

INTRODUCTION

Volume 1, Chapter 2 of the Plan 2021-2027 identifies a settlement hierarchy for the County. Within Louth there are 5 Self-Sustaining Towns, 8 Small Towns and Villages and 24 Rural Nodes.

Volume 2, Section 1 consists of the Settlement Plans and associated Maps for the 5 Self Sustaining Towns and Section 2 consists of Settlement Plans and associated Maps for the 8 Small Towns and Villages. Within Section 3, Settlement Maps have been provided for the 24 Rural Nodes.

It should be noted that the Land Use Zoning Categories and Zoning Objectives which are outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 13, Table 13.14, are applicable in all Self-Sustaining Towns, and Small Towns and Villages.

Section 1 - Self-Sustaining Towns

The 5 Self-Sustaining Towns are:

- Carlingford,
- Clogherhead,
- Castlebellingham/Kilsaran,
- Termonfeckin,
- Tullyallen.

Carlingford and Castlebellingham have experienced residential expansion in conjunction with employment growth and service provision. Clogherhead, Termonfeckin and Tullyallen have experienced rapid commuter-focused residential expansion without equivalent increases in jobs and services. With regard to Self-Sustaining Towns, the focus will be on driving investment in services, employment growth and infrastructure whilst balancing housing delivery.

Population growth in these towns shall be at a rate that seeks to achieve a balancing effect and shall be focused on consolidation. The written statements (Volume 2) for these settlements include policy objectives that support improvements in services and employment provision.

Section 2 - Small Towns and Villages

The 8 Small Towns and Villages are:

- Annagassan,
- Baltray,
- Collon,
- Dromiskin,
- Knockbridge,
- Louth Village,
- Omeath,
- Tallanstown.

These settlements have an important function in supporting local growth. The growth strategy will focus on localised sustainable growth that meets the needs of the local population. Any new residential development shall be proportionate to the size of the settlement in which it is located with priority given to infill and brownfield development.

New development in settlements that have experienced high levels of residential growth in recent years will be carefully managed to assist in reversing their role as commuter settlements.

Section 3 - Rural Nodes

The 24 Rural Nodes are:

- Ballagan,
- Ballapousta,
- Bellurgan,
- Darver,
- Dromin,
- Faughart,
- Glenmore,
- Grange,
- Grangebellew,
- Greenore,
- Gyles Quay,
- Kilcurry,
- Kilkerry,
- Lordship,
- Mountbagnall,
- Muchgrange,
- Philipstown,
- Ravensdale
- Reaghstown,
- Sandpit,
- Sheelagh,
- Stabannan,
- Tinure,
- Willville

These settlements are characterised by clusters of residential properties with limited local services and facilities. As part of the strategy of strengthening the fabric of nodes and creating sustainable rural communities this Plan has identified lands within nodes that are suitable to meet rural generated housing needs. Any new dwellings in these nodes shall comply with the Rural Design Criteria outlined in the Development Management Guidelines in Chapter 13 of Volume 1.

In all Small Towns and Villages and Rural Nodes the Council shall promote high quality, energy efficient design which protects the unique character of the settlement, contributes to place making and creates a built environment which is attract to live, work and visit.

Section 4 – Economic Business Zone Carrickcarnan

An Economic Business Zone has been identified at Carrickcarnan which will facilitate employment related development, subject to the preparation of a Masterplan. These lands are strategically located along the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and will assist in providing strategic employment to the surrounding rural area. See also Section 5.19.3, Rural Enterprises in Chapter 5, Volume 1.