



# Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan Submission - Report

<b>Who are you:</b>	State Body
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## File

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Planning Department,  
Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings,  
Wicklow Town,  
Co. Wicklow

23rd January 2024

**Re: Issues Paper – Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Area Plan**

Dear Sir/Madam

The Department of Education welcomes this opportunity to engage with Wicklow County Council in the preparation of the Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Area Plan.

The Department notes that Local Authorities, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), are obliged to make all their statutory plans consistent with the core strategies and objectives of the NPF and the relevant RSES. The Department welcomes the reference to this statement in the Issues Paper. In terms of population growth, the current Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 designates Greystones-Delgany as a 'Self-Sustaining Growth Town' and provides a population increase of 3,609 persons for Greystones-Delgany from 2016 to 2031. The current Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 designates Kilcoole as a 'Self-Sustaining Growth Town' and provides a population increase of 71 persons for Kilcoole from 2016 to 2031. It is noted that the Issues Paper identifies the potential of 850 new homes for the towns, which if developed should increase the population across the LAP area and could lead to a requirement for additional education provision at both primary and post-primary level over the lifetime of the plan.

The Department also notes in the section titled Regeneration of Communities & Places – Healthy Placemaking – Urban Design – Opportunity Sites of the Issues Paper the reference to the potential regeneration of existing areas within the town's core. The Department notes that the LAP will consider the cumulative impacts of regeneration and redevelopment on existing community facilities. Population growth within the existing "built-up" footprint of the town has the potential to upset the balance of use relative to education provision in the area. The absence of specific school site provision in such locations can significantly challenge the delivery of required school places associated with intensified residential development. It is, therefore, critical that explicit provision for school development to cater for such development be made in existing "built-up" areas, within Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole.

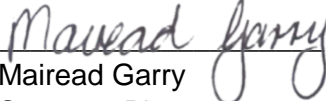


The Department notes in the section Economic Opportunity – Tourism – Shops & Service – Community Facilities the need to ensure that there is enough land zoned within the settlement to meet the projected future educational, community, sport and recreational uses, in order to meet the needs of the future population. The Department will engage with the Council in terms of future school place provision at both primary and post-primary level and in this regard requests that the Draft Plan would be explicit in its support for the provision of adequate and suitable school accommodation, including the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones.

In terms of assessing current and future capacity, the Department of Education has to be mindful of potential unforeseen circumstances such as the Ukrainian crisis, which have the ability to put undue pressure on school place provision and could necessitate reassessments of school place provision from time to time. The Department will engage with the Council where the findings of an assessment require a review of existing or future school site provision within a specific location. The Department also anticipates that additional special education needs provision at both primary and post-primary level will be required in the future throughout the country and this may result in schools requiring additional accommodation to meet this growing need. The Department will consult with the Council if and when additional special education needs accommodation is required within specific locations.

Finally, the Department welcomes the continued engagement with the Council regarding the development of both new and existing schools, as appropriate, and emphasizes the critical importance of the ongoing work of the Council in ensuring sufficient land is zoned for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,

  
Mairead Garry  
Statutory Plans,  
Forward Planning Section