



11 April 2022

Forward/ Strategic Planning
Limerick City and County Council,
Merchants' Quay,
Limerick,
V94 EH90

**Re: Proposed material alterations to draft Limerick City and 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 Limerick City and 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 if the proposed material alterations impact on projected school place requirements identified in our submission to the draft plan. We confirm that they do not impact on the projected requirements. Therefore, we re-confirm the projected school requirements outlined in our submission of 6th September 2021

In regard to the proposed amendments that relate to matters concerning school provision, following are our comments:

Amendment 50:

This amendment relates to Community/Education zoned lands adjoining the Limerick Institute of Technology. The Department of Further, Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) would be the appropriate agency to comment in regard to this proposed amendment. It relates to lands adjoining a Higher Education Institution.

Amendment 79:

The Department is very appreciative for the inclusion of this amendment, following our submission. It seeks to protect all existing school sites and land buffers around them (where available). This approach will position the existing school network to meet changing requirements of communities as Limerick develops



Amendments 127 and 128:

The proposed land swap is noted. It is also noted that the proposed rezoning would not materially impact the future proofing of additional development of Monaleen National School. On this basis, the Department has no objection.

Amendment 129

The Department notes the recommendation in the Chief Executive Report that having regard to the extent of lands zoned for Education and Community Facilities at this location it is considered that adequate lands are zoned to cater for the future expansion of both school campuses in this zone. This is true but it is also the case that there may be future requirement to establish another school in this general area given its position in the Limerick MASP. This potential requirement was referenced in our submission to the draft Development Plan. In the intervening period, the Co. Clare draft Development Plan has been published. In our submission to that plan, we identify that the population increases projected on the Clare side will put further pressure on school place delivery, particularly at post-primary level. St. Munchin's College post-primary school has a 2021/22 enrolment of 670 students. Scoil Íde primary school (Roll number 18872K) has a 2021/22 enrolment of 744 pupils.

Amendment 133

The Department supports this amendment to facilitate the expansion of Árdcoil Mhuire.

Amendment 141

The Department supports this amendment which zones additional land for community/education use beside the Model School

Amendment 145

The Department requests that this amendment be refused. The lands in question are zoned for education and community and we request that this zoning is retained. They adjoin the site of the new Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh Roll Number 761011 2021/22 enrolment of 661 students. A new 750 student building has just commenced construction adjoining this site which is centrally located to serve Limerick City. It is the only co-educational all-Irish speaking second level school in Co. Limerick (not just in the city). Given the projected population increase in the city and the MASP, the Department considered it would be prudent to future proof this school. Therefore, we request that the current education/community zoning remain unaltered

Amendment 165

The Department welcomes this amendment which proposes that the lands zoned for community/education use conform with the OPW's flood zone mapping. This is very important.



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 Limerick City and 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

