



**County Kildare  
Chamber**  
Advancing business together

**Kildare County Council  
Via website**

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Maynooth Local Area Plan**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

County Kildare Chamber is the business organisation in Kildare, proactively working to identify and progress developments that are facilitative of economic and sustainable growth. Representing an employer base of 400 businesses and over 38,000 employees across the county, County Kildare Chamber is the largest business organisation in the mid-east region of Ireland.

Given the significant breadth and depth of our membership, and our representation on various bodies at local and national level, County Kildare Chamber constitutes the representative voice for business in Kildare.

County Kildare Chamber is committed to improving the business environment and quality of life in Kildare and the wider region, and strongly supports the vision of growth contained within the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Mid-Eastern Enterprise Plan. With this in mind, County Kildare Chamber welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Maynooth Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

As a business organisation, County Kildare Chamber believes that long term planning and development, and specific project delivery such as this within key towns and villages creates a more diverse and resilient County.



## 2.0 SUBMISSION

County Kildare Chamber welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2024-2030 process as set out by Kildare County Council.

County Kildare Chamber are committed to each stage in the preparation of the Local Area Plan for the Maynooth area and look forward to your engagement with the committees of Kildare Chamber as part of the next steps in the process.

Our ambition, as the 'Voice of Business in Kildare', is to see Kildare and in this context Maynooth develop in a sustainable way that:

- (i) helps us achieve the UN sustainable development goal targets;
- (ii) delivers on enterprise development ambitions by creating and retaining high value sustainable jobs attracting foreign direct investment;
- (iii) provides affordable urban housing options;
- (iv) supports the development of our 3rd level institutions;
- (v) promotes a culture of innovation and research; and

To support all this activity, we need to reorient how we move through and around Maynooth, much of which is already laid out in the previous Local Area Plan, launched in 2013. We welcome this timely initiative by Kildare County Council and look forward to playing a role in the preparation of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030.

County Kildare Chamber acknowledge that you are at the early stages of developing the Plan and that consultation to date is focussed on information gathering and engagement with all sectors and communities. Having regard for the area and the scope of previous plans, we have outlined a number of points and objectives we believe should be a part of the 2024-2030 Local Area Plan.



### **Population Growth & Housing**

- There needs to be a commitment in the Plan to look at the centre of the town through mixed development including housing, small enterprise incubation hubs, Work from Home hubs etc.,
- Housing delivery could be accelerated by ensuring the Maynooth Eastern Relief Road is accelerated and delivered through the timeline of this plan.
- The Plan will need to support choice, affordability, and sustainability. This means addressing barriers such as building costs, unit density and unit types being driven by actual data rather than historical demand. Flexibility in planning permissions allowing for the development of multi-use buildings rather than single use.
- How are we addressing an aging population? Appropriate residential housing in both town and suburbs needs 'Inclusion' as a key element. An initiative development like McAuley Place could be replicated in Maynooth very easily.

### **Transport and Sustainable Mobility**

- Consideration should be given to the application of the '15 Minute City' model, as outlined in the County Development Plan 2024-2030.
- The Plan needs to look (i) inward to all public service vehicles and (ii) Kildare County Council should add the stipulation for all service providers, that they sub-contract to, to have a fully electric fleet.
- Needs more detail around Climate Action, as well as pedestrian and cycle modes of transport for a growing community.
- We believe there needs to be active travel scheme/route between Maynooth Business Campus and the town centre.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

County Kildare Chamber welcomes the chance to comment on the Maynooth Local Area Plan. This plan will also feed into the County Development Plan and other Government priorities to create a more seamless, whole approach for the sustainable development of Maynooth and its surrounding areas.



We trust that the contents of this submission will be taken into consideration by Kildare County Council, and we are available at all times for consultation, discussion and support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries regarding this submission.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinéad Ronan', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Sinéad Ronan  
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County Kildare Chamber  
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