

**Laois County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Laois**



**Civil Defence Headquarters**

**Proposed Development by a Local Authority**

**Part VIII  
Explanatory Booklet**

In accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 & 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

**December 2022**



## **1.0 Introduction**

This document has been prepared in compliance with Part 8 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations, 2001 -2011.

Civil Defence is a statutory, volunteer-based organisation with a nationwide footprint, established in 1951. Volunteering within Civil Defence demonstrates the very best of Irish society and the Civil Defence organisation is dependent on the volunteers giving freely of their time and expertise.

The central, strategic objective of Civil Defence is to support Principal Response Agencies in a variety of emergency and non-emergency situations. In addition, over the years, Civil Defence volunteers have been utilised in a variety of community support roles at local level.

In Central Government terms, responsibility for Civil Defence falls under the aegis of the Department of Defence.

Similar to other Counties, in County Laois, Laois County Council has overall responsibility for the day to day operations of Laois Civil Defence. In that regard Laois County Council is committed to ensuring that ongoing and future accommodation and training requirements for Civil Defence are appropriately met. The purpose of this Part 8 Proposal is to address the medium to long term accommodation and training needs of Laois Civil Defence.

The primary functional requirements of the proposed Civil Defence Headquarters are summarised as follows:

1. To facilitate the emergency response of Civil Defence services to the Local Authority and Primary Response Agencies,
2. To accommodate Civil Defence vehicles and equipment, in a state of permanent readiness for use,
3. To provide appropriate facilities for Civil Defence personnel, commensurate with the level of unit activity,
4. To facilitate routine testing and maintenance of vehicles and equipment and,
5. To facilitate ongoing training of Civil Defence volunteers.

## **2.0 Need for the Proposed Development –**

The existing Civil Defence building in Stradbally was purchased in 1992 and converted from its original use (squash court). The facility is no longer fit for purpose and the training and welfare needs, required of a modern Civil Defence unit and provision of services cannot be sustained in the existing facility. In parallel, other, temporary, accommodation arrangements were in place until recently providing an ad-hoc, sporadic, range of accommodation facilities throughout the County, unfit for the needs of Civil Defence.

Additionally, operational activity across all Civil Defence services has increased significantly. To date, in 2022, Laois Civil Defence has provided support to 107 different events and operations.



In putting forward this Part 8 Proposal, Laois County Council is seeking to address an acute need for upgraded Civil Defence infrastructure in County Laois, such that Laois Civil Defence can fulfil the current and future role envisaged for it.

### 3.0 Principal Features of this development –

The points set out below should be read in conjunction with drawings set out in Appendix 1 to this Explanatory Booklet.

The principal features of the proposed development are as follows:

- Removal of the existing prefabricated building on the site
- Construction of a new 2 story building with suitable training, welfare and storage facilities
- Construction of a new secure vehicle compound for storage of vehicles.
- The utilisation of green technology

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the proposed development is set out in Appendix 2.

### 4.0 Drawings

The full extent of the proposed works is detailed on the following drawings (See Appendix 1):

<b>Drawing No:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
SK001	Existing & Proposed Site plan and Proposed Floor Plans
SK002	Proposed Civil Defence Elevations

### 5.0 Funding

The project will be funded by Laois County Council. A sum of €1,500,000 is provided in the current, three year rolling capital programme, to be funded by Laois County Council. Additionally, a grant, circa €150,000, is available from the Department of Defence to contribute towards the costs of the Scheme.



## 6.0 Impact on Adjoining Landowners and Residents

The location of the proposed development is on lands owned by Laois County Council.

There is an adjoining residential property to the proposed site. The existing boundary wall will be retained between the proposed development and the residential property to protect residential amenity.

Photographs of the site of the proposed development are provided in Appendix 3.

## 7.0 Public Display Period

A copy of the Public Notice is contained in Appendix 4 to this Explanatory Booklet.

## 8.0 Submissions

Any person may, from **8<sup>th</sup> December 2022** to **26<sup>th</sup> January 2023** inclusive, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and particulars of the above proposed development are available for viewing on our online consultation portal at <https://consult.laois.ie> from **8<sup>th</sup> December 2022** to **26<sup>th</sup> January 2023** inclusive. Plans and particulars are also available for inspection at the Offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, during normal office hours, from **8<sup>th</sup> December 2022** to **26<sup>th</sup> January 2023** inclusive.

**Submissions or observations** with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, **may be made online** at <https://consult.laois.ie> **5.00 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.**

**Submissions or observations** with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development is to be situated, **may also be made in writing** to: Simon Walton, Director of Services, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois to be received not later than **5.00 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.**

Submissions should be clearly marked: **New Civil Defence HQ – Portlaoise – Part VIII.**

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**Damien Dollard**  
**Civil Defence Officer**  
**Laois County Council**

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**Simon Walton**  
**Director of Services**  
**Laois County Council**

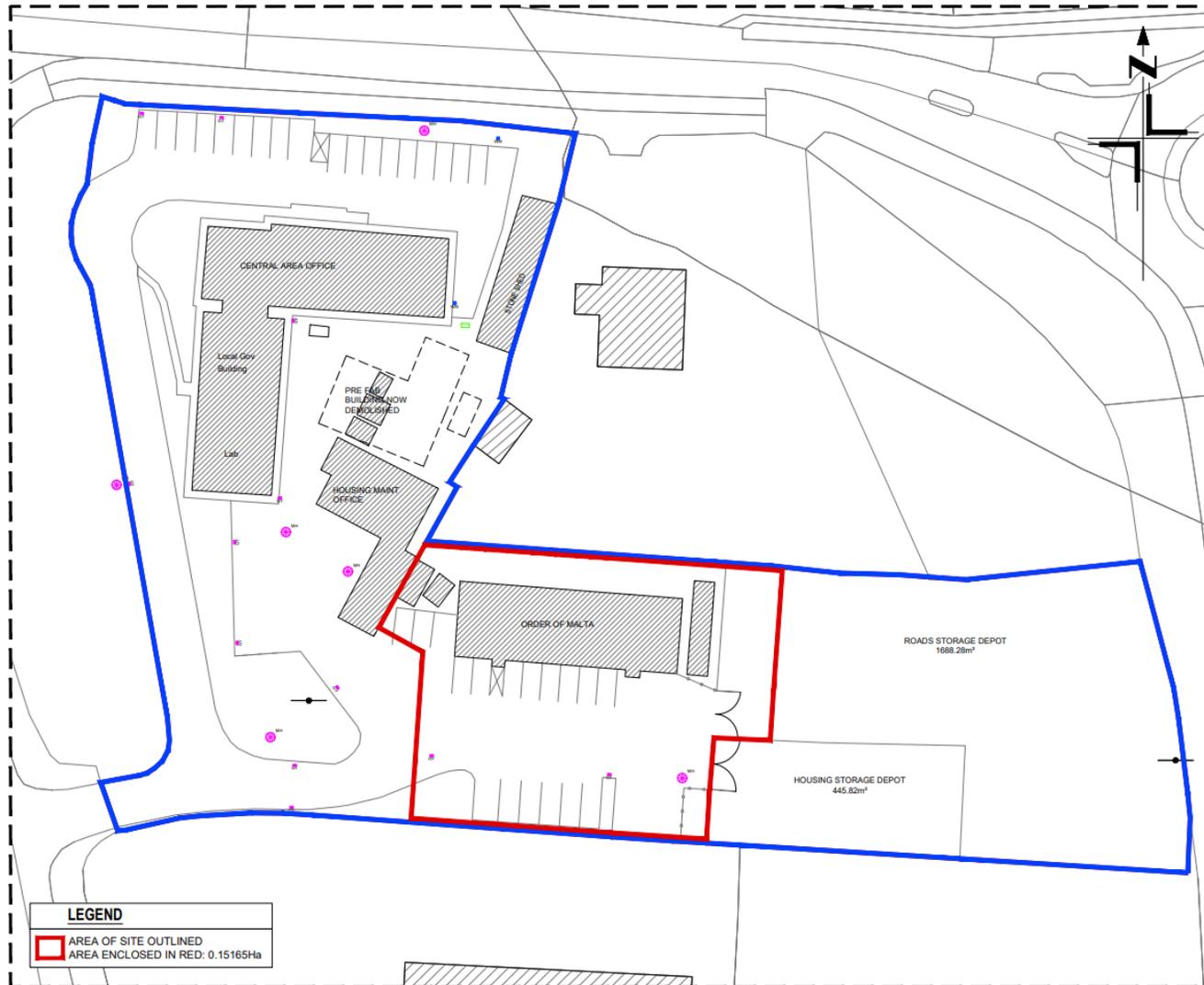


## APPENDIX 1

# Drawings

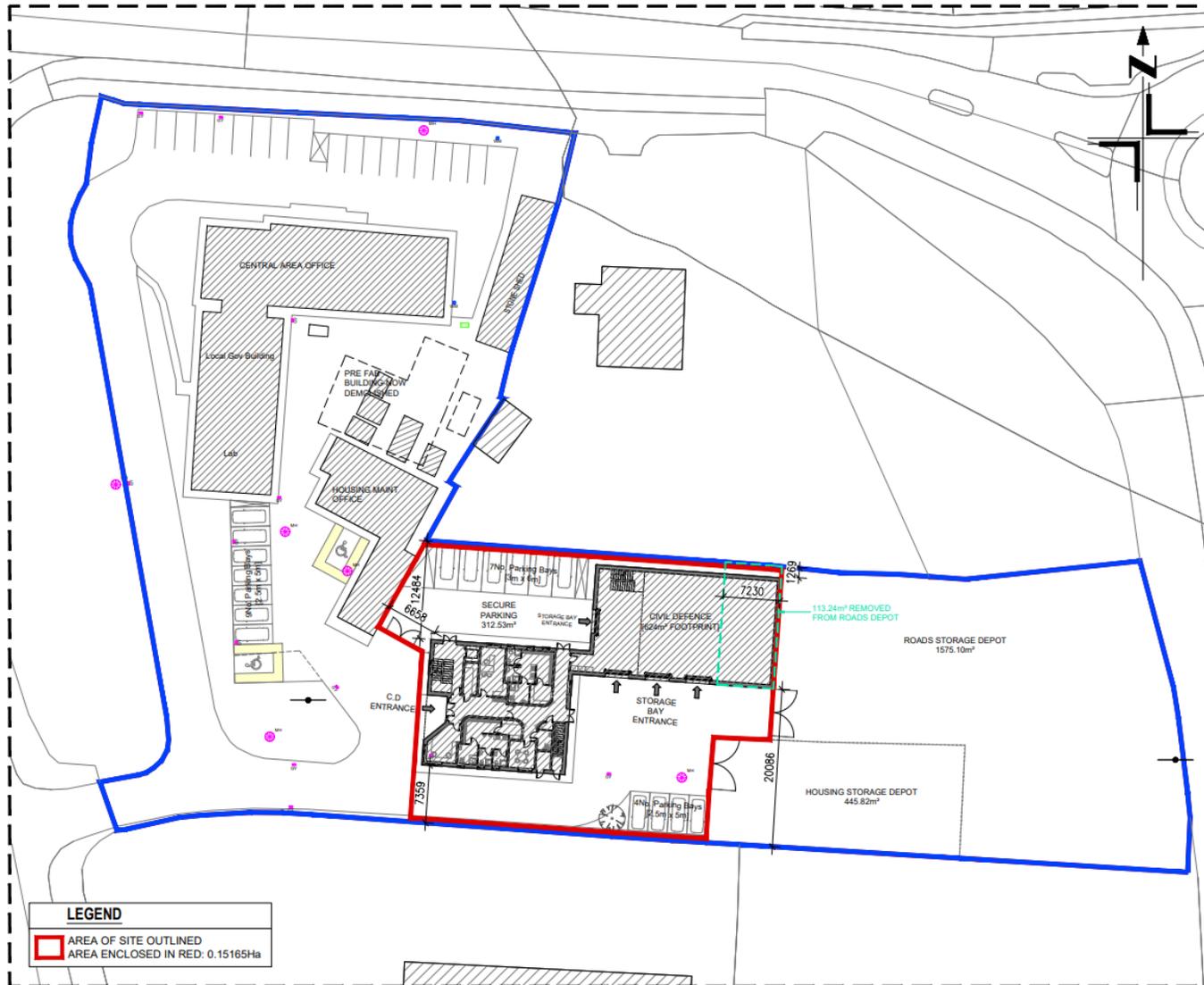


### Existing Site Layout Plan





**Proposed Site Layout Plan**

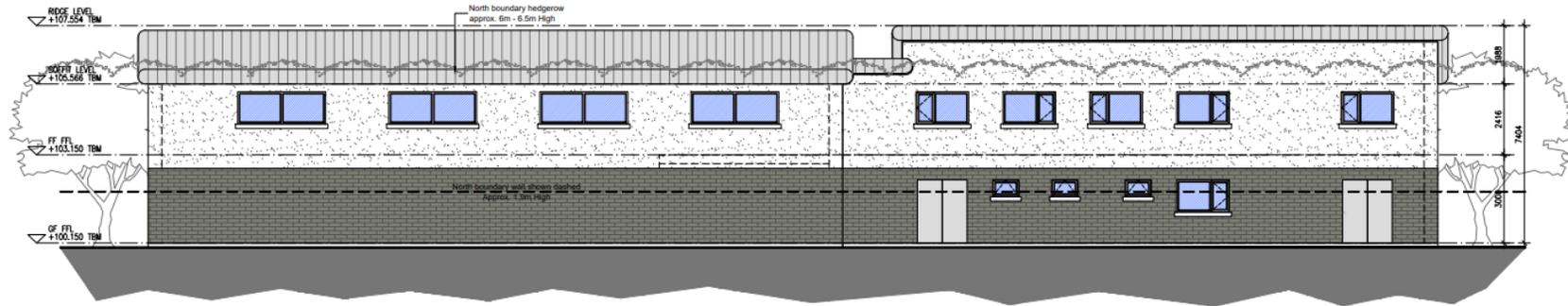




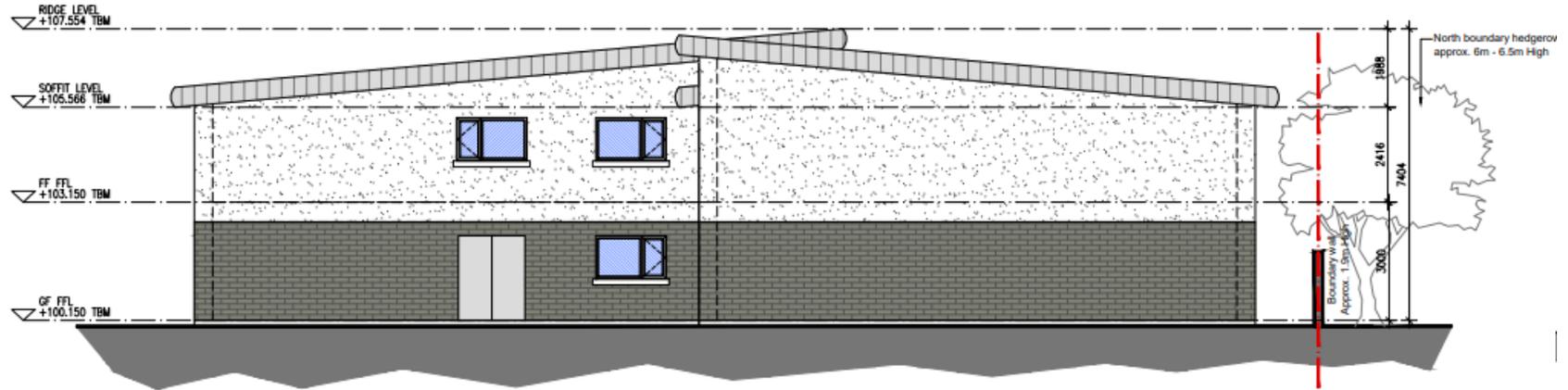
### Proposed Elevations



01 ELEVATION A [SOUTH]  
S/002 1:100@A1



02 ELEVATION B [NORTH]  
S/002 1:100@A1



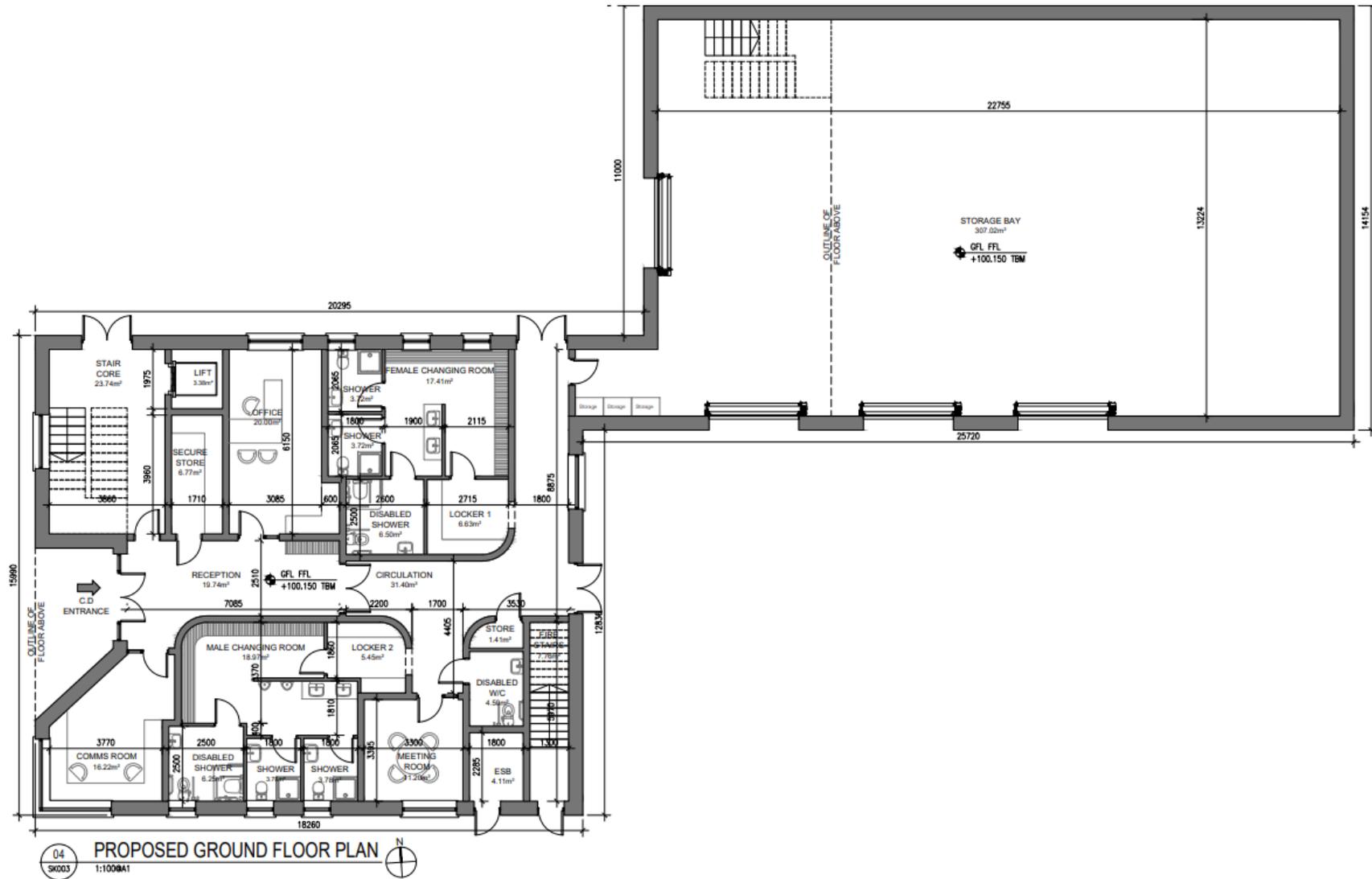
03 ELEVATION C [EAST]  
SK002 1:100@A1



04 ELEVATION D [WEST]  
SK002 1:100@A1

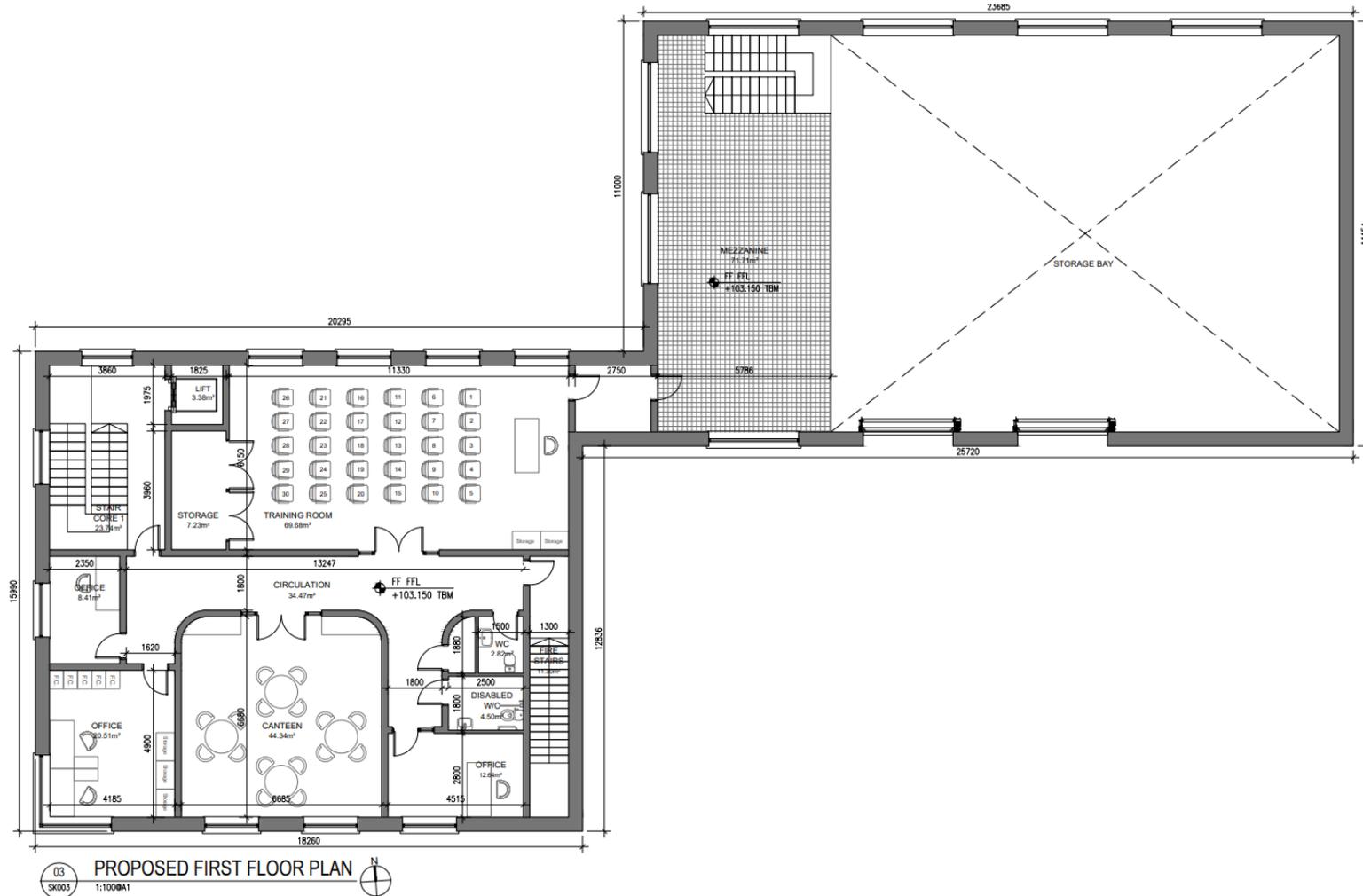


**Proposed Ground Floor Plan**





**Proposed First Floor Plan**



## APPENDIX 2

Appropriate Assessment (Screening Report)  
Consenting Authority Screening Assessment



**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT  
AND  
CONCLUSION STATEMENT**

<b>(A) Project Details</b>	
<b>Planning File Ref</b>	Part VIII
<b>Applicant name</b>	Laois County Council
<b>Development Location</b>	Civil Defence Headquarters at Portlaoise Business and Technology Park, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.
<b>Site size</b>	0.15165ha
<b>Application accompanied by an EIS (Yes/NO)</b>	No
<b>Distance from Natura 2000 site in km</b>	The River Barrow and River Nore SAC is located 8km to the north of the proposed development and the Slieve Bloom SPA is located 8 km to the west.
<b>Description of the project/proposed development</b>	
<p>The development will consist of the Demolition and Removal of an existing Prefabricated Structure and Construction of Civil Defence Headquarters for County Laois and all ancillary site works in relation to the construction of a Civil Defence Headquarters at Portlaoise Business and Technology Park, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.</p>	



<b>(B) Identification of Natura 2000 sites which may be impacted by the proposed development</b>			
			<b>Yes/No</b>
			<b>If answer is yes, identify list name of Natura 2000 site likely to be impacted.</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Impacts on sites designated for freshwater habitats or species.</b></p> <p><u>Sites to consider:</u> River Barrow and Nore</p>	<p><i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats and/or species, or in the catchment (upstream or downstream) of same?</i></p>	<b>No</b>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Impacts on sites designated for wetland habitats - bogs, fens, marshes and heath.</b></p> <p><u>Sites to consider:</u> River Barrow and Nore</p>	<p><i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats (bog, marsh, fen or heath)</i></p>	<b>No</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Impacts on designated terrestrial habitats.</b></p> <p><u>Sites to consider:</u> River Barrow and Nore</p>	<p><i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include woodlands, dunes or grasslands, or within 100m of same?</i></p>	<b>No</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Impacts on birds in SPAs</b></p>	<p><i>Is the development within a Special Protection Area?</i></p>	<b>No</b>



	<u>Sites to consider:</u> River Nore Slieve Bloom Mountains		
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**Conclusion:**

If the answer to all of the above is **No**, significant impacts can be ruled out for habitats and bird species.

No further assessment in relation to habitats or birds is required.

If the answer is **Yes** refer to the relevant sections of **C**.

<b>(G) SCREENING CONCLUSION STATEMENT</b>		
<i>Selected relevant category for project assessed by ticking box.</i>		
<b>1</b>	AA is not required because the project is directly connected with/necessary to the conservation management of the site	
<b>2</b>	No potential significant affects/AA is not required	<b>X</b>
<b>3</b>	Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain. Seek a Natura Impact Statement Reject proposal. (Reject if potentially damaging/inappropriate)	
<b>Justify why it falls into relevant category above (based on information in above tables)</b>		
Having regard to the proximity of the nearest SAC/SPA (as indicated above) and given the nature and extent of the proposed development and the availability of support infrastructure, it is not considered there would be potential for significant effects on the Natura 2000 network.		
<b>Name:</b>	David O' Hara	
<b>Position:</b>	Senior Planner	
<b>Date:</b>	06/12/2022	



**Laois COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

EIA Screening Determination

### **1) Introduction**

This report has been informed by:

- Schedules 5, 7 and 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and an An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environment Impact Assessment', issued by the DHPLG (2018); and,
- Part VIII planning documents

### **2) Proposed Development**

The principal aspects of the proposed development can be set out as follows:

Laois County Council is proposing to develop a civil defence headquarters in Portlaoise under with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)).

The development will consist of

- Demolition and Removal of an existing Prefabricated Structure
- Construction of Civil Defence Headquarters for County Laois
- All ancillary site works in relation to the construction of a Civil Defence Headquarters at Portlaoise Business and Technology Park, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

### **3) Legislative Basis for EIA**

EIA is a process by which information about the environmental effects of projects is collected, evaluated and presented in a form that provides a basis for consultation. Decision makers can then take account of these effects when determining whether or not a project should proceed. EIA



in Ireland must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) regulations 1989 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations).

This legislation sets down the types of projects that may require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Part 1 in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (amended) defines mandatory projects that require an EIAR and Part 2 of the same schedule defines projects that are assessed on the basis of set mandatory thresholds for each of the project classes.

In addition to Part 1 and Part 2 projects as referred to above, there are also sub-threshold projects. These projects may require the submission of an EIAR depending on individual assessments in accordance with certain criteria. They can be categorised by thresholds or can be assessed individually. The guiding principle is that *projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location* should be subject to EIA. Significant effects may arise by virtue of the type of development, the scale or extent of the development and the location of the development in relation to sensitive environments.

#### **4) EIA Screening**

EIA screening can be defined as the process of assessing the requirement of a project to be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment based on the project type and scale and on the significance of the receiving environment.

##### Mandatory EIA

In the case of the proposed development, it is evident that it would fall under a category of development which would automatically require an EIAR as per Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, outlines the categories of development for the purposes of Part 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – that is development that requires EIAR.

The following category is relevant:



## Schedule 5, Part 2

## 10. Infrastructure projects:

*(iv) Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere. (In this paragraph, “business district” means a district within a city or town in which the predominant land use is retail or commercial use.)*

While the site is within the settlement of Portlaoise it is not within the designated town centre. The site is zoned Community, Educational and Institutional in the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027. Consequently, the threshold of 2ha is not applicable in this instance. The relevant threshold is 10 hectares. With a site area of **0.15165ha** the proposed development is sub-threshold and does not automatically require EIAR.

Sub-threshold EIA

The key issue with regard to the possible need for EIA of sub-threshold development is whether the development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended states the following

120. (1) (a) Where a local authority proposes to carry out a sub threshold development, the authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the development.

(b) Where the local authority concludes, based on such preliminary examination, that—

(i) there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall conclude that an EIA is not required,

(ii) there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the information specified in Schedule 7A for the purposes of a screening determination, or

(iii) there is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall—

(I) conclude that the development would be likely to have such effects, and

(II) prepare, or cause to be prepared, an EIAR in respect of the development.

(1A) (a) Where the local authority prepares, or causes to be prepared, the information specified in Schedule 7A,



For sub-threshold developments listed in Schedule 5 Part 2, a screening determination is required to be undertaken by the competent authority unless, on preliminary examination it can be concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.

### **Schedule 7**

The proposed development is considered against the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. This is based on the existence of realistic doubt with regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment and considering the nature, size and location of the proposed development in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 7 to the 2001 Regulations,

The competent authority must proceed to a further examination to determine whether EIA is required pursuant to Schedule 7A to the 2001 Regulations in order to facilitate a formal screening determination.

### **Characteristics of the proposed development**

#### **Size of the proposed development**

The area of the application site is given as 0.15165ha.

#### **The cumulation with other proposed development**

Impacts caused by one project, which may be considered minor and insignificant, can combine with other environmental impacts from existing or planned development. When taken in combination, these impacts could be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Existing development in the surrounding area predominantly comprises residential uses to the north and east and enterprise and employment uses to the south and west.

Subject to appropriate restrictions on the proposed development in relation to traffic movements, noise and dust emissions, mostly during the construction phase, it is considered that the potential for significant impacts on the environment from cumulative effects will not arise.

#### **Nature of any associated demolition works**



It is proposed to demolish an existing prefabricated structure on site and removal to an authorized facility. The demolition works are considered of a small scale.

### The Use of Natural Resources

Natural resources on the site and in the surrounding area include:

- Waterbodies (rivers, streams and groundwater)

The River Barrow and River Nore SAC is located 8km to the north of the proposed development and the Slieve Bloom SPA is located 8 km to the west. Given the distance involved in connecting to the SAC it is considered that there will be no likely significant effect on the European Site. Also as the proposed development has no discharges of note and is connected to the foul and surface water public sewers it is considered that there will be no potential for significant impacts on watercourses.

Similarly owing to the nature of the site, in a town and fully serviced it is considered that there will be no negative impact on soils or flora and fauna.

Soil excavated for construction will be reused on site or removed off site for re-use elsewhere.

### Production of Waste

The proposal will not generate significant quantities of waste. Waste produced during the construction phase will be managed by a site specific construction and demolition waste management plan.

During the operational phase there will be non hazardous waste and packaging waste, WEEE, empty containers and landscaping waste.

### Pollution and Nuisances

The proposed development has the potential to result in pollution and nuisances in the area during the construction phase due to dust and noise. Mitigation measures are proposed to deal with these issues including proper construction methodology.



It is considered that soil and water pollution impacts are insignificant and will not result in pollution or nuisance.

Subject to the implementation of the best practice measures identified as part of the proposed development, it is considered that these impacts would not be significant.

Risk of Accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used

None identified

Risks to Human Health

Risks to human health from the proposed development can principally arise from noise and dust emissions during construction principally.

Subject to the implementation of the mitigation and best practice measures identified as part of the proposed development, it is considered that these impacts would not be significant.

The characteristics of the development do not require EIAR to be carried out.

**6) Location of the proposed development**

The application site, given as 0.15165ha., is situated on a serviced and zoned site within the town boundaries of Portlaoise. The site is bounded by a dwellings to the east, the R445 to the north and an enterprise park to the south and west.

The relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area and its underground

The proposed development is not likely to have significant effect on any Natura 2000 site owing to the separation distance, the lack of discharges and the proposed connection to the public sewer network.

The absorption capacity of the natural environment

In terms of absorption capacity the site is a brownfield site with an existing building and parking area. The site is not located in any upland or wetland area.



On the basis of the information available from a site walkover and from the Planning Authority's GIS in relation to archaeological and architectural heritage, there are no landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance on or in the vicinity of the application site.

## **7) Types and Characteristics of the Potential Impacts**

Potential impacts can arise in relation to:

- Operational noise, vibration, dust and related nuisances for lands and adjoining properties the site mainly during the construction phase.
- Pollution of groundwater and surface water from during construction.
- There is no archaeological or architectural heritage on or in the vicinity of the site which could be impacted on by the proposed development.

### Transfrontier nature of impact

The proposed development will be localised and will take place fully within the administrative area of Laois County Council.

### Magnitude and complexity of impact

It is not considered that impacts from the proposed development would have the potential to affect a large range of receptors over a wide geographical area. The spatial extent of impacts would be more localised and the size of the population likely to effected would not be significant.

### Probability of impacts

Impacts from the proposed development can arise over the duration of the construction works, particularly with respect to noise and dust emissions, potential pollution of groundwater and surface water, and traffic impacts on the local road network. Subject to the strict implementation of the mitigation and best practice measures, it is considered that these impacts would not be significant.

### Expected Onset, Duration, frequency and reversibility of impact



The development consists of a Demolition and Removal of an existing Prefabricated Structure Construction of Civil Defence Headquarters for County Laois and All ancillary site works in relation to the construction of a Civil Defence Headquarters

It is considered that the duration of any impacts will be during the construction phase of the development which may extend to an 18–24-month time period.

### **8) Conclusion**

I consider that the proposed development does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment as it is not likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of its nature, size or location.

**David O'Hara**  
**Senior Planner**



## APPENDIX 3

### Photographs



## Existing Civil Defence HQ in Stradbally



## Existing Prefabricated Building on Proposed Portlaoise Site







## APPENDIX 4

### Public Notice



**LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 (as amended)**  
**AND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended)**

**Notice of Proposed Development by Laois County Council**

In accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII, Article 80 & 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Laois County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to carry out the following development:

Location	Nature of Development
Laois County Council Depot Mountrath Rd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois	The development will consist of the following work- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demolition and Removal of an existing Prefabricated Structure</li> <li>• Construction of Civil Defence Headquarters for County Laois</li> <li>• All ancillary site works in relation to the construction of a Civil Defence Headquarters</li> </ul>

Laois County Council has prepared an EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Based on this Screening Report, Laois County Council has determined that there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment (Article 120 of Planning and Development Regulations, amended 2018). Accordingly, it has been determined that an EIA is not required in respect of this proposed development. Any person may, from **8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023** inclusive, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and particulars of the above proposed development are available for viewing on our online consultation portal at <https://consult.laois.ie> from **8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023** inclusive. Plans and particulars are also available for inspection at the offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, during normal office hours, from **8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023** inclusive.

**Submissions or observations** with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, **may be made online** at <https://consult.laois.ie> **5.00 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**. **Submissions or observations** with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, **may also be made in writing** to: Simon Walton, Director of Services, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois to be received not later than **5.00 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**.

Submissions should be clearly marked: **New Civil Defence HQ – Portlaoise – Part VIII**.

Note: Only submissions made in the above manner will be considered as valid submissions for the purposes of the Chief Executive's Report that will be presented to Council.

The Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. If you consider that any of the information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to FOI requests, be examined in light of exemptions provided for in the FOI Act.

**SIMON WALTON**  
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES**



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE**  
**LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
 Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
 Tel: 057 8664000 Fax: 057 8622313  
 corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie www.laois.ie

**NA NACHTANNA UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ)**  
**AGUS RIALACHÁIN PLEANÁLA AGUS FORBARTHA 2001 (ARNA LEASÚ)**  
**FÓGRA FORBARTHA BEARTAITHE Ó CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE**

De réir Chuid XI, Alt 179 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 (arna leasú) agus Cuid VIII, Airteagal 80 & 81 de na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2001 (arna leasú) tugann Comhairle Contae Laoise leis seo fógra go bhfuil sé ar intinn aici tabhairt faoi. an fhorbairt seo a leanas:

Location	Nature of Development
Comhairle Contae Laoise, Páirc Gnó agus Teicneolaíochta Phort Laoise, Bóthar Mhaighnean Rátha, Port Laoise, Co. Laoise. R32 WKE0.	Beidh an obair seo a leanas san fhorbairt-- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Struchtúr Réamhdhéanta atá ann cheana a scartáil agus a bhaint</li> <li>• Tógáil Ceanncheathrú Cosanta Sibhialta do Chontae Laoise.</li> <li>• Gach oibreacha coimhdeacha suimh maidir le tógáil Ceanncheathrú na Cosanta Sibhialta</li> </ul>

Tá Tuarascáil Scagthástála EIA ullmhaithe ag Comhairle Contae Laoise de réir cheanglais na Rialachán um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2001 (arna leasú). Bunaíthe ar an Tuarascáil Scagthástála seo, chinn Comhairle Contae Laoise nach bhfuil aon dóchúlacht ann go mbeidh tionchar suntasach ar an gcomhshaoil (Airteagal 120 de na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, leasaithe 2018). Dá réir sin, socraíodh nach bhfuil EIA ag teastáil i leith na forbartha seo a bheartaithe.

Féadfaidh aon duine, ón 8ú Nollaig 2022 go dtí an 26ú Eanáir 2023 san áireamh, iarratas a dhéanamh chuig an mBord Pleanála ar chinneadh scagtha maidir le cé acu an dóigh go mbeadh éifeachtal suntasacha ag an bhforbairt ar an gcomhshaoil.

Is féidir pleananna agus sonraí na forbartha molta thuas a fheiceáil ar ár dtairseach comhairlúcháin ar líne ag <https://consult.laois.ie> ón 8ú Nollaig 2022 go dtí an 26ú Eanáir 2023 san áireamh. Tá pleananna agus sonraí ar fáil freisin le hiníúchadh ag oifigí Chomhairle Contae Laoise, Áras an Chontae, Ascaill JFL, Port Laoise, le linn gnáthuaireanta oifige, ó 8ú Nollaig 2022 go 26ú Eanáir 2023 san áireamh.

Féadfar aighneachtaí nó tuairimí maidir leis an bhforbairt bheartaithe, a phléann le pleanáil cheart agus le forbairt inbhuanaithe an cheantair ina mbeadh an fhorbairt suite, a dhéanamh ar líne ag <https://consult.laois.ie> 5.00 lín. ar an 9ú Feabhra, 2023.

Is féidir aighneachtaí nó tuairimí maidir leis an bhforbairt bheartaithe, ag déileáil le pleanáil cheart agus le forbairt inbhuanaithe an cheantair ina mbeadh an fhorbairt suite, a dhéanamh i scríobh chuig: Simon Walton, Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse, Comhairle Chontae Laoise, Áras an Chontae, Port Laoise, Co. Laoise le bheith roimhe 5.00 p.m. ar an 9ú Feabhra, 2023.

Ba chóir aighneachtaí a mharcáil go soiléir: Ceanncheathrú Nua Cosanta Sibhialta – Port Laoise – Cuid VIII. **Note:** Ní dhéanfar ach aighneachtaí a dhéantar ar an mbealach thuas a mheas mar aighneachtaí baili chun críchoch Tuarascáil an Phríomhfhéidhmeannaigh a chuirfead faoi bhráid na Comhairle.

Tá an Chomhairle faoi réir fhorálacha an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise (SF), Má mheasann tú go bhfuil aon chuid den fhaisnéis a sholáthair tú logair ó thaobh na tráchtála de nó faoi rún, ba chóir é sin a aibhsiú agus na cúiseanna lena logaireacht a shonrú. I gcásanna den sórt sin, scrúdaíodh an t-abhar ábhartha, mar fhreagra ar iarratais SF, i bhfianaise na ndlíúintí dá bhforáiltear san Acht um SF.

Simon Walton,  
 Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND**  
**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)**  
**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**

In accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII, Article 80 & 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Laois County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to carry out the following development:

Location	Nature of Development
Laois County Council Depot, Portlaoise Business and Technology Park, Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise, Co. Laois. R32 WKE0.	The development will consist of the following work-- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demolition and Removal of an existing Prefabricated Structure</li> <li>• Construction of Civil Defence Headquarters for County Laois</li> <li>• All ancillary site works in relation to the construction of a Civil Defence Headquarters</li> </ul>

Laois County Council has prepared an EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Based on this Screening Report, Laois County Council has determined that there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment (Article 120 of Planning and Development Regulations, amended 2018). Accordingly, it has been determined that an EIA is not required in respect of this proposed development.

Any person may, from 8th December 2022 to 26th January 2023 inclusive, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and particulars of the above proposed development are available for viewing on our online consultation portal at <https://consult.laois.ie> from 8th December 2022 to 26th January 2023 inclusive. Plans and particulars are also available for inspection at the offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, during normal office hours, from 8th December 2022 to 26th January 2023 inclusive.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made online at <https://consult.laois.ie> 5.00 p.m. on 9th February, 2023.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may also be made in writing to: Simon Walton, Director of Services, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois to be received not later than 5.00 p.m. on 9th February, 2023.

Submissions should be clearly marked: **New Civil Defence HQ – Portlaoise – Part VIII.**

**Note:** Only submissions made in the above manner will be considered as valid submissions for the purposes of the Chief Executive's Report that will be presented to Council.

The Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. If you consider that any of the information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to FOI requests, be examined in light of exemptions provided for in the FOI Act.

Simon Walton,  
 Director Of Services

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