



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 8664000 Fax: 057 8622313
corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie www.laois.ie

**NOTICE OF DRAFT MINISTERIAL DIRECTION IN THE MATTER OF
SECTION 31 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000
(AS AMENDED) LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that on 7th March 2022, the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, consequent to a recommendation made to him by the Office of the Planning Regulator under Section 31AM(8) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), has delivered notice of the Minister's intent to issue a Direction to Laois County Council (being the Planning Authority for County Laois).

The Draft Ministerial Direction relates to the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027.

The Reasons stated for the Draft Direction are that:

- I. The Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 as made is inconsistent with Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Act, specifically items 2 and 3 of the Specific Planning Policy Requirement contained in the Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change (2017), and the requirement for the planning authority to comply with the aforementioned Specific Planning Policy Requirements under Section 28(1C) and 12(18). The development plan as made therefore fails to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- II. The Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 as made is inconsistent with Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Act, specifically Specific Planning Policy Requirement 1 contained in the Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines (2018), and the requirement for the planning authority to comply with the aforementioned Specific Planning Policy Requirements under Section 28(1C) and 12(18). The development plan as made therefore fails to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- III. The Development Plan as made includes material amendments to the draft Plan, that are inconsistent with the evaluation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and which individually and cumulatively are not consistent with the Core Strategy, national and regional planning policy, and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including:
 - a. Land zoned for residential development located in peripheral locations remote from the existing settlement, inconsistent with the requirements for compact growth in NPO 3c and RPO 3.2, and the sequential approach to development having regard to Section 4.19 of Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007).
 - b. Land zoned for residential development in excess of that needed to meet the Core Strategy housing supply targets for Portlaoise and Stradbally in the adopted Plan, and which would further undermine the achievement of the brownfield development targets in the Core Strategy Table.
 The development plan as made therefore fails to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- IV. The Development Plan has therefore not been made in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the Office of the Planning Regulator under Section 31 AM and fails to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Public Display:

A copy of the Draft Direction may be inspected from 21st March 2022 to 3rd April 2022 (inclusive) at <https://consult.laois.ie> and during normal office hours (in line with Covid-19 arrangements), at the offices of Laois County Council, Planning Office, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Submissions or Observations in Respect of the Draft Direction:

Written submissions or observations, in respect of the Draft Direction, may be made (one medium only) to the Council between 21st March 2022 to 3rd April 2022 (5.00pm) as follows:

- Online via the Council's Public Consultation Portal: <https://Consult.Laois.ie/>; or
- Via email to cdp@laoiscoco.ie; or
- In writing marked "Draft Direction to the Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027" to the A/Senior Planner, Planning Department, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Observations or submissions must include the full name and address of the person(s) making the submission and where relevant, the body or organisation represented.

All submissions or observations made in respect of the Draft Direction, during this period, shall be taken into consideration by the Office of the Planning Regulator before it makes a recommendation to the Minister on the matter.

Please note that observations or submissions will be made public on the Council's website and at the offices of Laois County Council and will also form part of the statutory Chief Executive's Report subsequently published on Laois County Council's website. The details including the names of those making submissions may be shared with relevant Council and Government Departments or their agents involved in the process and may form part of reports linked to the making of any Direction.

The personal information (data) collected during the consultation process (which may include the collection of sensitive personal data) is collected for the purpose of receiving and dealing with submissions and any data collected is subject to Laois County Council's privacy statement which can be found at <https://laois.ie/privacy-statement/>.

Deadline for Submissions: 5.00pm 3rd April 2022. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Date: 16th March 2022.

**Signed: Angela McEvoy
A/Director of Services
Housing, Regeneration and Planning**

**SECTION 75, ROADS ACT 1993
(ROAD REGULATIONS 1994)**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 75 of the above Act and Article 12 of the Roads Regulations, 1994, Laois County Council hereby serves notice that it is intended to temporarily close the section of road from No 23 to No 24 Spa Street, Portarlinton (R419). The road will be closed from 9pm to 6am on the 31st March to the 1st April 2022 inclusive. These will be night works.

The closure is necessary to facilitate Irish Water CDS connection.

Diversions will be clearly signposted. A map indicating the routes to be closed and the alternative routes will be available for inspection at www.laois.ie and Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed road closure should do so by email to roadsadmin@laoiscoco.ie or in writing to the Administrative Officer, Roads Section, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, James Fintan Lalor Avenue, Portlaoise not later than 4pm on Tuesday 22nd March 2022.

Simon Walton,
Director of Services,
Laois County Council,
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise.

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www.laois.ie

**LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
"IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY"**