



25 May 2022

County Development Plan Review,
Planning Department,
Wicklow County Council,
Station Road,
Wicklow Town

**Re: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan
2022-2028**

To whom it may concern,

I refer to the above. The Department of Education wishes to make the following submission in relation to the proposed material alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

As a general point, the Department's title should be referenced as the Department of Education (not the Department of Education and Skills). The Department was re-named in August 2020 with the re-distribution of education functions.

The Department of Education wishes to acknowledge the Material Alteration documents and notes the amendments within. The Department notes the proposed amendments to population figures as outlined in proposed Table 3.4 of the Core Strategy and notes that the proposed population target dates are being adjusted from 2031 to 2028. The Department recognizes that this adjustment will result in a decrease of population projection figures for the majority of settlements from those figures identified in the draft CDP. However, the Department is mindful of the RSES 2031 target population figure for Co. Wicklow. Therefore, if the projected targets identified in the proposed amendment materialize, then it is reasonable to assume that further targets out to 2031 would equally materialize. For this reason, the Department considers that its projected school place requirements at both primary and post-primary level for all settlements in Co. Wicklow remain unchanged and in this regard, the Department re-confirms the projected school requirements outlined in its submission of 30th August 2021.

The Department notes and welcomes proposed amendment (V1-27) to objective CPO7.14 to include additional text which states that *"the need for schools to have access to local sports and swimming facilities is also recognised and will be taken into account when considering the need and planning and development of such facilities"*.

In the context of other relevant education policies and objectives, the Department would like to re-iterate its request that existing and new school sites are protected for educational use and that lands adjacent to existing schools are protected for future educational use In order to allow for expansion of these facilities.



The Department thanks Wicklow County Council for its ongoing assistance in relation to school planning matters and looks forward to continuing to work together to deliver educational requirements for County Wicklow.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Hanlon
Statutory Plans
Forward Planning Section