

Chapter 12: Implementation and Monitoring

Strategic Aim:

To implement in conjunction with key stakeholders, the objectives of this Local Area Plan, with a particular focus on the key strategic objectives, and to monitor same.

12.1 Implementation Strategy

This Local Area Plan sets out a clear and strategic vision for the development of Birr Town (including Crinkill Village) in the period to 2029. This vision is in accordance with the role identified for Birr at both county and regional levels and seeks to make the town a more attractive place to live, work and visit while also functioning as the business, service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. In order for the vision to be realised it is critical that the projected population growth is accompanied by the delivery of the necessary site servicing and social infrastructure requirements. The identification of critical infrastructure that needs to be delivered in tandem with the planned development of the town forms the basis of the following assessments:

- Planning and Infrastructural Assessment (PIA) – Chapter 10
- Birr Local Transport Plan (LTP) – Appendix 1

These assessments provide a strong evidence base, which has informed key policy objectives and provisions of this Plan including the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule for new residential development lands and for the development of Birr's Opportunity Sites, as outlined in Section 10.6. These assessments ensure that new developments are considered in a sustainable and co-ordinated manner, and will ensure the maximum integration of new residential neighbourhoods into the existing community.

The Council is fully committed to securing and monitoring the implementation of the strategies, policies and objectives of this Plan. The Council will continue to occupy a leadership role to progress and secure the Plan policies and objectives to achieve the sustainable development of Birr Town. The successful implementation of a significant number of the policies and objectives of this Local Area Plan will necessitate on-going collaboration and a sense of good-will across a range of agencies and stakeholders. The implementation of this Plan will depend also on the economic climate, political support, Council funding and the availability of funding from other sources. It is considered that the implementation of the plan would be best focused on anticipated/proposed key, strategic and practical outcomes of the plan.

12.2 Stakeholders

This Local Area Plan outlines specific policies and objectives of Offaly County Council with regard to Birr Town (including Crinkill Village). The overarching policies and objectives of Offaly County Development Plan also apply, specifically the Development Management Standards outlined in the

County Development Plan. As far as practicable, every effort has been made to formulate objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable and realistic.

The Planning Department of the Council is the main section responsible for monitoring and implementing the Plan, mainly through the development management function. However, it is important to note that this Plan coordinates the work and objectives of other key departments within Offaly County Council, such as Local Economic Office (LEO), Environment and Water Services, Roads, Housing, Tourism, Regeneration, Local Community Development and the Municipal District. The local authority will need to utilise its wide range of statutory powers and responsibilities to achieve the objectives of the Plan. In some cases, the body responsible for the implementation of certain Plan objectives may be external, such as Irish Water, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Waterways Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 established the legal basis for the Office of the Planning Regulator and outlines its role and functions, which include the assessment of all local authority forward planning programmes. It operates an independent monitoring role, advising Government on implementation of local authority statutory planning processes.

12.3 Funding

The Council will endeavour to attract state and other investment programmes to support the implementation of the objectives of the Plan including required infrastructure. Some sources of funding that will help in achieving the delivery of objectives within the Plan include;

- Public Private Partnerships
- Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
- Town and Village Renewal Funding
- Active Travel Funding
- Climate Action Fund
- Disruptive Technologies Fund
- EU LIFE Programme funding
- Development Contributions
- Private – The developer of lands can privately finance the delivery of infrastructure
- Irish Water Capital Investment Plan funding, Smarter Travel funding by the National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland funding, and Government Department funding