

CHAPTER 5

Movement Strategy

5.1 Introduction

Transport is fundamental to how we live and work. The maintenance and delivery of an efficient, integrated and coherent transport network in line with national and regional policy is fundamental to the future economic, social and physical development of the County. Failure to facilitate efficient transport creates costs for society and acts as a barrier to economic growth. A key priority for this Plan is the development of a sustainable transport system, promoting measures to increase the use of public transport, while also increasing the modal share for walking and cycling in towns and villages across the County.

National and regional transport policy recognises that current transport trends in Ireland and the GDA, in particular with regard to levels of car use, are unsustainable. A transition towards more sustainable modes of transport is essential to reduce Ireland's carbon emissions and reach the Government's goal of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

While the emphasis in this chapter is to encourage this modal shift it is also important to recognise that some essential travel will continue to be made by cars and goods vehicles and the Plan also facilitates improvement in road infrastructure to cater for the required improved efficiencies.

5.2 Statutory Context

Legislation in the form of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) established the role of the National Transport Authority (NTA)¹ in the planning process for the GDA. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies

(RSES) are to be consistent with the National Transport Authority's Transport Strategy as are Local Authority Development Plans and Local Area Plans.

5.3 Policy Context

There are a number of National and Regional policy documents which provide the basis for Meath's transportation strategy as follows:

National Planning Framework and National Development Plan- Project Ireland 2040

The National Strategic Outcomes of Compact Growth (NSO 1), Enhanced Regional Accessibility (NSO 2), Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities (NSO 3), Sustainable Mobility (NSO 4) and Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society (NSO 8) and a Strong Economy supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills (NSO 5) are all of relevance to this Movement Strategy.

The NPF focus is on delivery of compact growth with the emphasis on an efficient public transport systems thereby reducing reliance on the private car which will reduce emissions, improve air quality etc.

Implementing the Ireland 2040 Framework will be guided by targeting the following national strategic outcomes:

Compact, Smart Growth:

'Carefully managing the sustainable growth of compact cities and towns adds value and should create more attractive places for people to live and work in. All our cities and many rural towns contain large potential development areas, centrally located and frequently publicly owned, that are suitable and capable of re-use to provide housing, jobs, amenities and services, but which

¹ The NTA is the transport authority for the Greater Dublin Area and the public licensing agency for Ireland. It was established under the provisions of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 and the Public Regulation Act (2009), on 1st December 2009.

need a streamlined and co-ordinated approach to their development, with investment in enabling infrastructure and supporting amenities, to realise their potential. Activating these strategic areas and achieving effective density and consolidation, rather than more sprawl of urban development is a top priority.'

Enhanced Regional Accessibility:

'Once the core areas in key cities and urban areas have been mobilised, the next priority is to enhance accessibility between key urban centres of population and their regions such as the key cities of Cork and Limerick and through the Atlantic Economic Corridor to Galway as well as access to the larger urban centres in the North-West. Investment in connectivity first without urban consolidation measures will likely worsen the current trends towards sprawl.'

Sustainable Mobility:

'in line with Ireland's Climate Change mitigation plan, we need to progressively electrify our mobility systems moving away from polluting and carbon intensive propulsion systems to new technologies such as electric vehicles and introduction of electric and hybrid traction systems for public transport fleets, such that by 2040 our cities and towns will enjoy a cleaner, quieter environment free of combustion engine driven transport systems.'

National Strategic Outcome 2 refers to enhanced regional accessibility. The N52 Ardee Bypass and the N2 Slane Bypass are projects listed as part of the programme of investment set out in the National Development Plan, and as illustrated by figure 5.2, aims to achieve these objective the objective of enhanced regional connectivity.

A number of sections of the national road network will be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning during 2018 to

prioritise projects which are proceeding to construction in the National Development Plan, these projects include: N3 Clonee to M50, N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross, N2 Ardee to south of Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to the Border.

A number of local roads are listed in the NDP for progression over the life of the plan the Bettystown/Laytown Spine Road is included. The NDP states that Local Authorities are planning to progress a wide range of regional and local roads projects across the country. These projects are at various stages of planning and appraisal. Examples of projects currently subject to appraisal include the R157 Maynooth Road, Dunboyne (safety upgrade) and the R162 Navan to Kingscourt road (safety upgrade).

National Transport Authority - Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035

This transport strategy provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services in the Greater Dublin Area over the next two decades. The strategy has identified that since the 1990's car ownership in Meath has consistently risen even through the recession years and is now reaching saturation point. Cycling mode share in the County is low. The strategy emphasises the need for additional walking and cycling infrastructure in the region and outlines the improvements required to achieve this. The NTA's Transportation Strategy is required by legislation to be consistent with the RSES.

Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016-2021 (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

The Capital Plan presents the Government's €42 billion framework for infrastructure investment

in Ireland over the period 2016 to 2021. The plan is committed to the provision of high quality infrastructure. It outlines allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. In particular it mentions the commencement of the Slane By-Pass and the Laytown – Bettystown link road.

Investing in our Transport Future - A Strategic investment Framework for Land Transport (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, 2015)

This document considers the role transport should play in the future of the Irish Economy and seeks to identify a strategy for the development and management of Irelands land transport network. The framework is intended to guide key land transport investment decisions over the next number of decades. The document also provides a set of criteria against which to assess national and regional land use planning policy, including the development of a possible new spatial planning framework. It also functions as a filter for new transport investment projects prior to their appraisal for suitability for inclusion in national or regional schemes.

Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government 2012)

These guidelines set out planning policy considerations relating to development affecting national primary and secondary roads, including motorways and associated junctions, outside the 50-60 kmph speed limit zones for cities, towns and villages.

Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland, 2009-2020 (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

This strategy aims to deliver a sustainable transport system which is fundamental to the climate change agenda. The Government reaffirms its vision for sustainability in transport and sets out five keys goals: (i) reduce overall travel demand, (ii) maximise the efficiency of the transport network, (iii) reduce reliance on fossil fuels, (iv) reduce transport emissions and (v) improve accessibility to transport and thus improve our quality of life.

National Cycle Policy Framework 2009-2020 (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

The National Cycle Policy Framework (NCPF) 2009-2020, uses the targets outlined in Smarter Travel and focuses more specifically on cycling as a sustainable transport mode. The document sets out the stated aim of creating a strong cycling culture in Ireland making cycling the norm, rather than an exception, for all short trips undertaken.

Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan 2014-2024

This document focuses on establishing an inventory of cycling facilities in Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow and identifies potential cycle routes such as greenways, cycle paths, cycle lanes, and roads. The plan sets out a ten year strategy to guide investment into cycling in the GDA and seeks to increase the regions cycle network fivefold in length to 2,840km.

Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets 2019 (DMURS), (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of Environment)

The focus of the manual is to create streets

that are safe, attractive and comfortable for all users. It presents a series of principles, approaches and standards that are necessary to achieve balanced, best practice design outcomes with regard to street networks and individual streets. Well designed streets can create connected physical, social and transport networks that promote real alternatives to car journeys, namely walking, cycling or public transport. The manual gives guidance on the layout of new developments and on the design of individual roads and streets taking into account streetscapes, urban design as well as engineering criteria. The manual must be taken into account by all Planning Authorities when permitting or planning development.

National Cycle Manual 2011 (National Transport Authority)

This offers guidance on integrating the bike into the design of urban areas. The manual challenges planners and engineers to incorporate cycling within transport networks more proactively than before.

Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments 2018 (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)

This includes standards for car parking.

National Aviation Policy for Ireland 2015 (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

This document serves as a general guidance document for the development of aviation within the Country. It highlights three principal goals for the Irish aviation sector:

- *To enhance Irelands connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access, responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers;*

- *To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and,*
- *To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to Irelands economic growth and development.*

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, 2019-2031

Regional Policy Objective RPO 6 Integrated Transport and Land Use Planning seeks to: *'Promote best use of Transport Infrastructure, existing and planned, and promote sustainable and active modes of travel to ensure the proper integration of transportation and land use planning.'*

The RSES acknowledges that transport as a sector is one of the significant contributors to our national Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and as a nation we need to act on climate change and adapt and mitigate all sectors accordingly. The need to transition to a low carbon society by reducing transport usage and transitions to lower carbon options, including transition to clean renewables is a key aspect of Ireland's response to climate change. Transition to a low carbon transport system is firstly about reducing the need for travel and then shifting to economically efficient modes, i.e. active travel modes and public transport. Transitioning existing fossil fuel vehicles to clean renewable vehicles is a vital further step.

The NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services over the period 2016 - 2035.

The following RPOs are relevant:

RPO 8.1:

'The integration of transport and land use planning in the Region shall be consistent with the guiding principles expressed in the transport strategy of the RSES.'

RPO 8.2:

'The capacity and safety of the Region's strategic land transport networks will be managed and enhanced, including through the management of travel demand in order to ensure their optimal use.'

RPO 8.3:

'That future development is planned and designed in a manner which maximises the efficiency and protects the strategic capacity of the metropolitan area transport network, both existing and planned and to protect and maintain regional accessibility.'

RPO 8.4:

'Land use plans within the GDA shall demonstrate a consistency with the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area and plans with or outside of the GDA shall be consistent with the guiding principles expressed in the RSES.'

RPO 8.5:

'To support the preparation of a regional strategy for freight transport in collaboration with the relevant transport agencies and the other Assemblies.'

RPO 8.6:

'In order to give local expression to the regional level Transport Strategy within the Region in conjunction with the NTA, Local Transport Plans (LTP) will be prepared for selected settlements in the Region.' The settlements for which Local

Transport Plans will be made will include, but will not be limited to, Athlone, Dundalk, Drogheda, Arklow, Ashbourne, Balbriggan, Longford, Mullingar, Portlaoise, , Naas, Navan, Newbridge, Tullamore, and Wicklow-Rathnew and certain large settlements or development areas within the Dublin Metropolitan Area.

PO 8.7:

'To promote the use of mobility management and travel plans to bring about behaviour change and more sustainable transport use.'

RPO 8.8:

'The RSES supports delivery of the rail projects set out in Table 8.2, subject to the outcome of appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process.'

These projects include:

- Implement the extension of the Dunboyne/M3 Parkway line to Navan during the Mid Term Review of the GDA Transport Strategy;²
- Dart expansion Programme - new infrastructure and electrification of existing lines, including provision of electrified services to Drogheda, Maynooth and M3 Parkway on the Maynooth/Sligo Line.

RPO 8.9:

'The RSES supports delivery of the bus projects set out in Table 8.3 subject to the outcome of appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process.'

Table 8.3 includes a broad range of measures addressing all aspects of bus transport including routes, fare structures, passage information etc.

¹ The subject of a Draft Ministerial Direction, August 2019

RPO 8.10:

'The RSES supports appraisal and or delivery of the road projects set out in Table 8.4 subject to the outcome of appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process.'

These projects include:

- N2 Slane Bypass;
- N2 Rath roundabout to Kilmoon;
- N2 Ardee Bypass;
- N2 Ardee to Castleblayney;
- N3 Clonee to M50
- M4 Maynooth to Leixlip.

In addition, long term protection shall remain for the Eastern Bypass and the Leinster Outer Orbital Route.

RPO 8.11:

'Support the improvement, and protection, of the EU TEN-T network and the strategic function of the Dublin to Belfast road network.'

RPO 8.12:

'Support the delivery of a higher speed rail connection between Belfast and Dublin and Cork.'

RPO 8.13:

'Support the Local Link Rural Transport Programme throughout rural areas of the Region.'

RPO 8.14:

'The RSES supports delivery of the strategic park and ride projects set out in Table 8.5 subject to the outcome of appropriate environmental assessment and the outcome of the planning process.'

These projects include Dunboyne.

In terms of cycling the RSES focuses on implementation of the NTA Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan, delivery of the National Cycle Plan, provide safe cycling routes in towns and villages across the Region, enhance pedestrian facilities in all urban areas in the Region; and investment priorities for cycleways feasibility and route selection studies for cycleways shall identify and subsequently avoid high sensitivity feeding or nesting points for birds and other sensitive fauna.

The RSES sets out the following in respect of air transport:

RPO 8.17:

'Support the National Aviation Policy for Ireland and the growth of movements and passengers at Dublin Airport to include its status as a secondary hub airport. In particular, support the provision of a second runway, improved terminal facilities and other infrastructure.'

RPO 8.18:

'Improved access to Dublin Airport is supported, including Metrolink and improved bus services as part of BusConnects, connections from the road network from the west and north. Improve cycle access to Dublin Airport and surrounding employment locations. Support appropriate levels of car parking and car hire parking.'

RPO 8.19:

'Spatial planning policies in the vicinity of the airport shall protect the operation of Dublin Airport in respect to its growth and the safe navigation of aircraft from non-compatible land uses. Policies shall recognise and reflect the airport noise zones associated with Dublin Airport. Within the Inner Airport Noise Zone, provision of new residential and/or other noise sensitive development shall be actively resisted. Within the Outer Noise Zone,

provision of new residential and/or other noise sensitive development shall be strictly controlled and require appropriate levels of noise insulation in all cases.'

RPO 8.20:

'Spatial planning policies for areas located within the Public Safety Zones shall reflect the guidance set out in the ERM Report "Public Safety Zones, 2005" (or any update thereof) commissioned by the then Department of Transport and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in assessing proposals for development falling within Airport Public Safety Zones.'

5.4 Vision for Movement Strategy

It is a strategic aim of this Development Plan to create attractive efficient compact settlements which reduce the need to travel and improve the quality of life for inhabitants. Land use and the manner in which it is developed is the primary influencing factor for travel demand^[1]. It is the Vision of this Plan is to use the resources at the Council's disposal to provide safe, efficient and accessible transport networks which meet both local needs and wider regional and national strategic aims. Maintaining and improving transport networks remains a priority, particularly in relation to the delivery of important infrastructural development and transport measures which support the economic development strategy for the County. Achieving sustainable patterns of transport in accordance with national and regional policy as set out in Section 5.3 will enable settlements to function more efficiently and effectively.

5.5 Integration of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Land use planning can proactively influence travel behaviour; clustering of development coupled with improvements in street layouts, design and effective planning process can strongly influence how people make their daily journeys. Research has shown that travel by non motorised modes is highest in pleasant 'liveable' streets in areas of good permeability with direct access to public transport. It is a key priority of the National Planning Framework (NPF) to achieve effective density and consolidation rather than urban sprawl and thus improve mobilisation of core urban areas to achieve enhanced connectivity between regions. It is stated within the NPF that achieving effective density within centrally located urban areas and urban consolidation measures rather than more sprawl of urban development is a priority. It is advocated within the NPF that these measures will be delivered in accordance with the NTA Strategy for the GDA 2016-2035.

Consequently, it is therefore the policy of the Council to continue to support effective integration of land-use and transportation in order to generate and reinforce sustainable patterns of development in the County that reduce the need to travel by car. This policy focus is intended to, not only reflect the policy position as outlined in the NPF, and critically to take cognisance of the objectives of *'Ireland's Climate Change Strategy to 2020 and beyond'*.

It is a policy of the Council:

^[1] National Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035

MOV POL 1

To support and facilitate the integration of land use with transportation infrastructure, through the development of sustainable compact settlements which are well served by public transport.

MOV POL 2

To carry out strategic studies to identify and set out the delivery mechanisms for the necessary transport infrastructure to implement the Economic Development Strategy for County Meath.

MOV POL 3

To promote sustainable land use planning measures which facilitate transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the greater use of public transportation throughout the County.

MOV POL 4

To promote higher residential development densities in settlement centres along public transport corridors, that are not located in areas sensitive to flooding, or will increase temperatures of urban areas.

MOV OBJ 1

To prepare and commence implementation of, Local Transport Plans (LTP), in conjunction with the NTA and relevant stakeholders, Drogheda (in conjunction with Louth County Council as part of the Joint Urban Plan), Ashbourne, Navan, Ratoath, other settlements where appropriate.

5.5.1 Demand Management

The NTA's Transport Strategy envisages that there will be limited provision of new road capacity in the Greater Dublin Area up to 2030. While investment in public transport networks will free up road space, the forecast for growth in population and employment will negatively affect congestion in the Greater Dublin Area. The NTA acknowledge that, even with all of the planned improvements aimed at reducing the dependency on car travel, it will not be possible to meet the targets in the Smarter Travel Policy without significant demand management measures of a fiscal nature.

Management of demand for road use is broadly grouped into three categories:

- Control measures where access to, and use of, the road infrastructure or on and off street parking spaces is controlled e.g. on street parking controls, ramp metering, dedication of road space to certain transport modes, better development management to reduce demand and need to travel,
- Fiscal measures where pricing mechanisms are utilized to achieve road usage modification,

It Is the Objective of the Council:

- Other complementary measures used in combination with 1 and 2 above e.g. mobility management plans, car clubs, lift sharing, marketing and promotion of non-car modes of transport.

The Strategy aims to provide an efficient and effective transport system across the region and to accommodate future travel growth in a managed and balanced way. Increased public transport provision, coupled with enhanced cycling and walking facilities in the urban areas, will provide the means to cater for much of the increased travel demand. However, without complementary demand management measures the full benefits of the Strategy will not be achieved.

Accordingly the Plan will support the NTA in its prioritisation of the following:

- *Encourage land use policies which support the provision of development in locations and at densities which enable the efficient provision of public transport services;*
- *Set maximum parking standards⁵ for all new developments, with the level of parking provision applied being based on the level of public transport accessibility;*
- *Reduce the availability of workplace parking in urban centres to discourage car commuting, where alternative transport options are available;*
- *Implement, at the appropriate time, demand management measures to address congestion issues on the radial national routes approaching the M50 motorway, to ensure that these routes retain sufficient capacity to fulfil their wider strategic functions;*
- *Secure the introduction or expansion of on-street parking controls, and charging*

structures, that seek to reduce commuter parking and which contribute to greater parking turnover for non-commuting purposes;

- *Support and facilitate the implementation and expansion of:*

- 1) Workplace Travel Plans for all large employers⁶;*
- 2) Tailored travel planning information provision for residential and commercial/retail areas;*
- 3) Travel Plans for schools, colleges and all education campuses; and*
- 4) Car club schemes, car-pooling and car sharing.*

5.6 Strategic Infrastructure

5.6.1 Challenges

The State is not yet in a position to invest in transport networks at the same levels as before the economic crisis and the scope to implement major investment programmes in areas such as transport is tightly constrained.

A significant gap still exists between the funding allocation for transport measures and the minimum funding levels required to maintain the existing systems in adequate condition. Such restricted funding levels leave little scope for network improvements and capacity increases. The challenge now faced by the Local Authorities is securing increased investment levels in the future and ensuring that a strategic focus is maintained as to where and how investment is directed and utilised. The Irish economy is facing a better future. For transportation system this brings with it challenges and opportunities. In

⁵ See Chapter 11 Development Management

⁶ See Chapter 11 Development Management

the absence of appropriate levels of investment, targeted economic growth could be undermined by increased levels of congestion which results in a loss of efficiency and negatively affects community life. All transport investment therefore must be focused and prioritised to secure the most advantageous outcomes with the focus, as outlined in the NPF, RSES and the NTA Transport Strategy, on improved accessibility within urban areas and on strategic regional routes and corridors.

5.6.2 Key Principles

The following are considered to constitute the key principles underlying future investment in land transport networks:

- 1) Funding should focus on the maintenance and renewal of identified strategically important elements of the existing land transport system, so as to protect earlier investment and maintain essential functioning.
- 2) Inclusion of measures to address current and future urban congestion is considered essential.
- 3) Inclusion of measures to improve the efficiency and sustainability of urban transport including improved and expanded public transport; capacity and walking and cycling infrastructure, improved traffic management and bus priority; and better use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), where appropriate.
- 4) Any further investment should be targeted to maximise the contribution of land transport networks by enhancing the efficiency of the existing network, particularly through increased use of ITS applications or through investments that

improve connections to key seaports and airports or support other identified national and regional spatial planning priorities, where appropriate.

- 5) In the case of roads, investment should provide access to poorly served regions, promote access for large-scale employment proposals and complete missing links or address critical bottlenecks and safety issues, including those in Slane.
- 6) Secure implementation of transport projects supported by national and regional spatial planning policies, along with other demand management measures where appropriate.

It is the goal of this Plan to ensure that future transport investment, as governed by these principles, will seek to maintain and improve the quality of life of citizens and be consistent with environmental, climate and biodiversity objectives, imperatives and obligations, including those arising from the EU Habitats Directive.

5.7 Sustainable Transport

The promotion of use and increased delivery of sustainable modes of transport is fundamental to achieving Ireland's carbon emission reduction requirements of 20% by 2020 and 30% by 2030. In addition to the reduction of emissions, failure to deliver public transport investment will result in a highly congested network that cannot meet the economy's transport needs. *The provision of a well-functioning, integrated public transport system, enhancing competitiveness, sustaining economic progress and*

*enabling sustainable mobility choices for citizens supports the overall objectives of Ireland 2040*⁷. Given the current funding constraints in major transport investment programmes additional public transport capacity requirements for the GDA area must be met in the medium to long term through investment in lower-cost alternatives. The Plan will seek to support and facilitate an increase in modal share for cycling and increases in the use of the bus network in the County. Emphasis will also be placed on supporting the delivery of the rail line to Navan in accordance with the Transport Strategy for the GDA 2016-2035.

5.7.1 Rail

At present, rail services are available at stations located in Dunboyne, Pace (M3 Parkway), Enfield, Laytown and a limited service provided from Gormanston. There are rail stations located immediately adjoining the County which are also used by Meath residents – Maynooth, Kilcock, Clonsilla, Drogheda and Balbriggan. The Short Hop Zone (SHZ) rail prices operated by Irish Rail currently operate as far as Balbriggan and Kilcock. Given the close proximity of a number of train stations in County Meath, i.e. Laytown, Gormanston and Enfield, the pricing discrepancy is having an undesirable impact on user behaviour. It is diverting rail users to a considerable extent to utilise stations outside of the County in order to avail of cheaper fares thereby creating more congestion at certain locations. This is not a sustainable model and with population growth continuing in County Meath, the problem is certain to be further exacerbated in the future. Meath County Council is committed to working with Irish Rail to review the operation of the Short Hop Zone (SHZ) rail prices and encourage an extension of same to stations in Laytown, Gormanston and Enfield.

It is a priority of the National Development Plan to provide fast, high-frequency electrified services to Drogheda on the Northern Line which stops at Gormanston and Laytown Stations in the County and to M3 Parkway on the Maynooth/Sligo Line. As part of the DART expansion works to Drogheda through the planned electrification of the Northern rail line and the associated upgrades to the rail network it is considered there is an opportunity to include a new railway station at Bettystown to improve access to rail services for residents of Bettystown and to encourage more sustainable travel patterns in the East Meath area. This Plan supports the prioritisation of these projects and will continue to support TII in the roll out of rail improvements and upgrades throughout the County⁸. The Council would also support the delivery of a further rail station in the Northern Environs of Drogheda, given the designation of Drogheda as a Regional Growth Centre.

The provision of a rail line from Pace (M3 Parkway) to Navan remains a key objective of the Local Authority in order to facilitate the development of the key town as designated in the RSES in the County. This was supported in the RSES which included an objective ‘to support the delivery of a number of rail projects including the implementation of the extension of the Dunboyne/M3 Parkway line to Navan during the Mid Term Review of the GDA Transport Strategy.’ At present, there is a rail service to Dublin from all 12 administrative capitals with the exception of Navan putting it at a competitive disadvantage⁹. The delivery of this critical infrastructure will strengthen the transport links in the County and will significantly improve the County’s economic competitiveness as well as having a meaningful improvement on the quality of life of the County’s residents¹⁰.

⁷ [Page 144 Project Ireland 2040- National Planning Framework](#).

⁸ National Development Plan 2018-2027 page 58:

⁹ Completion of Northern Metro Swords is included.

¹⁰ At the time of writing this matter was the subject of a Ministerial Draft Direction.

The preparation of the Railway Order application for Phase II of the Navan Rail project was substantially completed including the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and Natura 2000 Appropriate Assessment in 2011. A route which maintained an alignment largely in keeping with the historic Navan – Dublin rail route was selected as the preferred option and extensive consultations were undertaken by Irish Rail with officials of Meath County Council and all relevant stakeholders. The Transport Strategy for the GDA 2016-2035 outlines the NTA's policy position with regard to the delivery of Phase II of the Navan Rail Line and has noted that the extension of the commuter rail line to Navan has been previously proposed and assessed in the as part of the examination of the Navan-Dunboyne-Blanchardstown-Dublin City Centre corridor. It states that *'based on current population and employment forecasts, the level of travel demand between Navan, Dunshaughlin and various stations to the city centre is considered insufficient to justify the development of a high-capacity rail link at this time. It is intended that, as part of the next Strategy review, the likely future usage of a rail connection to Navan will be reassessed, taking into account the level of development that will have taken place over the next six years in Navan and Dunshaughlin and their environs. Pending that review, the corridor previously identified for a rail link to Navan should be protected from development intrusion'*.¹¹

This Plan maintains a strong policy stance to ensure that the detailed designed alignment is protected from further development, and that this protection also extends to potential stations and park and ride sites along the route. This Plan will generally ensure, through the inclusion of a specific zoning objective R1 Rail Corridor which seeks *'to provide for a strategic rail*

corridor and associated physical infrastructure' (as illustrated on Map Series No. 5.1) that the design route of Phase II of the Navan Rail Line (as confirmed by the NTA) will generally be reserved free from development.

It is further noted that recent support delivered to the project by the RSES, supported strongly by MCC significantly improves future prospects of delivery of this key infrastructure for County Meath and the designated Key Town of Navan.

It is the policy of the Council:

MOV POL 5

To actively pursue in conjunction with Irish Rail the implementation of the extension of the Dunboyne/M3 Parkway line to Navan during the Mid Term Review of the GDA Transport Strategy in accordance with the precepts of the RSES.¹²

MOV POL 6

To promote, facilitate and advance the delivery of Phase II of the Navan railway line project and associated rail services in cooperation with other relevant agencies.

MOV POL 7

To support the Dart expansion Programme including new infrastructure and electrification of existing lines, including provision of electrified services to Drogheda, Maynooth and M3 Parkway on the Maynooth/Sligo Line and on the Dublin-Belfast/Northern Rail Line.

It is the objective of the Council:

¹¹ [NTA Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area page 56:](#)

¹² This is subject to the Draft Ministerial Direction issued in relation to the RSES 2019-2031.

MOV OBJ 2

To improve, in conjunction with the NTA and Irish Rail, facilities at existing stations.

MOV OBJ 3

- (a)** To protect and safeguard the detailed designed alignment of Phase II of the Navan rail route and surrounding lands (including identified station locations), as illustrated on Map Series No. 5.1 in Volume 4, free from development and any encroachment by inappropriate uses which could compromise its future development as a rail facility.
- (b)** To explore in conjunction with Irish Rail and other stakeholders the feasibility of a future rail spur off the Navan-Dublin Rail line from Dunshaughlin to serve Ashbourne and Ratoath.

MOV OBJ 4

To facilitate and encourage the upgrading of existing railway stations, and protect, as required, lands necessary for the upgrading of existing railway lines or stations or the provision of new railway stations throughout the County.

MOV OBJ 5

To facilitate the provision of a train station at Bettystown (in addition to the existing station at Laytown) as part of the DART expansion works to Drogheda through the planned electrification of the Northern rail

line by Irish Rail.

MOV OBJ 6

To encourage, support and work in conjunction with Irish Rail to review the operation of the Short Hop Zone (SHZ) rail prices with an extension to stations in Laytown, Gormanston Enfield and Drogheda.

MOV OBJ 7

To support the delivery of an additional train station in the Northern Environs of Drogheda as part of the future Joint Urban Plan.

MOV OBJ 8

To explore the feasibility of a train station in conjunction with Irish Rail and Louth County Council as part of the Joint Urban Area Plan.

5.7.2 Bus

There have been significant improvements to the quality and frequency of bus services to and from the urban centres of the County to Dublin and to other regional centres. Bus Éireann currently operates Commuter and/or Expressway services to and from all major employment centres in the County to Dublin. The high level of service also reflects the fact that other national expressway services to the North West and West are routed through the County. Bus Éireann also provides public transport services linking population centres

in the County and adjoining counties such as Drogheda to Navan, Navan to Kells and Navan to Trim. Bus Éireann's commuter network into Dublin City Centre is constantly evolving and improving to meet the changing demographic profile of the Greater Dublin Area. A number of private services including Ashbourne Connects, Collins, and Matthews Coaches which serves the population centres in East Meath, are also in operation and play an important role in meeting the overall demand for transport services. These compete with, and complement, the existing public transport provisions of Bus Éireann. Bus Éireann also provide a local bus service in Navan. National bus routes are complemented by Dublin Bus in Clonee Ashbourne, Ratoath and Dunboyne.

Notwithstanding this high level of service, in the context of restricted investment in future major transport infrastructure, the NTA as part of the transport strategy for the GDA has undertaken a number of studies which have identified those routes where demand for travel necessitates significant levels of investment in order to minimise delays. Improvements will include, enhanced bus lane provision on these corridors, removing current delays on the bus network in the relevant locations and enabling bus services to provide a faster alternative to car traffic along these routes.

Arising from this analysis a Core Bus Network was identified which comprises sixteen radial bus corridors, three orbital bus corridors and six regional bus corridors, three of which pass through County Meath and include;

1. M1, via Dublin Port Tunnel
 - Serves long distance bus routes from Belfast, Dundalk, Derry, Monaghan and Drogheda; and
 - Serves other regional bus routes from

Balbriggan, Skerries and East Meath.

2. M2, via Dublin Port Tunnel
 - Serves regional bus routes from Ashbourne and Slane.
3. M3/ N3, via Navan Road
 - Serves regional bus routes from Cavan, Navan, Trim and Dunshaughlin.

Given the funding restrictions on major transport programmes the NTA are recommending that improvements to the Quality Bus Corridor network are prioritised and implemented. Projects specific to the County proposed under the NTA's Transport Strategy for the GDA 2016-2035 include:

 - Enhanced bus service along the M3/N3
 - The provision of a bus hub in Navan
 - Enhancement of bus services on the N2

Investment will also be made available for the maintenance of the existing bus network outside of the core bus network identified by the NTA, including the provision of bus priority measures at locations where delays are reducing efficiency. Funding will also be made available for a variety of bus infrastructure improvements in relation to bus stops, travel information and bus shelters.

There has been an increased frequency of local bus services largely as a result of the establishment of Flexibus, Meath Accessible Transport Ltd.¹³ Flexibus run a daily route between Trim and Navan to assist passengers who wish to access education, training or employment. Regular weekly services run between a number of towns and villages while Dial-A-Ride services are available from a number of centres. The improvement in public transport between larger towns and between villages and towns is of paramount importance to reduce

¹³ Flexibus is one of the projects around the country, which are funded by the Department of Transport under the Rural Transport Initiative. Flexibus carried over 114,144 passengers in 2016 (figures obtained from Flexibus).

isolation and improve linkages between the towns, villages and their hinterlands.

It is the policy of the Council to:

MOV POL 8

To cooperate with the NTA and other relevant agencies to have ongoing reviews of the network of bus routes in Meath, and to support and encourage public transport operators to provide improved bus services in, and through, the County.

MOV POL 9

To ensure that the design and planning of transport infrastructure and services accords with the principles of sustainable safety, in order that the widest spectrum of needs, including pedestrians, cyclists, the ageing population and those with mobility impairments are taken into account.

MOV POL 10

To ensure that new developments in Regional Growth Centres, Key Towns, Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Self-Sustaining Towns are laid out so as to facilitate the provision of local bus services and the provision of Park and Ride facilities as appropriate.

MOV POL 11

To facilitate in conjunction with relevant statutory agencies alternative transport modes to the private car, including

enhanced delivery of public transport services along regional corridors (as defined in the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035); frequent local bus services linking residential areas to District Centres and Town Centres, and which also serve shopping areas, employment areas and other activity centres, and connecting to key transport interchange points.

MOV POL 12

To support the implementation of recommendations presented in the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 and any subsequent reviews thereof.

It is an objective of the Council to:

MOV OBJ 9

To provide bus priority measures on existing and planned road infrastructure, where appropriate, in collaboration with the NTA, Bus Éireann and TII¹⁴ (where relevant).

MOV OBJ 10

To identify deficits in bus infrastructure and develop a priority list as a basis to secure funding for improvement works, including the provision of bus shelters, bus stops and travel information at stops.

¹⁴ The National Roads Authority (NRA) was the state body responsible for the national road network. The NRA was established as part of the Roads Act 1993 and commenced operations on 23 December 1993 in accordance with S.I. 407 of 1993. The NRA merged with the [Railway Procurement Agency](#) and was effectively dissolved on 1 August 2015. The merger of the two agencies is called [Transport Infrastructure Ireland \(TII\)](#).

MOV OBJ 11

To require Mobility Management Plans and Traffic Assessments for proposed trip intensive developments, as appropriate. Please refer to Chapter 11 Development Management Standards and Land Use Zoning Objectives.

MOV OBJ 12

To deliver, in conjunction with the NTA and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, a Public Transportation Hub in Navan to accommodate national, commuter, regional and local bus services.

MOV OBJ 13

To work with the NTA and Bus Eireann to make all existing public transport services throughout the county more accessible for wheelchair users and those with disabilities.

MOV OBJ 14

To work with the NTA and relevant stakeholders to provide bus services in rural communities in the County.

5.7.3 Park and Ride Facilities

Park and Ride facilities integrate car use with public transport and assist those living in remote locations not well served by public transport to access public transport connections. It is important that park and ride facilities improve public transport accessibility without unduly

intensifying road congestion, or increasing the total distance travelled by car. Park and ride sites should not be located where they might encourage transport users who would otherwise access public transport locally to drive further to access a site, thereby adding to congestion.

It is thus considered appropriate to include a policy in the Plan to provide Park and Ride schemes which improve public transport accessibility. These schemes shall be developed at appropriate locations which will not exacerbate road congestion or increase car travel distances. These locations shall be close to high quality road corridors leading from Core towns with good bus priority to commuter destinations in the metropolitan area.

It is the policy of the Council:

MOV POL 13

To promote and support the provision of Park-and-Ride facilities which improve public transport accessibility without exacerbating road congestion, or which cause increased car travel distances, at appropriate locations within the County.

MOV POL 14

To support the NTA to extend bus routes to the M3 Parkway Train Station in order to deliver a strategic multi modal park and ride facility at this location.

It is an objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 15

To assess and determine the potential for bus-based Park and Ride facilities, in particular, close to high quality road corridors leading from settlements in the Core Area, with good bus priority to commuter destinations in the Dublin Metropolitan area.

MOV OBJ 16

To identify and develop suitable lands to provide for Park and Ride facilities at appropriate locations in the County.

MOV OBJ 17

To identify and develop suitable lands to provide for additional Park and Ride facilities at appropriate locations in Navan.

MOV OBJ 18

To support the delivery of a new car parking facility at Laytown Train Station in conjunction with the NTA and Irish Rail.

MOV OBJ 19

To facilitate the provision of a new car parking facility at Enfield Train Station in conjunction with the NTA and Irish Rail.

MOV OBJ 20

To implement suitable charging structures for Park and Ride facilities to make it more

likely that those who need the service (i.e. those outside walking distance and where alternative public transport options are not available), will obtain parking. In addition, implement where appropriate, suitable measures on local roads adjacent to Park and Ride facilities to discourage commuters from parking on such roads.

5.7.4 Taxi

Accessible taxi and hackney services are a vital element in the public transport offering providing a demand-responsive 24 hour door-to-door service. Accessible taxis are often the only means of public transport available for those using wheelchairs or with mobility impairments. An accessible integrated public transport service is an essential prerequisite to enable people with disabilities to participate in the normal activities of daily living i.e. work, education, leisure and social activities. The NTA Strategy seeks to meet a target for wheelchair accessible taxis of 10% of the fleet by 2020, with the full fleet to be wheelchair accessible by 2035. It is desirable that taxis are modern and suitable for the needs of all users, and that they do not have an undue impact on local air quality or CO₂ emissions.

The Council will continue to support improvements in taxi and hackney services in the County and will seek to ensure that all public transport services complement each other through the development of effective interchange opportunities throughout the County.

Please also refer to Chapter 11 Development Management Standards and Land Use Zoning Objectives.

It is the policy of the Council:

MOV POL 15

To support and facilitate the provision of an accessible taxi and hackney service in the County particularly in the main urban centres.

It shall be an objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 21

To provide public transport interchange facilities, including facilities for taxis, at appropriate points on the public transport network particularly in the main urban centres in cooperation with the NTA.

MOV OBJ 22

To facilitate the development of properly designated taxi ranks in order to improve public transport infrastructure and services at suitable locations such as retail development and leisure facilities in conjunction with the NTA.

5.7.5 Electric Vehicles (EV)

Electric Vehicles (EV) refer to both Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV). In line with the Government target to electrify all new cars and vans by 2030, the NPF acknowledges the need to move away from *'polluting and carbon intensive propulsion systems to new technologies such as electric vehicles and introduction of electric and hybrid traction systems for public transport fleets'*. There

are a number of charging points around the County and this Plan promotes the further installation and expansion of charging points for these vehicles in order to achieve the 2030 targets for full electrification.

It is a policy of the Council:

MOV POL 16

To support the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electrical vehicles both on street and in new developments in accordance with car parking standards and best practice.

It is an objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 23

To facilitate the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electric vehicles both on street and in new developments in accordance with car parking standards and best practice.

MOV OBJ 24

To liaise and collaborate with relevant agencies to support and encourage the growth of electric vehicles and EBikes with support facilities/infrastructure, through a roll-out of additional electric charging points in collaboration with relevant agencies at appropriate locations including retrofit of charging points in existing urban centres and park and ride facilities.

5.7.6 Cycling & walking

The Council recognises cycling and walking to be healthy, safe, ecologically-sound and socially-just forms of movement. Walking and cycling are the most sustainable modes of transport available in terms of their positive impacts on the environment. The NTA's strategy for Transport in the GDA emphasises the need for additional walking and cycling infrastructure in the region and outlines a number of improvements required to encourage more people to walk which includes improvements to the existing environment for people with mobility, visual and hearing impairments.

Planning policy can encourage walking to become the principal method of movement for shorter journeys through the arrangement of land uses and by utilising good urban design. Providing a comprehensive network of safe, well-lit and convenient footpaths (both road-side and segregated) within new residential areas with links to schools, local neighbourhood centres, public transport stops and workplaces will encourage people to walk more. The Council will continue to improve walking facilities in the County in conjunction with the NTA.

As a consequence of the ambitious objectives outlined in the National Cycle Policy Framework (NCPF) which seeks 10% of all journeys in 2020 to be taken by bicycle, the NTA commissioned the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan. This document outlines existing and required cycling infrastructure in both urban and rural areas of the region. Information outlined in that report will provide for cycle infrastructure projects to be prioritised in terms of the importance to the strategic network and the likely cycle demand for such a scheme. The Network Plan has provided Local Authorities with an evidence based strategy for the

implementation of cycle infrastructure that will see tangible returns for investment.

The fundamental issue arising from the NCPF in relation to the County is the overall fragmentation of the existing cycle network. Poor linkages within towns are common place as is the absence of any network linkages between urban centres. The NCPF identified potential linkages in the network and particularly mentioned the potential to link Ashbourne, Ratoath and Dunshaughlin as a cluster.

While the Council has been successful in the delivery of improvements to the cycle network in recent years, it will continue efforts to make improvements in this area in accordance with the recommendations of the NCPF.

The Council has enjoyed a successful roll out of the Greenway programme in the County with the success of the Boyne Greenway and the construction of the Royal Canal Greenway which should be completed in 2019 and remains a priority for Government¹⁵. The Council will continue its efforts in the delivery of further greenway facilities in the County including all future phases of the Boyne Greenway subject to obtaining relevant consents and further phases of the Royal Canal Greenway which forms part of the Eurovelo Route in Europe¹⁶. Significant progress has been made on the Boyne Greenway with funding secured under the National and Regional Greenway Fund to enable the advancement of plans for the Navan to Newgrange section. The Council has the opportunity to work in conjunction with Fingal and Louth County Council in relation to Joint proposals to develop a cycle route between Newgrange and Newbridge House, Donabate.

The RSES recognises that there is potential for a coast to coast network of national greenways, including the Royal and Grand Canals and

¹⁵ [National Development Plan page 52](#)

¹⁶ For further information on the development of greenway see Chapter 4 Economic Development.

the Barrow Way, with regional water-based trails along the Old Rail Trail Greenway, and the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway on the old Kingscourt line. Meath County Council has applied to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for funding for the advancement of the Lakelands Greenway (Navan – Kingscourt)¹⁷ which will form part of the northern greenway extending into Counties Cavan, Monaghan and Louth.

Cross border greenway projects are recognised within the NPF as an opportunity to maximise market exposure from a tourism perspective and the provision of a North – South long distance cycling route is supported within this document. The Council will seek to support the delivery of a North – South Greenway in conjunction with neighbouring Local Authorities and those within Northern Ireland. The Strategy for the future development of National and Regional Greenways was launched in July 2018. The RSES includes an objective to support the extension of the Boyne Greenway to include Navan to promote sustainable transport choices and as a recreation asset for the town.

5.7.7 Green Schools

The Green-Schools programme is an environmental themed education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment. The aim of Green-Schools is to increase the students' and participants' awareness of environmental issues and transfer this knowledge into positive environmental action in the school and wider community. One of the themes of Green-Schools is focused on Travel. Walking School Buses consist of adults walking groups of pupils to and from school along set

routes, with children joining the walking bus at various pick-up locations along the route. Many schools start the Walking School Bus on a one-day per week basis and increase its schedule over time. Initiatives such as Walk to School Week/Walk on Wednesdays can also be used to encourage children to become more active in their communities. These programmes facilitates children to walk safely to and from school, and to get used to this means of travel. The Council will continue to support An Taisce in the development of the Green Schools programme throughout the County.

It is the policy of Meath County Council:

MOV POL 17

To identify and seek to implement a strategic, coherent and high quality cycle and walking network across the County that is integrated with public transport and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations and attractions.

MOV POL 18

To support the provision of a long distance inter-connecting walking/cycling route(s) between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.

MOV POL 19

To support the NTA in the development of a strategic pedestrian network plan for the main urban centres of the County.¹⁸

¹⁷ There is an approved Planning Scheme in place for this Greenway.

¹⁸ [For further information on the development of greenway see Chapter 4 Economic Development.](#)

MOV POL 20

To encourage, where appropriate, the incorporation of safe and efficient cycleways, accessible footpaths and pedestrian routes into the design schemes for town centres/neighbourhood centres, residential, educational, employment, recreational developments and other uses.

MOV POL 21

To require that adequate facilities for the secure parking of bicycles be provided at convenient locations close to public transport nodes and public transport interchanges.

MOV POL 22

To prioritise the safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists in proximity to public transport nodes.

It is an objective of Meath County Council:

MOV OBJ 25

To implement, in conjunction with the NTA, the recommendations of the NTA strategy with regard to walking and cycling infrastructure.

MOV OBJ 26

To revise road junction layouts, where

appropriate, to provide dedicated pedestrian and cycling crossings, reduce pedestrian crossing distances, provide more direct pedestrian routes, and reduce the speed of turning traffic.

MOV OBJ 27

To implement at appropriate locations pedestrian permeability schemes and enhancements.

MOV OBJ 28

To request the submission of a quality audit pedestrian and cycling permeability plans as part of new housing developments.

MOV OBJ 29

To implement at appropriate locations pedestrianisation schemes, particularly in central areas of high pedestrian footfall, such as core retail areas.

MOV OBJ 30

To continue the development of a network of Greenways in the County in accordance with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Strategy for Future Development of Greenways.

MOV OBJ 31

To engage in the Compulsory Purchase Order process when required in order

to facilitate the timely delivery of the Greenway programme within the County.

MOV OBJ 32

To identify the provision of a trail head/ public car park at the Hill of Down Rural Node proximate to the Greenway, to facilitate the re-opening of the rail station, subject to feasibility.

5.8 Developments of National and Regional Strategic Importance

5.8.1 Slane Bypass

A bypass for Slane has been a long-standing objective of the Council and has the support of the majority of the local residents, who have campaigned for its construction for many years. The bypass is noted within the National Development Plan 2018-2027 as key infrastructure *'investment to support the ambition for development of the border region'* and is identified as a priority for delivery²⁰. Further, the RSES (RPO 8.10 of the Strategy refers) supports the appraisal and delivery of the N2 Slane Bypass. It is an important infrastructural development that is required as a matter of urgency. Since the refusal of the scheme by An Bord Pleanála in 2012, the Council and the TII have carried out a number of studies looking at traffic management alternatives through Slane and along the N2 aimed at reducing the number of HGVs travelling through the village and across Slane bridge. These studies examined the effects of various HGV bans, tolling measures, speed

limits and other traffic management options on the road network.

Two public consultation meetings were held in relation to these studies in November 2012 and March 2015 and the findings were presented to the Council. The outcome of these studies concluded that traffic management options would not satisfactorily address the particular circumstances in Slane and were not shown as representing viable alternatives to a bypass.

An east-west bypass option in conjunction with the proposed north-south bypass has been considered however detailed studies indicate that there were insufficient benefits to warrant this additional bypass at this time. Work has now recommenced on the preparation of an application for consent to develop an N2 bypass for Slane village and funding and support is being provided by the TII to do so. The provision of a bypass in Slane has been prioritised in terms of funding and is identified as a priority project in Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016-2021. Traffic management alternatives will continue to be examined as part of these studies.

There is agreement that the potential safety risks that affect the future well being of all road users and communities, particularly the Slane community must be addressed. In seeking a solution the Council recognises that a balance must be achieved between environmental, historical and archaeological considerations and the safety and other negative impacts caused by the current traffic situation in Slane village.

It is an objective of the Council:

²⁰ [National Development Plan 2018-2027 page 31.](#)

MOV OBJ 33

To support and facilitate the delivery of the bypassing of Slane, which is considered to comprise essential infrastructural development and to construct same subject to obtaining the relevant development consents required and to reserve and protect route option corridors from development which would interfere with the provision of the project. Development of the project will be subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process. Where adverse effects on European site integrity are identified, alternative routes or designs will be developed to ensure that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), the project will not be progressed unless and alternative solution can be implemented which avoids/reduces the impact to a level that the integrity of the European Site(s) is (are) unaffected.

5.8.2 Leinster Outer Orbital Route

The RSES indicates that long term protection shall remain for the outer orbital route (Leinster Outer Orbital Route) extending from Drogheda to the Naas/Newbridge area with intermediate links to Navan and other towns. The NTA Strategy for the GDA 2016 -2035 notes that while this project is not planned for implementation during the period of the Strategy, the finalisation of the route corridor and its protection from development intrusion is recommended.

It is the policy of the Council:

MOV POL 23

To support the reservation of the indicative route of the Leinster Outer Orbital Route, which is considered to comprise important infrastructural development, free of developments which could interfere with the provision of the project.

It is an objective of the Council

MOV OBJ 34

To reserve the indicative route of the Leinster Outer Orbital Route free of developments which could interfere with the provision of the project.

5.8.3 N2 Corridor

The N2 corridor functions as a vital cross border economic artery which is essential to facilitate strategic traffic movement and to maintain and improve accessibility to employment areas. The importance of this North-South route and its role in maintaining an “open all island” economy post Brexit is recognised within both the National Development Plan 2018-2027²¹ and the NPF²². The NTA Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 includes an objective to provide ‘*enhancements of the N2/M2 national route inclusive of a bypass of Slane, to provide for additional capacity on the non-motorway sections of this route, and to address safety issues in Slane village associated with, in particular, heavy goods vehicles.*’²³ The National Development Plan makes particular reference to and prioritises the upgrade of the N2 from Rath Roundabout to

²¹ [Page 43 National Development Plan 2018-2027](#)

²² [Page 142 Project Ireland 2040-National Planning Framework](#)

²³ [Page 82 National Transport Study for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035](#)

Kilmoon Cross section of road which is already underway. The delivery of these works will continue to be supported and facilitated by the Council and the Council will seek the delivery of the Slane Bypass in the future in conjunction with TII and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

It is an objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 35

To continue to support and facilitate TII, Fingal County Council, Louth County Council and Monaghan County Council in the planning and delivery of upgrades to the N2, as appropriate.

5.9 Roads Infrastructure

Whilst the Council is committed to the promotion of sustainable means of travel, and the encouragement of modal change from the private car, it is recognised that road infrastructure retains a central position in the overall transportation network, catering for the movement of buses, goods vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, as well as the private car. In undertaking transport policies, the Council will strive to provide, maintain and enhance road infrastructure to ensure the sustainable economic development of the County. Whilst traffic reduced noticeably during the recession, now, as the economic recovery takes hold, traffic numbers are growing steadily and particularly strongly in the south of the County. The Council is successfully implementing an ambitious Economic Development Strategy 2014-2022 and there is also further pent up demand for housing in the context of measures contained in Rebuilding Ireland²⁴. Both of the foregoing will

inevitably require additional roads to be built and existing roads to be modified and upgraded.

5.9.1 National Roads

The County is well serviced by the national road network with the M1 Dublin - Belfast (formerly N1, now R132), the N2 Dublin - Derry, M3 Cavan-Dublin (formerly N3, now R147), and M4 Dublin to Galway, Castlebar and Sligo (formerly N4, now R148), all traversing through the County linking the Dublin metropolitan area to the regions. The RSES recognises the importance of maintaining, improving and protecting the strategic function of the key transport corridors including the imperative to improve and protect the strategic function of the Dublin to Belfast International road corridor, which forms part of the TEN-T core network. The national secondary roads, N51 and N52, are medium distance through-routes connecting important towns. The N52 is a particularly important infrastructural development and strategic route, linking Dundalk and Mullingar-Athlone-Tullamore. The County is very reliant on its road infrastructure for intra and inter county movement and access.

The development of the national road network is critically important for national inter-urban traffic in order to provide ready access to ports, airports and other strategic locations. The National Development Plan recognises the importance of achieving steady-state maintenance and safety of the National Roads network as a priority in order to ensure that the existing extensive transport networks, which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure high quality levels of service, accessibility and connectivity for transport users. Although responsibility for National Roads comes under

²⁴ Chapter 2 Core Strategy

the auspices of TII, the Council in conjunction with TII carries out major upgrading and improvements to National Roads in the county. These works include the provision of pavement overlays to existing roads, the provision of new sections of road and the provision of bypass roads or relief routes to towns on routes where their provision is necessary on planning, traffic, safety or environmental grounds.

Given that there are continuing restrictions on funding, the first priority for road investment is likely to be the expenditure required to maintain, renew, manage and operate the extensive existing network.

The NTA's Transport Strategy for the GDA 2016-2026 includes provision to further develop and enhance the national road network including the delivery of the following projects relevant to the County:

- *Junction upgrades and other capacity improvements on the M1 motorway, including additional lanes south of Drogheda, where required;*
- *Enhancements of the N2/M2 national route inclusive of a bypass of Slane, to provide for additional capacity on the non-motorway sections of this route, and to address safety issues in Slane village associated with, in particular, heavy goods vehicles;*
- *Widening of the N3 between Junction 1 (M50) and Junction 4 (Clonee), plus related junction and necessary changes to the existing national road network²⁵;*
- *Provision of additional service areas on the national road network in line with national policy;*
- *Provision of necessary upgrades to the national secondary road network, including*

bypasses, in line with the "Principles of Road Development" set out in Section 5.8.3; and

- *Various signage, safety interventions, junction improvements and local reconfigurations on the national road network.*

5.9.2 Regional and Local Roads

Regional and local roads serve an important economic role and have a valuable social and community function. These roads account for 81% of the country's roads and are often the sole means of access for local economic activity, for example, designated towns such as Trim.

There are extensive lengths of road which the Council are required to maintain. This maintenance programme is financed from the Council's own resources and/or supplemented by State grants. As outlined in 'Investing in our Transport Future – A Strategic Investment Framework (DTTAS, 2015)', the level of funding required to maintain the existing road network will result in opportunities for new investment. Funding for maintenance will continue to be constrained which will have implications as to how such funding is targeted nationally. Local Authorities will be required to define a '*strategic road network of national, regional and strategically important local roads*²⁶' and identifying funding targeted in these areas. There is an increased emphasis nationally on project appraisal requirements which identify and prioritise upgrades that make the most appropriate use of available funding.

The Council will work in conjunction with Kildare County Council to deliver the section of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Relief Road within its administrative area. The RSES has

²⁵ [This project is identified as a priority for delivery under the National Development Plan 2018-2027 \(page 43\)](#)

²⁶ Investing in our Transport Future – A Strategic Investment Framework for Land Transport 2015

a specific objective to support the continued development of Maynooth, co-ordinated with the delivery of strategic infrastructure including road linkages forming part of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route in a manner which supports future development and population growth and builds on synergies with Maynooth University promoting a knowledge-based economy. Further, the RSES includes an objective to, *'Support the delivery of road infrastructure to release strategic residential and employment lands for sustainable development and to improve connectivity and the efficient movement of people and services in the town'.*

It is the policy of the Council:

MOV POL 24

To safeguard the capacity and safety of the National road network by applying the provisions of the Department of Environment Community and Local Governments – *'Spatial Planning and National Roads-Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2012'*.

MOV POL 25

To implement the actions of the Meath Road Safety Strategy and promote road and traffic safety measures in conjunction with Government Departments, the Road Safety Authority and other agencies.

MOV POL 26

To provide for and carry out improvements to sections of national, regional and county roads that are

deficient in terms of alignment, structural condition or capacity, where resources permit, and to seek to maintain that standard thereafter. To ensure that, where possible, any maintenance and improvement strategies have regard to future climates.

MOV POL 27

To regulate, control and improve signage throughout the County and avoid proliferation of roadside signage, especially outside the 50-60kmh speed limit areas.

MOV POL 28

To promote the carrying out of Road Safety Audits on new road schemes, road and junction improvements and traffic management schemes in accordance with the TII Publication TII-GE-STY-01024 and advice contained in the DTTAS (DTO) Traffic Management Guidelines 2012.

MOV POL 29

To liaise with TII and DTTAS regarding the revision of speed limits in the County.

MOV POL 30

To liaise with the NTA and TII (where appropriate) on appropriate control measures within its remit, designed to better manage the demand for road space to allow the efficient movement of essential traffic.

MOV POL 31

To have regard to the TII's Policy Statement on 'Service Areas on Motorways and High Quality Dual Carriageways' in the assessment of proposals for such developments.

It is an objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 36

To facilitate the delivery of all of the roads projects outlined in the National Development Plan 2018-2027 and National Transport Authority's Transport Strategy for the GDA 2016-2035, in conjunction with the NTA, TII, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and other stakeholders. Development of these road projects will be subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process. Where adverse effects on European site integrity are identified, alternative routes or designs will be developed to ensure that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), either alone or in combination with any other projects. If despite the implementation of mitigation measures, there remains a risk that the proposals will adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), the project will not be progressed unless and alternative solution can be implemented which avoids/reduces the impact to a level that the integrity of the European Site(s) is (are) unaffected.

MOV OBJ 37

To develop an annual strategic road network plan for upgrading and required works for national, regional and strategically important local roads for the targeting of funding.

MOV OBJ 38

To develop in consultation with the TII, a programme for the upgrading, improvement and maintenance of the national road network within the County.

MOV OBJ 39

To develop and implement, in consultation with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport a programme for the upgrading, improvement and maintenance of the non national road network in the County.

MOV OBJ 40

To implement a programme of traffic and parking management measures in towns and villages throughout the County, as resources permit.

MOV OBJ 41

To require provision of parking standards in accordance with the standards set out in Chapter 11 Development Management for all developments.

MOV OBJ 42

To implement maintenance and improvement of roads in the County as set out in the Schedule of Municipal District Works and the Council's Annual Roadwork's Programme funded from the Council's own resources and State Agency grants.

MOV OBJ 43

To support essential public road infrastructure including, bypasses of local towns and villages and proposed national road schemes and where necessary reserve the corridors of any such proposed routes free of development, which would interfere with the provision

of such proposals. Such road schemes include those specified in the non-exhaustive list in Table 5.1: Each of these projects will be subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process. Where adverse effects on European site integrity are identified, alternative routes or designs will be developed to ensure that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), either alone or in combination with any other projects. If despite the implementation of mitigation measures, there remains a risk that the proposals will adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), the project will not be progressed unless and alternative solution can be implemented which avoids/reduces the impact to a level that the integrity of the European Site(s) is (are) unaffected.

Table 5.1

Scheme Name	Description of Works
Slane By-pass (N2)	To deliver key strategic infrastructure including Slane Bypass incorporating new bridge over the River Boyne.
Enhancements of the N2/M2 national route inclusive of a bypass of Slane, to provide for additional capacity on the non-motorway sections of this route, and to address safety issues in Slane village associated with, in particular, heavy goods vehicles.	To continue to support and facilitate TII, Fingal County Council, Louth County Council and Monaghan County Council in the planning and delivery of upgrades of the N2 as appropriate.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross	Improvements of road and junctions to address current capacity constraints.
M1 Motorway	
M1 Junction 9 Drogheda (M1 South Junction)	Possible upgrading of this junction to improve capacity.
M1 Junction 8 Duleek	Possible upgrading of this junction to improve capacity.
M1 Junction 7 Julianstown/Stamullen	Upgrading of this junction to improve capacity inclusive of the facilitation of vehicular access to / from Stamullen via the City North Business Campus to the M1 Interchange.
M3 Motorway	
M3 Junction 4 Clonee	Possible upgrading of this junction to improve capacity.

Scheme Name	Description of Works
M3 South of Junction 4	Introduce an additional lane on both M3 carriageways in order to manage capacity on the network, in co-operation with planned M3 upgrades with Fingal County Council and TII.
M3 Junction 5 Dunboyne	Possible upgrading of this junction to improve capacity.
M3 Junction 8 Navan South	Possible upgrading of this junction to improve capacity.
M3 Junction 9 Navan North	Possible upgrading of this junction to improve capacity.
N52 Grange – Clontail (formally known as Fringestown Scheme)	Re-alignment of the existing N52 and R162/N52 junction from a point west of the R162 junction eastwards to Clontail.
N51 Dunmoe Phase II	Realignment of N51 between Blackcastle Demense and Cruicetown. Final phase of N51 Navan – Slane.
N51 Halltown	Construction of junction improvement and re-alignment of minor roads.
R132 Julianstown Bypass	Examine feasibility and thereafter if appropriate progress the design and delivery of a preferred option.
R147 Blackbull roundabout	To replace the Blackbull roundabout with a signalised junction and the provision of a signalised controlled access on the R147.
N51 Slane to Louth County boundary	Re-alignment including widening of Mattock Bridge, and junction improvements.
R150 Bettystown – Laytown Spine Road	To continue to support the delivery of the North –South Spine Road linking Bettystown – Laytown.
N52/R154 Junction	Improve junction and re-align regional road to introduce a staggered arrangement.
N52 Balrath Junction	Re-align N52 and improve junction layout.
N3-N4 Link road	Provision of Ongar to Barnhill link road
R162 Navan Kingscourt Road and R157 Dunboyne Maynooth Road	Safety Upgrades
Strategic Local Bypasses / Relief Roads (Map 5.2 refers)	Examine feasibility and progress where appropriate local bypass and relief roads within the County.

MOV OBJ 44

To continue to deliver targeted capacity road upgrades within the County to eliminate congestion blackspots.

signalised junctions to facilitate access to Dunboyne North for all modes of transport from a high quality regional road.

MOV OBJ 45

To support the delivery of two new

MOV OBJ 46

To continue to support the delivery of key strategic roads within Dunboyne to include an eastern distributor road to

facilitate rail-focused development, new bus routes and reduce traffic levels in the town.

MOV OBJ 47

To promote the delivery of key strategic roads in the Key Town of Navan to include but not limited to: 1) link road from Dublin road to Trim road, 2) distributor road from R153 at Farganstown and future bridge across the River Boyne to N51 and North Navan 3) link road from Rathaldron road to R147 inclusive of bridge across the Blackwater 4) Trim Road to N3 Kilcarn Road, 5) Commons Road to N51 Athboy Road, (6) N51 Athboy Road to Rathaldron Road. Each of these projects will be subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process. Where adverse effects on European site integrity are identified, alternative routes or designs will be developed to ensure that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), either alone or in combination with any other projects. If despite the implementation of mitigation measures, there remains a risk that the proposals will adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), the project will not be progressed unless an alternative solution can be implemented which avoids/reduces the impact to a level that the integrity of the European Site(s) is (are) unaffected. In relation to proposals involving the construction of new bridge crossings across the River Boyne and River Blackwater, where adverse effects on the integrity of the Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA are identified, alternative locations and/or designs will be developed to ensure the bridge structures

will not adversely affect the integrity of the European Site(s) either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It is reasonable to assume that at the detailed design stage any potential for a project element to impact on European Sites could, and will, be resolved through the exploration of alternative locations or designs while still fulfilling their function/role in supporting the overarching vision, guiding principles and strategic objectives/aim of the CDP.

MOV OBJ 48

To work in conjunction with Kildare County Council to deliver the section of the Maynooth Outer Relief Road located within the administrative area of Meath County Council.

MOV OBJ 49

To promote the delivery of the following key strategic roads included but not limited to: Ratoath Outer Relief Road, Bryanstown Link Road (Drogheda), Navan Road – Dublin Road Link, Trim, M3 Junction 6/R125 to R147 distributor road. Each of these projects will be subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process. Where adverse effects on European site integrity are identified, alternative routes or designs will be developed to ensure that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), either alone or in combination with any other projects. If despite the implementation of mitigation measures, there remains a risk that the proposals will adversely affect

the integrity of any European Site(s), the project will not be progressed unless and alternative solution can be implemented which avoids/reduces the impact to a level that the integrity of the European Site(s) is (are) unaffected.

MOV OBJ 50

To prepare updated Road Safety Plans in line with the National Road Safety Strategy and in consultation with the Road Safety Authority and relevant stakeholders.

MOV OBJ 51

To improve the visual quality of landscaping and naming of roundabouts in various locations throughout the County.

MOV OBJ 52

To carry out a transport study for Drogheda in conjunction with Louth County Council as part of the future Joint Urban Plan.

MOV OBJ 53

To carry out transports studies in the County and in conjunction with other Local Authorities as required.

5.9.3 Section 48 and 49 Levies

Financial contributions will be sought as part of the development management process for certain development under the provisions of Section 48 and Section 49 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Section 48 (general) schemes relate to proposed provision of public infrastructure and facilities which benefit development within the area of the Planning Authority, and are applied as a general levy on development.

A 'special' contribution under Section 48(2) (c) may be required where specific exceptional costs not covered by the general scheme are incurred by a Local Authority due to a specific development.

Section 49 (supplementary) schemes relate to the separately specified infrastructural service or projects – such as Dunboyne- Navan rail or roads infrastructure, which benefit a specific area (normally a corridor). Where schemes overlap with another Local Authority, the Section 49 Scheme will be developed in conjunction with that Local Authority.

It is the objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 54

To utilise, where appropriate, the provisions of Section 48 and 49 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) to generate financial contributions towards the capital costs of providing local and strategic transport infrastructure, services or projects in the county. This will be done in conjunction with adjoining Local Authorities, where appropriate.

5.9.4 Exceptional Circumstances

Government policy regarding access onto national roads as provided for in the *“Spatial Planning & National Roads Guidelines”* seeks to avoid the creation of any additional access point from new development / intensification of traffic from existing entrances onto national roads outside the 60 kph speed limit. Section 2.6 of the Guidelines provides for exceptional circumstances to the above general policy provision. Planning Authorities may identify stretches of national roads where a less restrictive approach may be applied as part of the Development Plan process. Two scenarios arise, firstly in relation to developments of national and regional strategic importance and secondly, in relation to lightly trafficked sections of National Secondary Routes.

The Guidelines provide that a less restrictive approach may be adopted in the case of developments of national and regional strategic importance which by their nature are most appropriately located outside urban areas, and where the locations concerned have specific characteristics that make them particularly suitable for the developments proposed.

The Development Plan has identified a number of locations where exceptional circumstances to the general policy may be considered, as follows:

1. N52 south of Balrath Cross to facilitate bioenergy manufacturing plant and CHP plant
2. Navan North (Junction 9) to Mullaghboy Roundabout on N51 (New Junction Only);
3. Navan South (Junction 8) to Kilcarn Roundabout on R147 (New Junction Only);
4. N2 at Slane in the vicinity of the existing

Grasslands Fertilizers facility (Seveso Site)

5. N51 at Slane Distillery and Castle;
6. N2 at Knockharley in the vicinity of existing regional landfill facility
7. N2 at Rath Roundabout to junction of Curragha Road

These are identified on Map 5.3.

It is the policy of the Council:

MOV POL 32

To ensure the protection of the existing roads infrastructure while improving the capacity and safety of the road network to meet future demands.

MOV POL 33

To avoid the creation of any additional access point from new development/ intensification of traffic from existing entrance onto national roads outside the 60kph speed limit, except at the following locations:

1. N52 south of Balrath Cross to facilitate bioenergy manufacturing plant and CHP plant(Map 5.3.1);
2. Navan North (Junction 9) to Mullaghboy Roundabout on N51 (New Junction Only) (Map 5.3.2);
3. Navan South (Junction 8) to Kilcarn Roundabout on R147 (New Junction Only) (Map 5.3.3);
4. N2 at Slane in the vicinity of the existing Grasslands Fertilizers facility (Seveso Site) (Map 5.3.4);
5. N51 at Slane Distillery and Castle (Map 5.3.5);

6. N2 at Knockharley in the vicinity of existing regional landfill facility (Map 5.3.6);
7. N2 at Rath Roundabout to junction of Curragha Road (Map 5.3.7).

Each of these projects will be subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process. Where adverse effects on European site integrity are identified, alternative routes or designs will be developed to ensure that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), either alone or in combination with any other projects. If despite the implementation of mitigation measures, there remains a risk that the proposals will adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s), the project will not be progressed unless an alternative solution can be implemented which avoids/reduces the impact to a level that the integrity of the European Site(s) is (are) unaffected.

MOV POL 34

To review, as part of the Local Area Plan process, land at strategic locations adjoining urban related motorway junctions which has previously been identified for employment generating uses, subject to compliance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads – Guidelines for Planning Authorities. In this regard, the following junctions will be examined:

- M1 Motorway Junction 7 (Julianstown)
- Junction 8 (Duleek)
- Junction 9 (Drogheda)
- M3 Motorway Junction 4 (Clonee)

- Junction 5 (Dunboyne)
- M3 Motorway Junction 6 (Dunshaughlin)
- Junction 8 Navan South
- Junction 9 Navan (North)
- N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon

The Planning Authority will continue to support development proposals in such circumstances where all of the criteria specified in Section 2.7 of the “Spatial Planning & National Roads Guidelines” are adhered to.

5.10 Climate Change

As set out in the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, 43.4% of County Meath’s emissions coming from transport, it is a priority area of action as part of the strategy to address same. Providing more sustainable travel choices to our residents is a strategic priority that should reduce transport carbon emissions while delivering number of key economic, social and community benefits. A focus on residential development in sustainable locations, accessible to public transport infrastructure utilising brownfield lands in our existing settlements is essential to deliver a reduction in emissions.

It is an objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 55

To undertake a risk assessment of County Meath transport infrastructure to identify areas at high risk of climate change impacts (e.g. flooding), over the life of the Development Plan.

MOV OBJ 56

To ensure that any transport maintenance and improvement strategies ensure future climates are considered, to allow appropriate selection of materials and prioritisation of road for repair.

5.11 Freight

Efficient freight transport is essential to support economic activity. Given the geographic size of Ireland and the proximity of Dublin Port to the various centres in the GDA, movement by road is, and will continue to be, the dominant mode of freight transfer in the region, and throughout the wider State. The NTA Transport Strategy for the GDA, seeks to retain sufficient capacity within the road network to ensure that freight can be moved reliably and quickly to key destinations including ports and airports and has outlined a number of measures to achieve this within the Strategy. The Council will continue to support the NTA with the implementation of these measures in order to ensure the efficient movement of freight through the County. The potential impact of Brexit is a significant concern which must be factored into plans for the effective and efficient transport of freight.

Tara Mines has one of the few freight flows still operating on Irish railways today, for the transportation of zinc ore from Navan to Dublin (via Drogheda). Up to four trains a day are operated, and each of these is estimated to take the equivalent of forty lorries off the road. Irish Rail have been undertaking research into multimodal freight movement and have successfully completed three trials which increased load capacity up to 50%. Longer trains

on the network will boost the competitiveness of rail freight to industry. The environmental benefits of rail freight would also be enhanced by operating higher capacity services – currently moving freight by rail instead of road reduces emissions by 75% per unit, longer trains could see emissions reduced to as little as one-tenth of the road equivalent. Irish Rail is continuously working with its customers as well as Freight Forwarders, Ports and the Irish Exporters Association to identify further opportunities and trends for rail freight development within the Irish and European market.

It is a policy of the Plan to facilitate and support the improvement of freight movements in the county via both road and rail. Facilities for truck parking are desirable to prevent nuisance and annoyance, and for safety reasons. It must be borne in mind that the road network represents the working environment for many people involved in the movement of goods and services. It is therefore important that service facilities and truck parking is provided, in appropriate areas, to cater for their needs. It is also important to protect investment in the road network and protect key arteries, which are vital for movement of freight and are essential for commercial activity in the metropolitan area and hinterland areas from becoming overly congested.

It is the policy of Meath County Council:

MOV POL 35

To co-operate with and support the NTA and TII (where appropriate) on measures designed to improve freight transport in and throughout the County.

MOV POL 36

To support the preparation of a regional strategy for freight transport in collaboration with the relevant transport agencies and the other Regional Assemblies.

It is the objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 57

To identify appropriate locations for freight intensive developments, and require the preparation of Distribution and Servicing Plans²⁷ for such developments as part of the planning process.

MOV OBJ 58

To assess the potential for, and, if appropriate, introduce, HGV management measures in town centres.

MOV OBJ 59

To require the provision of HGV parking facilities at on-line motorway service areas, petrol filling stations and other appropriate locations within the County in accordance with relevant planning guidelines and government policy²⁸.

5.12 Aviation Sector

The development and safeguarding of Dublin Airport is fundamental to the economic growth of the County given its proximity to Dublin

Airport. The economic benefit to the region is outlined in the InterVISTAS report Dublin Airport Economic Study 2015. This study confirms Dublin Airport as an essential driver of the Irish Economy, as a primary gateway serving the country for air passengers and cargo. It is estimated that 97,400 jobs are supported by the airport and that €6.9bn is contributed to Irish GDP. In this context the Plan will seek to support and facilitate the development and expansion of Dublin Airport.

Parts of the County are located within both the outer and inner noise protection zones and the outer public safety zone for the airport. There is a need to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development. Both noise zones are shown in the Plan maps nos. 5.4.1 & 5.4.2, an Outer Zone within which the Council will continue to restrict inappropriate development, and an Inner Zone within which new provisions for residential development and other noise sensitive uses will be actively resisted.

Guidance on Public Safety Zones and land use is provided in the document '*Public Safety Zones, 2005*' by ERM Ltd. The Council will follow the advice of the Irish Aviation Authority regarding the effects of proposed development on the safety of aircraft and the safe and efficient navigation thereof. Impacts of green energy infrastructure such as wind farms and photovoltaic's will be examined and considered under the Development Management Chapter of the Plan. The Irish Aviation Authority require that all planning applications for Solar PV arrays within a 15km radius of airports shall be accompanied with a Glint and Glare assessment which shall be referred to them for comment. These assessments should have regard to potential Glint and Glare towards existing and planned aviation receptors, in particular (i) Glare

²⁷ Distribution and Servicing Plans should outline traffic routes for HGVs in order for the Local Authority to properly assess potential impacts on road infrastructure.

²⁸ See Chapter 11 Development Management for further details

towards the 2 mile (3.2) km approach path for runways and (ii) Glare towards Air traffic control towers.

It is the policy of the Council:

MOV POL 37

To support aviation policy as set out in 'A National Aviation Policy for Ireland 2015'. In particular, through supporting the role of Dublin Airport as a key tourism and business gateway to the County and the wider Eastern and Midland Region.

MOV POL 38

To promote appropriate land use patterns in the vicinity of the flight paths serving Dublin Airport, having regard to the precautionary principle, based on existing and anticipated environmental and safety impacts of aircraft movements.

MOV POL 39

To implement the policies to be determined by the Government in relation to Public Safety Zones for Dublin Airport.

MOV POL 40

To take account of the advice of the IAA with regard to the effects of any development proposals on the safety of aircraft or the safe and efficient navigation thereof.

MOV POL 41

To refer all planning applications for Solar PV arrays located within a 15km radius of Dublin Airport to the IAA.

It is the objective of the Council:

MOV OBJ 60

- 1) To strictly control inappropriate development and require noise insulation where appropriate within the Outer Noise Zone, and actively resist new provision for residential development and other noise sensitive uses within the Inner Noise Zone, as shown on Map 5.4.1 and 5.4.2.
- 2) To ensure that under no circumstances shall any dwelling be permitted within the predicted 69 dB LAeq 16 hours noise contour.
- 3) To require that comprehensive noise insulation is installed for any house permitted. Any planning application shall be accompanied by a noise impact assessment report produced by a specialist in noise assessment which shall specify all proposed noise mitigation measures together with a declaration of acceptance of the applicant with regard to the result of the noise assessment impact report.

MOV OBJ 61

To ensure that development which would give rise to conflicts with aircraft

movements on environmental or safety grounds on lands in the vicinity of Dublin Airport and on the main flight paths serving Dublin Airport is restricted.

MOV OBJ 62

To ensure that residential development in areas likely to be affected by levels of noise inappropriate to residential use is avoided.

MOV OBJ 63

- 1) To require that planning applications within a 15km radius of airports for Solar PV arrays shall be accompanied by a Glint and Glare Assessment.
- 2) These assessments shall consider potential Glint and Glare towards existing and planned aviation receptors, in particular (i) Glare towards the 2 mile (3.2) km approach path for runways and (ii) Glare towards Air traffic control towers.