

## Section 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction

This Chief Executive's Report is submitted under Section 20(3)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It is part of the formal statutory process of the preparation of a Local Area Plan. This Report contains the following:

- i. a list of the persons or bodies that made submissions,
- ii. a summary of the issues raised by them,
- iii. the opinion of the Chief Executive in relation to the issues raised, and her recommendations in relation to the proposed LAP, taking account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any Minister of the Government.

The members of the planning authority are required to consider the proposal to make the local area plan and this report of the Chief Executive.

### 1.2 Next Steps

Following consideration of this Chief Executive's Report, the local area plan shall be deemed to be made in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Executive as set out in this Report, 6 weeks after the furnishing of the report to the members, unless the planning authority, by resolution, decides to either:

- i. make or amend the plan otherwise than as recommended in this report, or
- ii. not make the plan.

**This matter is to be on the agenda for consideration at the County Council meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.**

Where, following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report, it appears to the members of the authority that the Draft LAP should be altered, and the proposed alteration would if made be a material alteration of the draft LAP, the Planning Authority shall, not later than 3 weeks after the passing of a resolution publish notice of the proposed material alteration in one or more newspapers circulating in its area, and send notice of the proposed material alteration to the Minister, to the Office of the Planning Regulator, the Board and the prescribed authorities (enclosing where the authority considers it appropriate a copy of the proposed material alteration).

**In the event that material amendments to the draft plan are proposed**, the planning authority shall determine if a Strategic Environmental Assessment or Appropriate Assessment, as the case may be, is or are required to be carried out as respects one or more than one proposed material amendments to the Draft LAP.

The Chief Executive shall, not later than 2 weeks after a determination that SEA/AA of a material amendment is required, specify such period as she considers necessary following the passing of the resolution, as being required to facilitate an assessment. The planning authority shall carry out an assessment required of the proposed material amendment of the draft local area plan within the period specified by the Chief Executive.

The planning authority shall publish notice of the proposed material amendment, and where appropriate

in the circumstances, the making of a determination that a SEA/AA is required. The planning authority shall carry out the assessment within the period specified by the Chief Executive.

The notice relating to material amendments shall state –

- i. that a copy of the proposed material amendment and of any determination by the authority that a SEA/AA is required may be inspected during a stated period of not less than 4 weeks, and
- ii. that written submissions or observations with respect to the proposed material amendment and of any determination by the authority that a SEA/AA is required, may be made to the planning authority and shall be taken into consideration before the making of any material amendment.

### **1.3 Draft Consultation Process**

The draft Blessington Local Area Plan (LAP) 2025-2031 was placed on display during the period of 30 October 2024 to 11 December 2024 (6 weeks). The aim of the consultation process was to enable the public and interested parties to give their observations on the draft LAP. A total of **253 valid** submissions were made<sup>1</sup>. The written submissions are held on file and are available for inspection on Wicklow County Council's website [here](#).

### **1.4 Proposed Variation No. 3 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028**

The process for making Proposed Variation No. 3 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 is running alongside the draft Blessington Local Area Plan process. The reason for the proposed variation is to integrate the LAP maps into the CDP and to ensure consistency of the draft and final Blessington LAP with the CDP. The draft LAP and the proposed variation went out on display at the same time with submissions invited. Many submissions to the draft LAP referred to the Proposed Variation in the title / introduction of their submission however the content of the submission related to the draft LAP. Such submissions are dealt with in this CE report on the draft LAP.

The submissions to the variation are dealt with in a separate CE report on the Proposed Variation.

### **1.5 Consideration of Submissions**

Each submission made has been summarized and assessed in Section 4 of this report.

Section 4 is broken into three sections – Section 4.1 relates to submissions from prescribed bodies, Section 4.2 relates to submissions received from elected representatives, while Section 4.3 relates to submissions from the public.

Section 4.1 and 4.2 is organised by submitter and addresses the issues in the order set out in the submission, whereas Section 4.3 is organised by topic, rather than by submitter. The topic order is as per the order topics are set out in the draft LAP.

For ease, a full list of all of the Chief Executive's recommended amendments are provided in Section 2 of this report.

This report is submitted to the Council Members for their consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that any submission received after the closing date, and any submission that did not meet the requirements of the Act with regard to identification of the submitter has been deemed invalid. Any submission with 'no content' e.g. no file attached, will appear in the list of submissions but is not assessed in Section 4 of this report.