located in Clondalkin. The department's preference would be to expand these existing facilities (if possible) should there be a requirement for additional school places resulting from planned population increases.

In the context of potential future school place requirements for the next ten years, the department has considered the potential population growth to 2034 as identified above. There is an indication of potential increased requirement for school places but it is of a level that could be accommodated by the planned new school campus for Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcain and Gaelscoil na Camoige. At post-primary level, there is a potential projected increase in school place requirements which could be met by expansion of the existing facilities, if required.

It is important to add that it is generally considered that schools are enabling infrastructure for housing and as such, schools should be positioned in the heart of new and expanding sustainable communities, allowing for the maximum benefit to the community inside and outside school hours. Further to this, other community facilities and amenities should also be positioned close to school facilities to allow for all community facilities be complimentary to each other for the benefit of the whole community. All enabling infrastructure required to develop and operate school facilities should be provided in advance of the need for such schools. This infrastructure includes road, electricity, water infrastructure, sustainable transport links, active travel networks, road safety measures and safe routes to school facilities. It should be noted that it is not within the remit of the Department of Education and Youth to develop or fund this enabling infrastructure.

In relation to other aspects of the draft plan, the department notes that the Council plans a range of Safe Routes to School improvements to provide better and safer routes and access to schools by way of walking / cycling and public transport. The department supports the development of sustainable travel links between schools and residential areas.

The department notes and supports the following Sustainable Movement Objectives; SM6 Objective 1: To support the development of 'Safe Routes to Schools' throughout the LPF area, supporting measures that prioritise the safety of school children and the creation of safer school routes through the implementation of appropriate infrastructure measures.

SM6 Objective 2: To engage with the road safety officer to create school focused transport campaigns regarding mindset changes around travel to and from school, creating a 'movement' from private motor vehicles to more sustainable methods of transport.

SM7 Objective 4: To investigate the delivery of a school bus service within Clondalkin, liaising with the Department of Education, local schools and bus operators, to provide a



service that enables a reduction in private vehicle usage and a reduction in traffic and parking outside schools.

The department notes and welcomes the following Community, Homes and Employment Objectives;

CHE2 Objective 1: To facilitate the delivery of planned new schools, expansions or refurbishments within the LPF area and within the wider school catchment area serving Clondalkin as needs are identified by the Department of Education and Youth.

CHE2 Objective 2: To promote and support the co-location of pre and after-school childcare facilities at primary schools and the use of primary and post-primary school premises and sports facilities for community use outside of school hours.

CHE2 Objective 3: To continue to engage with the Department of Education and Youth to promote and support the delivery of new, expanded or refurbished primary and post-primary schools within Clondalkin as required to meet identified needs

The department notes and welcomes Community Services and Facilities Objective 1: To facilitate the expansion and enhancement of existing community facilities and / or the provision of new community facilities where required, in tandem with population growth that meets the needs for current and future residents.

The department also anticipates that additional Special Education Needs (SEN) provision at both Primary and Post Primary level will be required in the future throughout the country and this may result in schools requiring additional accommodation or space to meet this growing need. On a point of information, the Department of Education and Youth engages closely with the National Council for Special Education in relation to the forward planning of new special classes and additional special school places. The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) has a statutory function to plan and co-ordinate the provision of education and support services to children with special educational needs, in consultation with the relevant education partners and the Health Service Executive (HSE). This includes the establishment of special class and special school placements in various geographical areas where there is an identified need.

The department and the NCSE are working with schools and patrons to make increased provision for children with special education needs, both in special classes at mainstream schools and in special schools. At post primary level, all schools have been advised to plan for an average of 4 special classes. At primary level, the focus is on ensuring appropriate provision at all medium to large primary schools (8 mainstream classes or more) in the first instance.

Most special classes are established in existing accommodation and where there is a further requirement within that accommodation, additional capacity can be catered for through the provision of extension facilities.

In recent years, the department has seen an increase in SEN school place requirement. Since 2019, 11 new special schools have been established, with five more due to be established for the 2025/26 school year. The continuing need for additional provision across the country, including in the South Dublin area, is kept



under constant review. In this regard, the department will consult with the Council if and when additional special education needs accommodation or sites for future special schools are required within specific locations. In the context of this Local Planning Framework and being mindful of a substantial population growth that may arise from the various future planned housing developments within the Clondalkin area and its surrounds, the department would welcome explicit support within the plan for the provision of school accommodation for children and young people with special educational needs.

In terms of assessing current and future capacity, the Department of Education and Youth has to be mindful of potential unforeseen circumstances such as the Ukrainian crisis, which have the ability to put undue pressure on school place provision and could necessitate reassessments of school place provision from time to time. The department will engage with the Council where the findings of an assessment require a review of existing or future school site provision within a specific location.

Finally, the department welcomes the continued engagement with the Council regarding the development of both new and existing schools, as appropriate, and emphasizes the critical importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient land is zoned for this purpose. We look forward to continuing to work with you. If you have any queries in respect of the above, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Mairead Garry
Statutory Plans
Forward Planning & Site Acquisition Section