

**Planning Department,  
Meath County Council,  
Abbey Mall,  
Abbey Road,  
Navan,  
County Meath.**

7<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**Re: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority ("the Authority") welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed material alterations to the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019.

The Authority's observations focus on the material alterations in relation to employment.

1. It is stated that Meath County Council considers that *"existing employment generating uses together with their expansion to an appropriate scale and size shall be facilitated notwithstanding the category of settlement specified"* (p38).

The Authority recognises Meath County Council's support for economic development, through the expansion of existing employment. However, the expansion of these areas should be conditional on this expansion being consistent with regional policy (see RPG strategic recommendation ER3) and with the Authority's policy on the location of employment (see LU1 of the draft Transport Strategy).

**Recommendation:** To ensure consistency with the draft Transport Strategy, the Authority requests that an extra qualifier is incorporated in the text of the Development Plan to ensure that the expansion of existing development areas is consistent with regional policy (see RPG strategic recommendation ER3) and the Authority's policy on the location of employment (see LU1 of the draft Transport Strategy).

2. There are proposed minor amendments in relation to Bremore Port (p66). The Authority emphasises that the development a business park in the environs of Bremore Port should be dependent on the delivery of the proposed port.
3. It is stated in the proposed material alterations that *"the suitability of these ~ (Maynooth Environs area) ~ lands to accommodate intensive office based development will have to be assessed in a Development Management context"* (p71).

The Authority considers that any proposal to locate intensive office based development in Maynooth Environs is inconsistent with the Authority's policy on the location of employment, as presented in the Draft Transport Strategy i.e. the location of any trip intensive development outside Dublin City and Designated Town centres being served by stations on the existing and proposed rail network (see LU1 of the draft Transport Strategy). It is also contrary to regional policy which encourages *"mixed use settlement forms and sustainable centres, in which employment and residency are located in close proximity to each other and strategic multi-modal transport corridors, which promote a choice of sustainable travel modes, green travel choices and to arrest long distance commuter trends and congestion"* (SR ER3, GDARPG).

**Recommendation:** To ensure consistency with the draft Transport Strategy, the Authority requests that the text of the Development Plan be amended to delete any reference to intensive office based development on the Maynooth Environs.

***The inclusion of these amendments will ensure, in the view of the Authority, that the proposed material alterations to is consistent with the draft Transport Strategy.***

The Authority requests your consideration of the above comments.

Yours sincerely,

  
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**Hugh Creegan**  
**Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation**