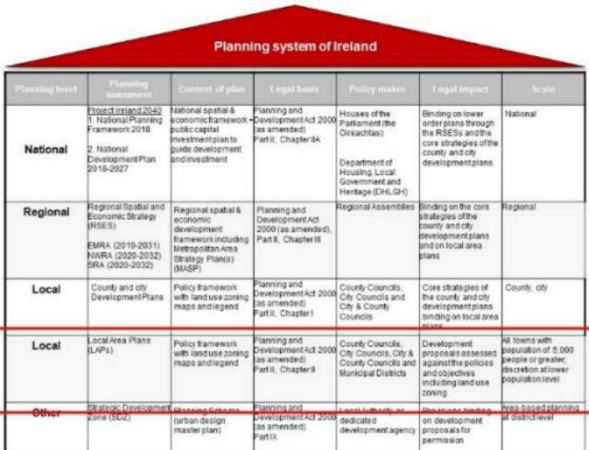
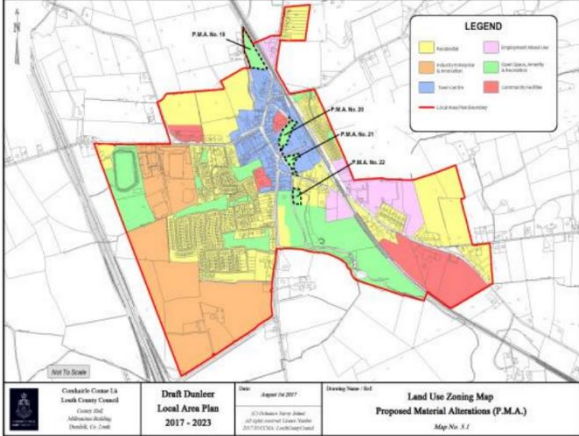


Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level		Type of plan																																										
<p>Local</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Planning system of Ireland</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Planning level</th> <th>Planning instrument</th> <th>Content of plan</th> <th>Legal basis</th> <th>Policy maker</th> <th>Legal impact</th> <th>Scale</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National</td> <td> 1. National Planning Framework 2018 2. 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Facts: Dunleer Local Area Plan (LAP)**Legal basis**

- Planning and Development Act 2000, (Part II, Chapter II - Local Area Plans) (principally as amended by Planning and Development (Amendment Act) 2010 (inserted / substituted 5.10.2010) and the Planning and Development (Amendment Act) 2018 (inserted / substituted 22.10.2018)) [See Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (updated 15 January 2021) (<https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2000/act/30/revised/en/pdf>)]

Competences

- Louth County Council exercised its discretion in the preparation of the Dunleer Local Area Plan (LAP) (2017–2023). Dunleer had a population of approximately 1,822 (CSO, 2016), which is under the mandatory threshold of 5,000 people which triggers the preparation of an LAP.
- The planning authority prepares the plan in accordance with Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 (P&D, 2000 (as amended)) together with EU requirements regarding the Strategic and Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

Binding force

- The Louth County Development Plan (2015–2021) contains a core strategy for the county that includes a settlement hierarchy, which provides for four levels of settlement type. A planning authority is required to show a settlement ranking for all settlements with more than 1,500 inhabitants. Dunleer is a level 2 settlement. The Dunleer LAP must conform to the core strategy by aligning with the settlement hierarchy and population projections provided for level 2 settlements in the county development plan (P&D Act 2000 (amended) Section 19(e)).

Tasks and contents

- The Dunleer LAP (2017–2023) includes land use zoning for Dunleer and its immediate suburbs. The LAP is an area-based development strategy which identifies areas for particular purposes such as residential (housing), employment (offices and industry) and amenity (green space).
- The plan provides a policy framework to meet the identified needs of the town now and in the future, including housing, places of employment, shops, community and education facilities. The local policies and objectives, including land use zoning, inform in combination with the policies and objectives of the county development plan the decision making on planning applications.
- The primary objective of the Dunleer LAP is to ensure that future growth is sustainable and is achieved in a compact physical form using or re-using the town's assets including brownfield and infill land and under utilised buildings.

Process, duration, participation

- The LAP statutory plan-making process is participative and inclusive.
- The preparation of an LAP is prescribed by legislation, including the preparation of a draft plan and the provision of a public display period in which written submissions are invited.
- The Dunleer LAP consultation included the preparation of issue papers and proactive engagement with the general public, property owners, the business community, the Department of Education, Irish Water, other public bodies and all other relevant stakeholders.
- The Dunleer LAP (2017–2023) was democratically adopted by the elected members of the local authority following the completion of the plan-making process on 18 September 2017.

Duration of validity

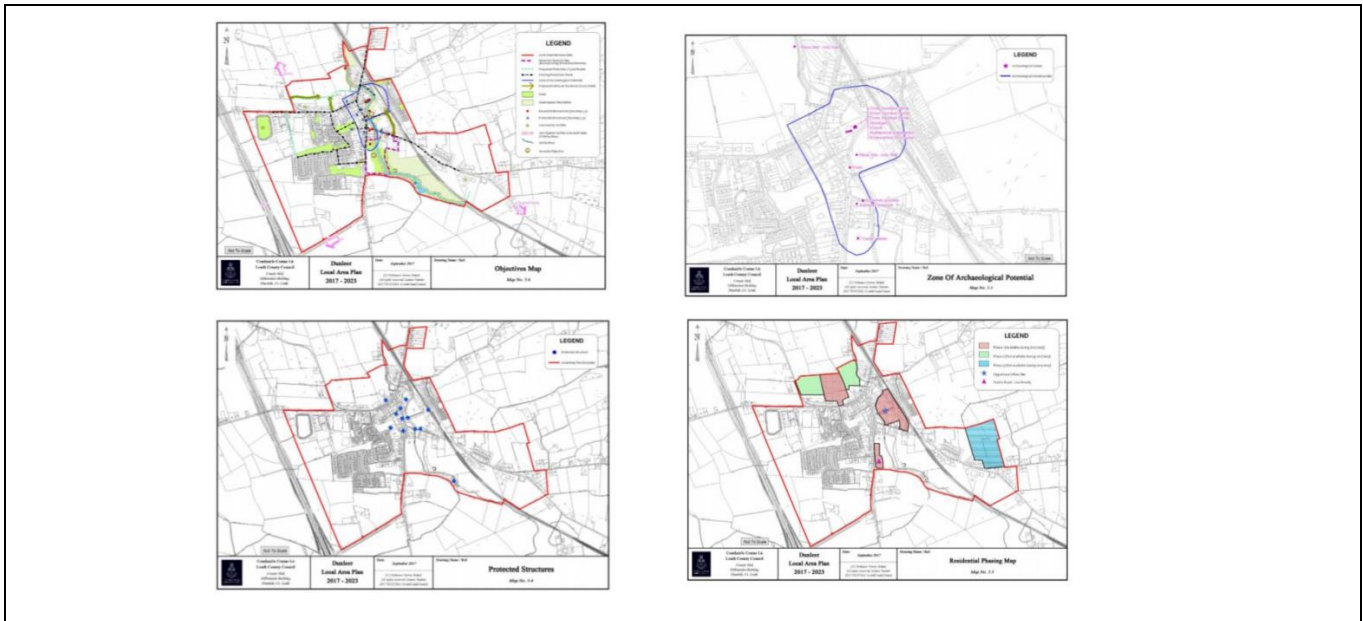
- The plan time frame is six years. However, this time frame can be extended by an additional five years subject to meeting the conditionality of the extension provision including a notification of such extension one year prior to the expiry of the original time frame (P & D 2000 (as amended), Section 19(d) & (e)).

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Details of the plan



Characteristics

Location of the area

Dunleer is equidistant between Dundalk and Drogheda (two of the five identified national regional centres) in County Louth. Louth is located north of Dublin on the border with Northern Ireland within the Eastern and Midland Assembly (EMRA) area. The town is situated to the west of the Dublin-Belfast railway line.

Initial situation

The Dunleer Local Area Plan (2017–2023) was prepared in 2017 to replace the previous Dunleer Local Area Plan (2010–2016). The preparation of the LAP was provided for in the Louth County Development Plan 2015–2021 (Section 1.3.1).

Particularities of the procedure and/or contents

Land use objectives (zoning) for settlements with a population greater than 1,500 must be included in the development plan. The planning authority has the discretion to include these zoning objectives in the county development plan or to prepare a local area plan (LAP) for settlements with a population between 1,500 and 5,000. A local area plan is mandatory only for settlements with a population of 5,000 or greater (P&D Act 2000 (as amended) Section 19(1)). (See Appendix VI). Therefore, Louth County Council was not mandated to prepare an LAP for Dunleer as the population of Dunleer was 1,822 (2016) and thus below the population threshold of 5,000 people. However, there was mutual agreement between the elected representatives for the area and county council management that a new plan would replace the expired LAP.

Hints and links

Source: Louth County Council (louthcoco.ie)

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/publications/development-plans/louth-local-area-plans/dunleerlocal-area-plan-2017-2023-sept-2017-/advert-making-of-dunleer-lap-2017-2023.pdf>

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/publications/development-plans/louth-local-area-plans/dunleerlocal-area-plan-2017-2023-sept-2017-/>