

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Kildare County Council
Held, on Wednesday 9th of September 2026 at 11.00am,
online and in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare**

- Members Present:** Cllr. Tim Durkan (Cathaoirleach), Cllr. William Durkan, Cllr. Angela Feeney, Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Peggy O'Dwyer
- Online:** Cllr. Pat Balfe, Cllr. Anne Breen, Cllr. Aoife Breslin, Cllr. Fintan Brett, Cllr. Bernard Caldwell, Cllr. Suzanne Doyle, Cllr. Angela Feeney, Cllr. Carmel Kelly, Cllr. Mark Leigh, Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr. Seamie Moore, Cllr. Tracey O'Dwyer, Cllr. Donna Phelan, Cllr. Declan Ryan, Cllr. David Trost, Cllr. Paul Ward.
- Apologies/Absent:** Cllr. Veralouise Behan, Cllr. Paul Brooks, Cllr. Bill Clear, Cllr. Noel Connolly, Cllr. Brian Dooley, Cllr. Kevin Duffy, Cllr. Ger Dunne, Rupert Heather, Cllr. Noel Heavey, Cllr. Ivan Keatley, Cllr. Nuala Killeen, Cllr. Tom McDonnell, Cllr. Peter Melrose, Cllr. Paula Mulroe, Cllr. Brian O'Loughlin, Cllr. Claire O'Rourke, Cllr. Chris Pender, Cllr. Robert Power, Cllr. Evie Sammon, Cllr. Brendan Wyse.
- Officials Present:** Alan Dunney - Director of Services, Ger Maher - Senior Executive Officer, Amy Granville - Senior Planner, Nollaig Curran - Senior Executive Planner, Bernadette O' Shea - Executive Planner, Eimer Kavanagh – Assistant Planner, Seán Greene – Assistant Planner, Mary Mc Carthy – Administrative Officer, Anne Louw - Senior Staff Officer, Joanne Farrell - Staff Officer, Ciara Pierce - Staff Officer.

Cllr. Tim Durkan (Cathaoirleach) welcomed the Members and Officials to the meeting to consider the Proposed Variation No. 5, Northwest Quadrant (Naas) to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied), dated 5th June 2026, the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on Proposed Variation No. 5, dated 5th August 2026 and the Meeting Report dated 27th August 2026. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Ger Maher and then deferred to him.

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Mr. Maher advised the Members that, as the matter to be considered at this meeting did not involve any decisions requiring signed stated reasons or consequential SEA/AA screening, an online or hybrid meeting could be facilitated in this instance.

Mr. Maher advised that in accordance with the 'Code of Conduct for Councillors' (July 2019) prepared under the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), the Elected Members, acting in the interests of the common good and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, must carry out their duties in a transparent manner, must follow due process and must make their decisions based on relevant considerations. Additionally, Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines – Development Plan Guideline (2022) issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government state that the statutory elements and remit of the County Development Plan are set out clearly in the Planning and Development Acts. In preparing the County Development Plan, Planning Authorities must exercise caution not to inappropriately stray into the operation of other statutory codes and regulatory regimes that relate to the development sector but are outside the remit of a development plan. This is applicable to policy or objectives for non-planning functions governed by other legislation and regulations.

Mr. Maher brought the Members' attention to Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended where, at a meeting of a planning authority or of any committee of a planning authority, a resolution, motion, question or other matter is proposed or otherwise arises either pursuant to, or as regards the performance by the authority of a function under this Act or in relation to the acquisition or disposal by the authority of land under or for the purposes of this Act or any other enactment, a member of the authority or committee present at the meeting shall, if he or she has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest in, or which is material to, the matter—

(a) at the meeting, and before discussion or consideration of the matter commences, disclose the nature of his or her interest, and
(b) withdraw from the meeting for so long as the matter is being discussed or considered, and accordingly, he or she shall take no part in the discussion or consideration of the matter and shall refrain from voting in relation to it.

1. **Dearbhuithe um (a) coinbhleachtaí leasa nó (b) leasanna airgid nó leasanna tairbhiúla faoi Alt 177 den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil 2001, arna leasú.**
Declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

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The Cathaoirleach asked the Members if there were any declarations and the Members confirmed there were no declarations.

2. To consider;

- a. Proposed Variation No. 5 Northwest Quadrant (Naas) to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied), dated 5th June 2026**
- b. Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on Proposed Variation No. 5, dated 5th August 2026**
- c. Meeting Report on the Chief Executive's Report on Proposed Variation No. 5 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)**

Mr. Maher sought a proposer and seconder for item number one on the meeting report.

Item No.	Motion: Cllr. Bill Clear, Cllr. Seamie Moore, Cllr. Fintan Brett, Cllr. Evie Sammon, Cllr. Anne Breen, Cllr. Carmel Kelly, Cllr. Ger Dunne	
1.	That the Members of Kildare County Council, having considered the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on Proposed Variation No. 5, dated 5th August 2026 and in particular Section 1.5 thereof, the Members note that: • Submissions from the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) have identified issues of significant importance relating to public transport access, canal crossing options, flood risk and impacts on adjoining lands. • The amendments required to address these matters would fundamentally alter the proposal as originally	<u>Chief Executive's Response</u> Agreed.

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	presented to the public and would necessitate further technical assessment and analysis. • Proceeding with substantial modifications within the current variation process could give rise to unnecessary procedural and legal risks. • A clear, deliverable and evidence-based public transport strategy is essential to the integrity, accessibility and long-term success of the Northwest Quadrant Masterplan. • Any revised proposals may have implications beyond the lands currently subject to the proposed variation and should therefore be informed by further stakeholder engagement and public consultation. The Council reaffirms its commitment to the planned and sustainable development of the Northwest Quadrant Naas and to the delivery of a robust, evidence-based and legally sound framework that can command public confidence and support. Accordingly, the Council supports the Chief Executive's recommendation that: 1. The current Variation should not be made. 2. Kildare County Council should undertake the necessary assessments and revisions having regard to the issues	
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	raised by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Office of Public Works (OPW), and A revised Variation should be prepared and published at the earliest practicable opportunity following completion of the required assessments and stakeholder engagement process.	
	Record	
	The motion was proposed by Cllr. Seamie Moore and seconded by Cllr. Carmel Kelly and agreed by the Members.	

The Cathaoirleach thanked all in attendance.

The meeting concluded.