

18th April 2023

Forward/Strategic Planning,
Economic Development Directorate,
Limerick City and County Council,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick.

Re: Adopted Rathkeale Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029

A chara,

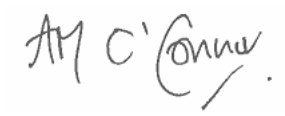
The Office of the Planning Regulator (the Office) acknowledges the adoption of the Rathkeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029 (the LAP) by the members of Limerick City and County Council on 10th January 2023.

The Office notes, and welcomes, the decision of the planning authority to fully comply, in whole, with its recommendations included in its submissions.

In particular the Office welcomes the amendments to Chapter 7 in response to the Office's Recommendation 1 of the Office's submission to the draft LAP. This amendment provides clarity in relation as to how active land management can be used in addressing town centre vacancy, providing a strategy for the promotion of compact growth and urban regeneration which will facilitate the redevelopment of infill and brownfield sites.

The Office also welcomes the amendments made on foot of Recommendation 2 of the Office's submission to the draft LAP. The amendments strengthens the Climate Change and Flooding Strategic Policy, which will limit future developments in areas liable to flooding to minor developments where appropriate, ensuring consistency with NPO 57 and the *Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2009). In conclusion, the Office generally welcomes the adoption of the LAP, and looks forward to continued positive engagement with the planning authority into the future in the implementation of national policy at the local level.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AM O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a diagonal slash under the "n" in "Connor".

Anne Marie O'Connor

Deputy Regulator and Director of Plans Evaluations