County Development Plan Review

Planning Department

Wicklow County Council

Station Road

Wicklow Town

18th May 2022

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

Since the previous development plan was published there have been important policy developments which are relevant to accessible, integrated and sustainable public transport. The Department of Transport (DoT) considers these should be reflected in the proposed Plan.

1. **Accessible public transport for All, and especially for Persons with Disabilities, Reduced mobility and Older People**

* the “whole of Government” **National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) 2017-2022** includes specific actions assigned to local authorities. For example, action 108 relates to the ‘dishing’ of footpaths and action 109 relates to accessible infrastructure, including bus stops. Lack of dishing is often cited as a major concern for wheelchair users. The DoT requests that these NDIS actions be included in Amendment VI 56, CPO 12.21 (12.8, Sustainable Transport Objectives).
* the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD**) ratified by Ireland in 2018. The UNCRPD puts obligations on State Parties to ensure access for persons with disabilities to, for example, the physical environment and transportation in both urban and rural areas. The DoT requests that obligation is to be included in Amendment VI 56, CPO 12.21 (12.8 Sustainable Transport Objectives).

* the **DMURS Interim Advice Note – Covid-19 Pandemic Response** published in 2020. It includes guidance that designers should ensure that
  + measures align with the principles of universal design,
  + consider Government policy on accessibility for people with disabilities and
  + consult people with disabilities to further appraise measures.
* References in the draft Plan to the 2019 version of DMURS should be replaced with references to the 2020 DMURS Interim Advice Note – Covid-19 Pandemic Response.
* To make public transport fully accessible to people with disabilities requires a **‘whole journey approach**’. This refers to all elements that constitute a journey from the starting point to destination. Local Authorities are a key stakeholder by ensuring a universal design approach to the built environment’. This including footpaths, tactile paving, cycle paths, roads, pedestrian crossing points, town greenways and bus stops/shelters.  The DoT request that this material be included in Amendment VI-55, CPO 12-20 (Section 12.8, Sustainable Transport Objectives).
* **Public transport in rural areas**: the publication by the National Transport Authority (NTA) of its ‘TFI Local Link Rural Transport Programme Strategic Plan 2018 to 2022’. Its mission statement is “to provide a quality nationwide community based public transport system in rural Ireland which responds to local needs.” Its key priorities include the reduction of social exclusion and the integration of rural transport services with other public transport services. In addition, one of its key objectives is greater interaction/co-ordination with Local Authorities regarding the assessment of strategic transport needs and in the development of proposed transport plans for local areas. The DoT requests that this material be inserted in to Amendment VI 60, CPO 12.27 (Section 12.8, Sustainable Transportation Objectives)

The Department of Transport wish to advise that reference should be made to the proposed [National Cycle Network](https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f5312-public-invited-to-have-their-say-on-the-new-national-cycle-network-for-ireland/) and the recently published [National Sustainable Mobility Policy (April 2022)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/848df-national-sustainable-mobility-policy/) and [CAP 21](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6223e-climate-action-plan-2021/) (actions) where relevant in Chapter 12.

*Reform, Central Policy and Communications Division*

**An Roinn Iompair**

*Department of Transpo*

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