

**Senior Executive Officer,
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department,
Fingal County Council,
County Hall,
Swords,
Fingal,
County Dublin.**

17th May 2013

Re: Draft Local Area Plan for Portmarnock - South, Co. Dublin.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority (“the Authority”) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Portmarnock – South Draft Local Area Plan.

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 approval. While the Transport Strategy is a draft document, the Authority requests that Fingal County Council reflect the policies, objectives and measures contained within the draft Transport Strategy in the Portmarnock- South LAP. The Authority would also like to comment specifically on the following issues, based on our review of the draft LAP:

Residential Development

The Authority acknowledges that due to the location of the LAP lands under the Airport Outer Public Safety Zone that the residential density is restricted. Notwithstanding this constraint, the Authority supports the proposed development of this area, which has the potential to grow into a new residential community built upon the principles of sustainable development and travel. In this regard, the LAP is in line with the draft Transport Strategy, which emphasises the need to locate new development in areas compatible with the provision of high quality public transport.

Transport and Movement

The Authority has been working closely with Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council and the National Roads Authority on the 'North East Transportation Study', which is reflected in the text of the LAP. It is foreseen that this study will outline the required provision and build out of transportation (roads and public transport) infrastructure to serve not only Portmarnock, but the wider north east County Dublin area. This study, once complete, will provide guidance for the provision and funding of transport infrastructure and services required to support the development of the LAP lands.

It is likely that some of the road proposals set out in the AECOM report, or variations of these proposals, will form part of the final North East Transportation Study recommendations. However, at this time, it is not possible for Authority to fully endorse the proposed road schemes set out in Figure 6.3 of the draft LAP. The Authority request that the status of the North East Transportation Study in defining the transport infrastructural and services requirements of the area, and phasing of delivery, is explicitly set out in the text of the draft plan.

In general, the Authority advocates the LAPs overriding objective to support and facilitate walking and cycling as a preferred mode. In relation to cycling, it would be useful to reference in the NTA Cycle Manual (www.cyclemanual.ie) in the text of the LAP, and as the guidance document for the provision of cycle facilities within the plan area. In Section 6, the Authority also suggest that the plan should include an objective to ensure the Portmarnock cycle network is linked into the wider GDA Cycle Network, currently being finalised by the NTA.

The Authority views the proximity of the railway station as a crucial element in the sustainable build out of the LAP lands. As set out in the draft LAP, it is critical that the provision of walking and cycling links to the station are integral to the build out of the development lands. Vehicular access to Portmarnock Railway Station is off Station Road, which currently has a narrow, constrained carriageway. In this regard, the Authority

recommends that any reconfiguration of car parking at the station is carefully considered in the context of pedestrian and cyclist access arrangements.

I trust that the views of the Authority will be taken into consideration in the finalisation of the draft Local Area Plan for Portmarnock-South.

Yours sincerely,



Hugh Creegan

Director of Planning, Investment and Taxi Regulation