



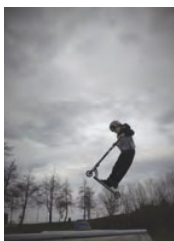
Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Volume 1



The **Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029** comprises of:

- Volume 1 Written Statement
- Volume 2 Small Towns, Environs, Villages and Rural Settlements
- Appendices 1-12
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Appropriate Assessment (AA)
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

The photographs on the cover page, and some throughout this document, were taken by young people of County Kildare and submitted to the photographic competition entitled '*This is My Kildare!*' as part of the Pre-Draft public consultation for this County Development Plan.



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Kildare County Council**



Chief Executive's Foreword

Kildare's County Development Plan 2023-2029 was prepared over a two-year period and included three separate periods of public consultation. Members of the public were invited to attend independently facilitated workshops, make submissions and gain further information through our podcast series. At the end of this intensive, consultative period, the Elected Members of Kildare County Council adopted the new blueprint for our County on the 9th of December 2022.

I am immensely proud of our new County Development Plan. It provides a clear statement of our shared priorities for our County to 2029, and beyond. The Plan builds upon the sound foundations and successes that have already been achieved, through the objectives of previous County Development Plans, and it represents another significant building block for the continued, sustainable, development of our county.

It is worth noting that this Plan has been prepared at a time of great flux locally, nationally, and internationally. Covid-19, Brexit and Climate Change have had an impact on our County and our way of life. We have had to pivot and change how we live, how we carry out business, and how we interact with our communities. I believe that our new Plan sets out a clear vision, which prioritises quality of life, through its many policies, objectives, targets, and actions.

Kildare has so much to offer due to its strategic location, its excellent motorway network, public transport and rail-lines that traverse our county and link it with Dublin Airport, Dublin Port and adjoining regions. The accessibility of our county has, and will continue to play, a key role in the development of Kildare's economy. The variety of economic offering and opportunities that Kildare provides has been recognised in the Plan. Emphasis has been placed on farming, the equine industry, technological and pharmaceutical industries, foreign-direct investment and our small to medium enterprise sector. This plan provides a platform to maintain and sustain the economic ecosystem and provide more sustainable employment opportunities for the citizens of Kildare.

It must also be acknowledged that County Kildare is facing significant challenges. The provision and availability of appropriate and affordable housing for all, is what we are striving for. This is the first plan that has had the benefit of a Housing Need and Demand Assessment. This assessment has informed our housing policies and provides for a sufficient quantum of residentially zoned lands at the most sustainable locations to meet the anticipated growth of our population during the Plan period.

In tandem with the provision of housing is the continued focus on the improvement and provision of supporting physical, social and community infrastructure in our County. We will continue to work with our strategic partners and key stakeholders to ensure the continued and timely delivery of these necessary services and facilities for the benefit of all our citizens.

Covid-19 was hugely impactful in many ways. One of the impacts was the realisation of the importance of our amenity spaces including parks, playgrounds, blueways, greenways and public realm spaces. At an unprecedented time when we were confined to our homes and neighbourhoods, we appreciated the proximity of these spaces. This Plan has placed a particular emphasis on the improvement of such

spaces and the creation of even stronger communities. Greenways too are playing their part in terms of providing realistic, achievable and sustainable travel options.

The making of this Plan is timely as it coincides with the commencement of the preparation of our Local Economic Community Plan which will focus on small and medium enterprises as well as new and improved social and community infrastructure throughout our county.

It is the shared ambition of the Elected Members, together with the Executive of Kildare County Council, to build on our successes, to identify further opportunities and to work together towards an inclusive and sustainable County. I look forward to the implementation of this County Development Plan and to seeing the objectives and the vision for our County being realised.



Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive
28/01/2023

FOREWORD FROM AN CATHAOIRLEACH

As an elected representative of the people of Kildare, and as Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, I feel very privileged to have played an active part in the preparation and adoption of our new County Development Plan 2023-2029. I want to thank everyone who engaged with the process and made valid and valuable contributions.

The preparation of a Development Plan is an exciting milestone in a Local Authority and is the result of a two-year legislative process where we, as your elected representatives, must have regard to the relevant Planning legislation, a suite of Ministerial Guidelines, national and regional policy documents and the matters raised in each and every one of the submissions made. I am proud of the work carried out to bring this important Plan to fruition and I feel that the elected members of Kildare County Council have ably represented the voices of the people of Kildare throughout the entire process.

Our new Development Plan is hugely ambitious and sets out the framework within which our county will thrive and prosper over the Plan period and beyond. The policies, objectives, actions and targets contained within this Plan affect each and every one of our lives and relate to a wide range of themes including (but not limited to) sustainable travel, physical and community infrastructure, housing, public spaces, green infrastructure, heritage and conservation, the economy, rural development, energy and retail.

Our focus now turns to implementation of the key objectives of this Plan, and we will collectively work on your behalf to ensure the delivery of the commitments in our Development Plan.



Cllr. Fintan Brett

Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Development Plan was adopted by the Elected Members of Kildare County Council on 9th December 2022. The Plan came into effect on 28th January 2023.

Kildare County Council has a total of 40 County Councillors from the Municipal Districts (MD) of: Athy, Kildare - Newbridge, Celbridge – Leixlip, Clane - Maynooth and Naas who together form Kildare County Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Athy MD:

Aoife Breslin *The Labour Party*, Veralouise Behan *Fianna Fáil*, Brian Dooley *Fianna Fáil*, Ivan Keatley *Fine Gael*, Mark Leigh *The Labour Party*.

Kildare-Newbridge MD:

Anne Connolly *Fianna Fáil*, Noel Connolly *Sinn Féin*, Suzanne Doyle *Fianna Fáil*, Kevin Duffy *Fine Gael*, Noel Heavey *Fianna Fáil*, Fiona McLoughlin Healy *Non-Party*, Peggy O'Dwyer *Fine Gael*, Tracey O'Dwyer *Fine Gael*, Chris Pender *Social Democrats*, Robert Power *Fianna Fáil*, Mark Stafford *Fine Gael*

Celbridge-Leixlip MD:

Bernard Caldwell *Fianna Fáil*, Michael Coleman *Fianna Fáil*, Ide Cussen *Non-Party*, Ciara Galvin *The Labour Party*, Nuala Killeen *Social Democrats*, Vanessa Liston *Green Party*, Joe Neville *Fine Gael*

Clane-Maynooth MD:

Tim Durkan *Fine Gael*, Aidan Farrelly *Social Democrats*, Angela Feeney *The Labour Party*, Daragh Fitzpatrick *Fianna Fáil*, Peter Hamilton *Green Party*, Pádraig McEvoy *Non-Party*, Naoise Ó Cearúil *Fianna Fáil*, Paul Ward *Fianna Fáil*, Brendan Weld *Fine Gael*, Brendan Wyse *Fine Gael*

Naas MD:

Anne Breen *The Labour Party*, Fintan Brett *Fine Gael*, Bill Clear *Social Democrats*, Carmel Kelly *Fianna Fáil*, Colm Kenny *Green Party*, Seamie Moore *Non-Party*, Evie Sammon *Fine Gael*

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In accordance with the statutory process for the preparation of a Development Plan as set out under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Council published notice of its intention to review the Kildare County Development Plan and to prepare a new development plan in January 2021 and carried out an initial stage of public consultation between January and March 2021; the Council published the Draft Kildare County Development Plan in March 2022 and carried out public consultation between March and May 2022; the Council published Proposed Material Alterations

to the Draft Plan in September 2022 and carried out a further public consultation in September and October 2022. At each stage a Chief Executive's Report that summarised the issues raised in the submissions and observations received was submitted to the Elected Members of Kildare County Council for their consideration during the plan making process.

The County Development Plan, as published and uploaded to the Council's website in January 2023, incorporates the Material Alterations to the Draft Plan adopted by the members of Kildare County Council in December 2022 and consequential changes arising therefrom.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following are acknowledged for their valued contribution towards the making of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029;

ARUP; RPS Consulting Engineers; O'Dwyer & Jones Design Partnership; The All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) Maynooth University; People & Place; Ivana Lavelle and Rita Burtenshaw.

Photographs were taken by young people of County Kildare and submitted to the photographic competition entitled 'This is My Kildare' as part of the Pre-Draft public consultation for this County Development Plan. Those who submitted photographs that have been used on the cover page of this publication have been credited on the inside of the cover page while photographs submitted by Ruadhan Gorry and Reece Carton have also been incorporated into this Plan.

The following are also credited for photographs used;

Lilian Webb, Ardclough GAA, Kildare County Council and Canva Design.

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