



16 July 2021

Forward Planning Section,
Offaly County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
Charleville Road,
Tullamore
Co Offaly

Re: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Offaly CDP 2021-2027

To whom it may concern,

I refer to the above. The Department of Education wishes to make the following submission in relation to the proposed material alterations to the Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027.

The Department of Education wishes to acknowledge these amendments and notes amendment MA 19, which proposes to change population projections in Tullamore, Edenderry and Portarlington. Although these changes could have some impact on school capacity, the requirements as identified in the Department's submission to the draft CDP remain unchanged.

The Department notes from the Chief Executive's report that the requirements identified in our submission for the reservation of sites for one primary school and one post-primary school in Tullamore are to be considered in the forthcoming Tullamore LAP. Whereas it is preferable that this requirement would be referenced in the CDP, the Department will work closely with the Council to secure these site reservations at LAP stage.

The Department also notes and welcomes the retention of the Community Service Facilities zoning of circa 2.3 ha land west of Lidl in Birr as per the request of our submission.

The Department thanks Offaly County Council for ongoing assistance in relation to school planning matters and looks forward to continuing to work together to deliver educational requirements for County Offaly.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Hanlon
Statutory Plans
Forward Planning Section