

**Administrative Officer,
Planning Department,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24**

15th February 2012

Re: Preparation of a Local Area Plan for Newcastle, Co. Dublin.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority (“the Authority”) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Newcastle Local Area Plan at this pre-draft stage.

The Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 provides that each planning authority within the GDA shall ensure that its local area plans are consistent with the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy for the period 2011-2030. The draft Transport Strategy is complete and is currently with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport for consideration. While the Transport Strategy is a draft document, the Authority requests that South Dublin County Council reflect the policies, objectives and measures contained within the draft Transport Strategy in the preparation of the Newcastle Local Area Plan (LAP).

The Authority considers public transport accessibility to be a key factor in influencing the scale, density and location of future development in the GDA. As such, Newcastle would not be a preferred location for large-scale residential development due to its remoteness from high-quality rail and bus services and from services provided in South Dublin’s District and Town centres. The Authority recommends that the extent of lands zoned for residential use in the LAP should reflect this.

In order to maximise the use of walking, cycling and public transport for the current residents of Newcastle and any future residents in development areas, the Authority

recommends that the following Draft Transport Strategy Measures are considered when preparing the LAP:

- Local services such as convenience stores, doctors' surgeries and schools are located and provided in a manner which ensures that access for the local community by walking and cycling is direct, safe and convenient;
- All development areas provide for internal permeability for walking and cycling;
- A mix of dwelling types will be provided to facilitate and encourage mixed residential communities to establish.

I trust that the initial views of the Authority will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Newcastle LAP. The Authority looks forward to on-going dialogue with South Dublin County Council as part of the Local Area Plan process.



Hugh Creegan

Director of Transport, Planning and Investment