

30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

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

**Re: Adopted Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023-2029**

A chara,

The Office of the Planning Regulator (the Office) acknowledges the adoption of the Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023-2029 (the LAP) by the elected members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Limerick City and County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The Office welcomes the adopted LAP, which sets out a positive, evidence-based and implementation-focused six-year planning strategy for Castleconnell that is consistent with national and regional policy objectives and represents a best practice approach in a number of areas.

In particular, the Office commends the planning authority for the inclusion of a detailed settlement capacity audit and infrastructure assessment including costing estimates to inform the land use zoning objectives. The Office considers this to be a best practice approach.

The LAP also addresses climate action and sustainable transport in a very positive way. The LAP provides a framework to meet the ambitious targets under the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 to increase active and sustainable transport trips. For example, by providing for improved walking and cycling routes within the town and a park and ride facility beside the train station. This approach is consistent with the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and is welcomed by the Office.

The Office also welcomes the approach to implementation and monitoring in the LAP. The identification of a lead organisation responsible for the implementation of each of the nine key actions within a specified time period demonstrates that the planning authority

has carefully considered action implementation. Importantly, this strategy will enable the planning authority to objectively review the success of the LAP and identify instances where further action might be required to ensure that the objectives of the LAP are achieved. The Office therefore commends this monitoring strategy as a best practice approach.

Finally, the Office would like to thank the planning authority for engaging positively with the Office during the LAP-preparation process. The Office is satisfied with the overall outcome of the adopted LAP and the manner in which its recommendations and observations were addressed at draft and material alterations stages.

The Office welcomes the adoption of the Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and looks forward to continued engagement with Limerick City and County Council in the implementation of national and regional policy at the local level.

Is mise le meas,

---



**Anne Marie O'Connor**

Deputy Planning Regulator and Director of Plans Evaluations

---