

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

1st August 2012

Re: Draft Meath County Development Plan

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority (“the Authority”) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Meath County Development Plan.

Section 9 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended by the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008) provides that each planning authority within the GDA shall ensure that its development plan is consistent with the Authority’s transport strategy. Section 31C of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 provides that where a notice is received by the DTA under section 12(1) it shall, as part of any written submission on the draft development plan, state whether, in its view, the draft development plan is-

- (a) consistent with its transport strategy, or
- (b) not consistent with its transport strategy and in such case what amendments to the draft plan it considers necessary to achieve such consistency.

The Authority has published a draft Transport Strategy and the final document has been submitted to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport for approval. While the Transport Strategy is a draft document, the Authority bases its observations on the policies, objectives and measures contained within the draft Transport Strategy.

The Authority has collaborated with Meath County Council on the preparation of the draft Development Plan to ensure that the development plan is consistent with the draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2011-2030, including the incorporation of agreed measures, policies and objectives.

The Authority's observations focus on the future development of Dunboyne/Pace area.

It is stated that Meath County Council considers that "both appropriate and opportune to review the nature, location and quantum of lands zoned for employment uses to the east of the M3 Motorway/ R147 at Dunboyne/ Clonee. The relative merits of retaining such lands in favour of promoting the lands which adjoin the lands east of the rail line in Dunboyne and/or M3 Parkway rail station, particularly for people intensive employment uses should be undertaken as part of this review. This should be carried out as part of the integrated land use and transport assessment to determine the future direction of growth in the Dunboyne/Clonee corridor".

It is further stated "an opportunity for a Strategic Development Zone may exist in North Dunboyne" and that "unparalleled economic development opportunities exist adjacent to M3 Parkway which would allow the development of a strategic employment cluster".

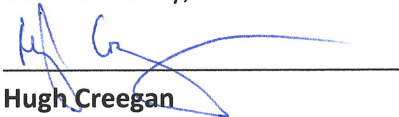
The Authority has consistently expressed its concern with substantial development proposals at Pace, as provided for in the Dunboyne/ Clonee/ Pace LAP. The Authority considers that future employment development in this area be focussed on Dunboyne/ Dunboyne Rail Station rather than at the Pace motorway interchange.

The Authority requests that the draft Plan should include provision in the proposed integrated land use and transport assessment for consultation and agreement with the NTA and NRA to determine the future location and appropriate scale of development in the Dunboyne area. It is also recommended that this assessment addresses the need for an SDZ in Dunboyne & environs.

The inclusion of such a condition will ensure, in the view of the Authority, that the draft development plan is consistent with the draft Transport Strategy.

The Authority requests your consideration of the above comments. We are grateful for the opportunity to liaise with you during the preparation of this draft development plan.

Yours sincerely,



Hugh Creegan

Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation