



26 April 2022

Senior Executive Officer
Forward Planning Section,
Land Use Planning & Transportation Department,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Re: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Dublin South County Development Plan 2022-2028

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the above. The Department of Education wishes to make the following submission to the proposed material alterations to the draft South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028.

As a general point, the Department's title should be referenced as the Department of Education (not the Department of Education and Skills). The Department was re-named in August 2020 with the re-distribution of education functions.

The Department has considered the material alterations and they do not result in a change to the projected school place requirements. Therefore, the Department re-confirms the projected school requirements outlined in our submission of 15th September 2021

Chapter 2: Core Strategy amendments

Amendment 2.1 re-distributes settlement population targets is noted. The re-distribution of projected growth is not significant enough to result in a change in the projected school place requirements.

Amendment 2.12 Newcastle

The Department notes the introduction of new objective CS9 objective 4, which commits to the delivery of new residential development in a coordinated manner through appropriate phasing in line with the introduction of four new SLOs - CS9 SLO1, CS9 SLO2, CS9 SLO3 and CS9 SLO4. With regard to SLO3, the Department welcomes the approach to consult with the Department on educational requirements. The pace of delivery of additional residential development, along with updated enrolment data and demographic data is kept under continuous review and this informs the timing of school requirements. Therefore, rather than being prescriptive about the site transfer at this point, the Department requests that the amendment be re-worded to state:

With regard to the delivery of a new primary school at Taobh Chnoic, the need for this school and the timing of its provision will be subject to assessment of educational needs in



consultation with the Department of Education. Consultation will take place with the Department prior to completion of 200 units to assess the need. The Department also notes the introduction of SLO3 to Map 7 as per Amendment 2.12 and would like to add that any identified site should be appropriately located to allow for the efficient and timely development of any new school, in order to ensure that adequate and sufficient school provision is allocated to meet the needs of the local community.

Amendment 2.13 Rathcoole

It is noted that Amendment 2.13 proposes to introduce new objective CS10 Objective 4, (identical to CS9 objective 4 for Newcastle). There are 3 SLOs attached to this new objective. It is noted that the amendment proposes to insert SLO1 on the lands adjacent to Rathcoole Park and states that to ensure the provision of a primary school, library hub, 2 full sized GAA pitches and 1 junior pitch and associated pavilion, access road and open space is provided in tandem with new residential development. It is also noted that the amendment proposes to adjust the location of the school site on the relevant map. Once again, the Department would like it stated that any identified site should be appropriately located as per the reason given previously above.

Chapter 8 Amendments (Community Infrastructure & Open Space)

In regard to the proposed amendments in **Chapter 8 - Community Infrastructure & Open Space** that relate to matters concerning school provision, our comments are as follows:

Amendment 8.12

This amendment proposes the introduction of new Policy COS8(c) which seeks to review school site provision in the Development Plan, following the publication of full Census 2022 results, so as to ensure accurate and adequate school provision requirements are identified and provided for primary and post primary schools at suitable locations and notes that Council will engage with the Department and other stakeholders as part of the review process. The Department will also be reviewing the Census data and will be happy to engage with the Council on the matter.

Amendment 8.13

This amendment seeks to change COS8 Objective 1 to include a reference to the 2008 Code of Practice on the Provision of Schools and the Planning System (or any superseding Code of Practice). The Department is very appreciative for the inclusion of this amendment, following our submission.

Amendment 8.14

This amendment seeks to change COS8 Objective 2 to include text that ensures that new school sites are retained for educational use. The Department is very appreciative for the inclusion of this text as part of the amendment. However, the Department wishes to reconfirm its submission statement that existing school sites and lands adjacent to existing schools are equally protected for future educational use in order to allow for expansion of



these schools, if required. The inclusion of buffer zones and land use designations that support education development adjacent to existing and established schools (where required to facilitate potential future expansion) will be critical in meeting school accommodation requirements arising in the existing "built-up" areas of South County Dublin. In some instances, such provision may present the only viable solution for the provision of school places to meet the needs of the local community. We therefore request the explicit support from the Council in this matter.

Amendment 8.15

The Department acknowledges the rewording to the text of COS8 Objective 3 as proposed in this amendment and notes the reference to existing schools as requested in our submission.

Amendment 8.16

This amendment Inserts new COS8 Objective 11 which seeks to promote and support the use of public sports facilities by urban schools, during school hours, where feasible. The Department is very appreciative for the inclusion of this text, following our submission.

Amendment 8.17

This amendment inserts new COS8 Objective 12 which looks to promote and support educational campus development, where feasible. The Department is very appreciative for the inclusion of this text, following our submission.

Amendment 8.18

This amendment inserts new COS8 Objective 13 which seeks to explore with the Department of Education the potential to develop a GIS mapping layer of all school sites. The Department is very appreciative for the inclusion of this text, following our submission. This is very important to aid us both in planning for future education requirements.

The Department acknowledges the crucial importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient and appropriate land is zoned for educational needs. The Department wishes to thank South Dublin County Council for the consideration given to the Department's submission to the draft Development Plan. 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, /

Alan Hanlon
Statutory Plans
Forward Planning Section

