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## **FOREWORD**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Draft Development Plan sets out Leitrim County Council's policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County from 2009 to 2015. The Plan seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, cultural and environmental assets of the county.

### **THE PLAN AREA**

The Plan covers the administrative area of County Leitrim which is an area of 1,876km (613 sq. miles).

### **LEGAL PREAMBLE**

The legal basis for this Draft Leitrim County Development Plan is laid out in the Planning and Development Acts 2000- 2006. Section 11(1) of the Act requires that the Planning Authority, not later than 4 years after the making of a development plan, is to prepare a new development plan for its area. This process has been on-going since the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2007 and has now arrived at the publication of the Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2009 to 2015.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Council recognises that participation legitimises the plan-making process and that public involvement via consultation procedures is essential and results in the democratisation and validation of the Plan through a greater sense of public ownership.

### **THE PROCESS SO FAR**

The Pre-Draft consultation stage ran from the 6<sup>th</sup> of April March 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2007. The consultation process comprised four main elements:

1. Press advertising and media promotion.
2. Letters to and contact with prescribed bodies, service providers and others.
3. Public meetings
4. Through the Council's Website.

### **MANAGERS REPORT**

A report was prepared by the County Manager on the valid submissions and observations received (45 submissions), and on all matters arising from the above consultations. The Managers Report contains a list of the persons who made the submissions and who were consulted, a summary of issues raised, the opinion of the Manager on the issues, and a recommendation on the policies to be contained in the draft plan.

The Manager's Report was circulated to Elected Members, who had a 10 week period to consider it. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October the Members issued directions to the Manager regarding the preparation of the draft development plan.

### **DRAFT PLAN – Current Phase**

Having received directions from the Members, officials have prepared the draft plan over a 12 week period. The Draft Plan is being circulated to the Members on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December for an eight week period. During this phase the Members have an opportunity to consider the Draft Plan and direct any changes. Changes and alterations can then be made during a two week period and the Draft Plan will go on public display on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2008.

### **THE NEXT PHASE**

The Draft Plan will be on public Display for a 10 week period during which time the public are

invited to make submissions to the Planning Authority. The submission window is open from the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2008 for 10 weeks.

Once this time frame has elapsed, the Manager will report on the submissions received, by the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2008. If, when the Members consider the Managers Report, the Draft Development Plan is being amended, material alterations must go back on public display, otherwise the Development Plan can be adopted at that stage.

If the Councillors have made a material alteration to the Development Plan there shall be a 2<sup>nd</sup> public display period for a 4 week period. Submissions will once again be invited from all interested persons. A Managers report will then be prepared on any submissions received. Final consideration of the manager's report and Draft Plan concludes with the adoption of the County Development Plan by the members.