



26 April 2022

Forward Planning Department,
Mayo County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
The Mall,
Castlebar,
Co. Mayo,
F23 WF90

Re: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2021-2027

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 Mayo Development Plan 2021-2027.

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 proposed amendments within. The Department notes that the proposed amendments to population figures as outlined in Core Strategy Table 2.4 increases the amounts for rural settlements & countryside by 2,095 between 2016 and 2027 and notes the settlement increases reduce by the corresponding amount. The changes, however, do not alter the Department's projected school requirements and in this regard, the Department reconfirms its position as outlined in its submission of 16th March 2021.

The Department also welcomes the proposal to amend Objective SCO 16 in Section 8.4.7 to include text that indicates support for the intensification of development on existing school sites, where appropriate, and in accordance with Department of Education's guidelines and Development Management Guidelines.

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

Yours sincerely,

Alan Hanlon

Statutory Plans

Forward Planning Section

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