

ICLRD

Rural Restructuring Conference

8th May 2009

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Monaghan County Manager**

**Learning from Experience:
Mainstreaming Sustainable Development Practice**

Local Government System – Constitutional Background

- 1898 Local Government (Ireland) Act
 - The island of Ireland
 - Established County Councils

- 1920 Government of Ireland Act
 - Northern Ireland
 - Southern Ireland

- 1921 Anglo Irish Treaty
 - Irish Free State

- 1972 Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act
 - Local Government Districts (26)
 - Restricted Powers
 - Central Government control

The Irish Free State (Pre 1948) / Republic of Ireland

- 1929 Cork City Management Act
- 1940 County Management Act
 - Appointment of County Managers
- 1955 County Management (Amendment) Act
 - (Section 4 Motions)
- 2001 Local Government Act
 - Representational Function
 - County Development Boards
 - Community & Enterprise Sections

Management System

■ Reserved Functions

- Adopting Development Plan
- Annual Budget
- Making the Rate

■ Executive Functions

- Tenders / Contracts
- Staffing Matters
- Grant / Refusal of Planning Permission
- Allocations of houses and grants

Current Economic Climate

- **Investment in infrastructure, roads, water services, schools, broadband**
- **Gateways Investment Fund**
- **Demographic issues/ migration**
- **Economic Activity**
 - **Manufacturing sector**
 - **Retail sector**
 - **Services sector**

Sustainable Development (1)

“The Challenge of sustainable development is to improve the quality of life of all citizens while maintaining a rich and diverse environment, to provide for economic and social activity whilst protecting our natural resources.”

-Monaghan County Development Plan

- **Social, economic and environmental issues**
- **Balance between Human & Economic Activity and the Environment**
- **Bottom line – Quality of life**

Sustainable Development (2)

The NSS recognised the long tradition of people living in rural parts of Ireland and promotes sustainable rural development as a key component of delivering balanced regional development

Sustainable rural settlement policy framework in the NSS has four main objectives;

- Sustain and renew established rural communities
- Strengthen the established structure of villages and smaller settlements
- Protect key rural assets such as water quality and heritage
- Ensure rural settlement policies take account of and are appropriate to local circumstances

Sustainable Development From Strategy to Action

- Agriculture – farm diversification, Nitrates Directive, REPS
- Energy – conservation, renewable sources
- Transportation – road networks, public transport, connectivity to motorway network, ports, airports
- Education – access to third level, re-training, adult learning
- Tourism – Niche markets, environmental tourism, cultural tourism, Christian heritage
- Industry / Commercial – competitiveness, IDA/Enterprise Ireland, labour supply
- Environment – water quality, ground water protection, ‘sewage sick’ soils, River Basin Management Plans
- Waste Management – recycling, landfill operation, composting
- Recreation and Amenity – sports facilities, leisure activities
- Social Inclusion – care of the elderly, children and young adults

Settlement Strategy - Issues for Monaghan

- Majority of the population live in rural areas (In 2002 over 70% pop lived in rural areas)
- Characterised by small urban centres
- Depopulation in the west of the county
- Falling or slow rising urban populations
- Significant population growth in the rural areas around the main urban centres, impacting on the vitality of those settlements
- Monaghan Town unlikely to achieve it population target of 15,000* by 2020 as identified in the NSS

Settlement Strategy

Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 - 2013

- The promotion and development of Monaghan as a hub town, and as the main residential, retail, service and employment centre in the county
- The development of second and third tier towns as residential, retail, service and employment centres
- Controlled expansion of fourth and fifth tier settlements as residential and local retail centres
- Careful growth management in 'rural areas under strong urban influence'
- Sustainable development of the remaining rural areas

Settlement Hierarchy

Settlement Hierarchy	Town/Village/Settlement	Population Potential 2007 - 2013
Tier 1	Monaghan	8,000 – 10,000
Tier 2	Carrickmacross	4,000 – 7,000
Tier 3	Ballybay, Castleblayney, Clones	1,500 – 4,000
Tier 4	Ballinode, Emyvale, Glaslough, Inniskeen, Newbliss, Rockcorry, Scotshouse, Scotstown, Smithboro, Threemilehouse	250 – 1,500
Tier 5	Aghabog, Annyalla, Ardaghy, Bawn, Broomfield, Carrickroe, Clara, Clontibret No. 1 & 2, Connors, Corcaghan, Corduff, Donaghmoyne, Doohamlet, Drum, Knockatallon No. 1 & 2, Knockconan, Laragh, Latton, Lisdoonan, Lough Egish, Magheracloone, Mullan, Oram, Tydavnet, Tyholland	100 - 300
Tier 6	Dispersed Rural Areas	

MONAGHAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2007 – 2013

Incorporating plans for the towns of
Monaghan, Carrickmacross,
Castleblayney, Clones & Ballybay

‘provides a strategic framework for the sustainable development of the county and its towns that is consistent with the long term strategic aims set out in the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines’

MONAGHAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2007-2013

MONAGHAN COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2007-2013



Incorporating the Development Plans for the towns of
MONAGHAN, CARRICKMACROSS, CASTLEBLAYNEY,
CLONES & BALLYBAY.

Legal Basis

Section 9(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 states;

‘Every planning authority shall every six years make a development plan’

Section 10(1) states that;

‘A development plan shall set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area’

Legal Basis

During the preparation of the development plan there is a requirement on the planning authority;

‘to consult with The Minister, and prescribed authorities, any adjoining planning authorities, the Board, any relevant regional authority, and any town commissioners and city and county development boards within the functional area of the authority’;

‘Publish notices in one or more notices circulating in the area’; and

‘hold public meetings and seek written submissions regarding all or any aspect of the plan and may invite oral submissions to be made’

Mainstreaming the process

- “The common current of thought of the majority”
- “Interaction between agents at a local, regional, national level leading to sustainable development”
- “Mainstreaming is a vital element in ensuring sustainability and is about affecting change in the policies, processes and practices of mainstream organisations to meet local needs and circumstances”
- “Bringing all the players and their policies together for the maximum benefit of all”

Development Plan Consultation Process

- Three periods of consultation
- Minister, prescribed authorities, Meath, Louth and Cavan planning authorities, NI Planning Service, Ballybay town commissioners, County Development Board, Community Forum
- Public notices in local newspapers, libraries, Town Councils, web site
- Notices on local radio
- Workshops / Public Information Evenings held in principal towns
- Consultation with CDB, SPC
- Weekly planning clinics and telephone mornings
- Elected members engagement with individuals, community groups etc

Development Plan Consultation Process

- 440 submissions received
- 13 meetings with planning sub committee of elected members
- 3 Managers Reports (comprising 10 volumes) which considered each submission individually
- 13 meetings with elected members of Monaghan County Council to consider the Managers Reports
- 12 meetings with elected members of the Town Councils of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Clones

Timeframe of the Preparation and Adoption of the Plan 2007 - 2013

Stage in Process	Section of PDA, 2000	Key Dates	Event / Publication
1. Issues Paper/Pre-Draft	11 (2)	October 2003	Issues Paper published inviting submissions and observations
	11 (2)	March 2004	First Managers Report under Section 11 (4) of the PDA, 2000
	11 (4)	Feb – Nov 2004	7 Sub Committee meetings to discuss survey's, analysis and options for draft plan
2. Prep of Draft Plan	11 (4) C & D	Jan 2006 Feb 2006	6 Sub Committee meetings to discuss content in preparation of Draft Development Plan
		March 2006	Meeting with County Council members to finalise Draft Development Plan to go on public display
	12 (1)	April – June 2006	Public Consultation period for Draft Development Plan on display and inviting submissions (362 submissions were received)

Stage in Process	Section of PDA, 2000	Key Dates	Event/Publication
3. Making of Dev. Plan	12 (4)	October 2006	Managers Report (8 volumes) made under Section 12 (4) and forwarded to Members
	12 (5) & (6)	October 2006 November 2006	9 meetings between Executive and Members to discuss Managers Report (+ 4 additional Town Council Meetings). Material Alteration to draft plan agreed by members.
	12 (7)	Dec 2006 – Jan 2007	Public Consultation inviting submissions on Amendments to Draft Development Plan (78 submissions received)
	12 (8)	Feb 2007	Managers Report made under Section 12 (8) and forwarded to Members
	12 (9)	Feb 2007 & March 2007	3 meetings between Executive and Members to discuss Managers Report
	12 (10)	March 2007	Members agree by resolution to adopt the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013*
	12 (17)	April 2007	Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 came into effect
	31	July 2007	Ministerial Direction on Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 - 2013

* A Development Plan only comes into effect 4 weeks from the day that it adopted Section 12 (17)

Planning and Development Act 2000

Powers of the Minister, include:

- Section 28 – Minister may issue guidelinesplanning authorities shall have regard....
- Section 29 – Minister may issue policing directives planning authorities shall comply.....
- Section 31 – Where Minister considers any draft development plan....fails to comply with this Act he may direct the authority to take such specific measures...

Guidance Documentation issued by Minister (1)

- Architectural Heritage Protection
- Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Worship
- Best Practice Urban Design Manual Part 1
- Best Practice Urban Design Manual Part 2
- Childcare Facilities Guidelines
- Design Standards for New Apartments
- Development Contribution Scheme for Planning Authorities
- Development Management Guidelines – June 2007
- Development Plans Guidelines – June 2007
- Funfair Guidance
- Implementing Regional Planning Guidelines – Best Practice Guidelines

Guidance Documentation issued by Minister (2)

- Landscape and Landscape Assessment and Appendices
- Provision of Schools and the Planning System
- Quarries and Ancillary Activities
- Retail Planning Guidelines
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Sustainable Rural Housing and map
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas
- Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures
- Wind Energy Development
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (Draft)

Ministerial Direction

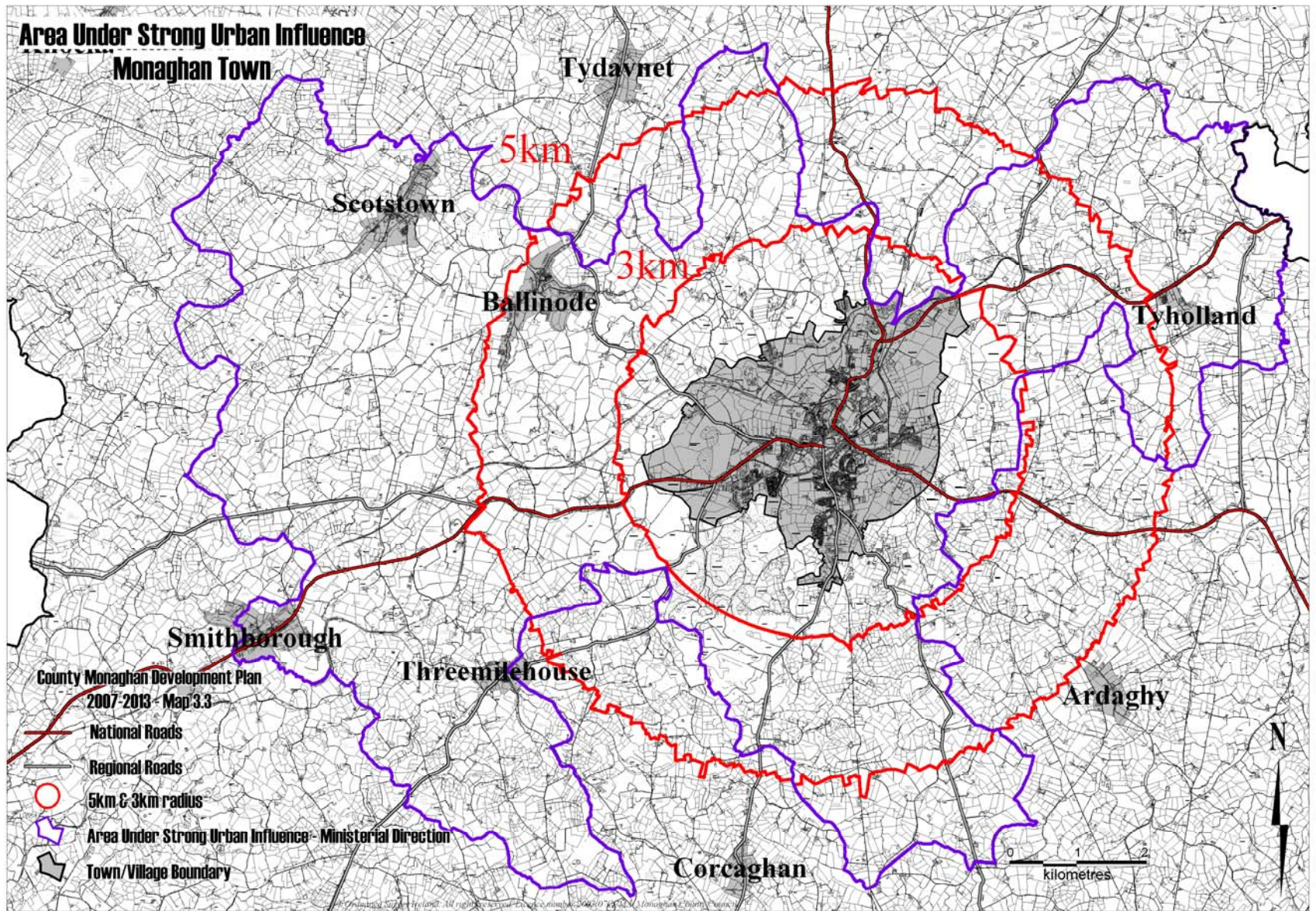
- The Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 was made by the elected members on 20 March 2007, contrary to the recommendations of the Minister for the Environment Heritage and Local Government.
- The Minister issued a direction under Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 on 22 July 2007 directing Monaghan County Council to vary the Development Plan.

Ministerial Direction

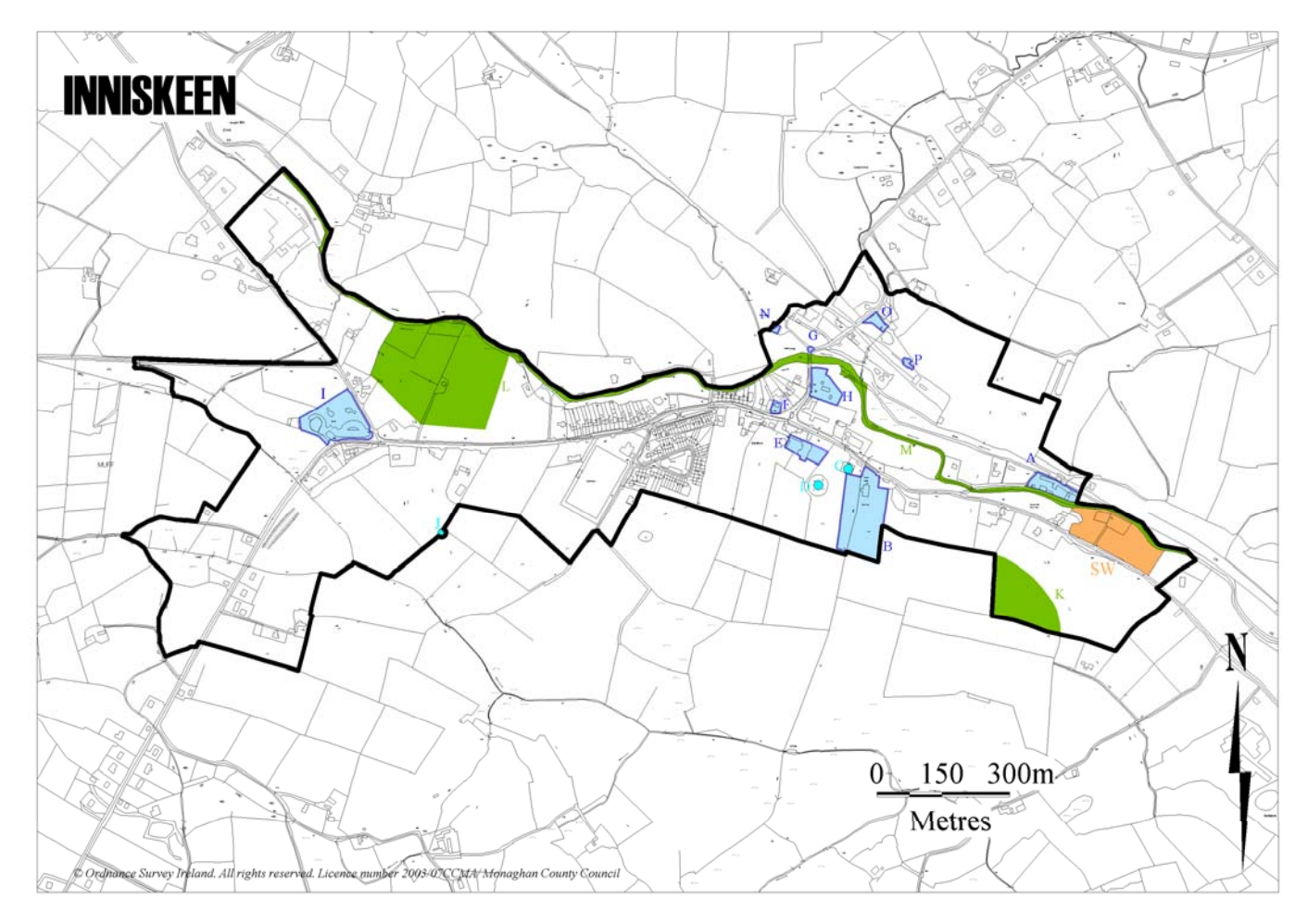
The Direction required the Development Plan to be varied by way of

- 1. Reducing the amount of land zoned within villages; and
- 2. Applying the appropriate planning policies as set out in the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities

**Area Under Strong Urban Influence
Monaghan Town**



Inniskeen Draft Development Envelope



Inniskeen Final Development Envelope

