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**Re: Draft Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

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The Southern Region Waste Management Plan Office (SRWMPO) welcomes the opportunity of making a submission regarding the draft for Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

**Promotion of the Circular Economy**

It is welcomed that the role of the Circular Economy is acknowledged in a number of Chapters of the draft Carlow County Development Plan, including how well it is noted in Chapter 6 *Infrastructure and Environmental Management*. In Section 6.6 *Waste Management*, it is clearly stated that the Council will support circular economy principles prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery over the disposal of waste.

We feel there is also potential to include direct reference to the Circular Economy in certain other sections of the draft Development Plan, in particular in the opening Chapter 1 *Introduction and Context*. Inclusion in Chapter 1 could show that the Circular Economy has benefits not alone with regard to waste infrastructure, but also in the wider general economy. Appropriate wording on the Circular Economy in Chapter 1 could be

*Carlow County Council plays a fundamental role in the transition from a linear to a circular economy as they are responsible for key policies in public services that affect citizens' wellbeing, economic growth and environmental quality. This plan will foster the linkages to transition from linear model to a circular model which keeps resources in use for as long as possible.*

In Chapter 8 *Community Development* – Section 8.5 *Social Enterprises*, direct reference could be made to the relevant opportunities that the Circular Economy could bring, for example social enterprises around activities such as reuse, repair and rental of goods and equipment, as well as recycling initiatives at community level.

**Proposed inclusion of reference to  
*Waste Management Infrastructure – Guidance for Siting Waste Management Facilities***

The upcoming National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (NWMPCE), which is likely to be made in early 2022, will replace the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and the regional waste management plans for the other two regions. The NWMPCE will include the new guidance document '*Waste Management Infrastructure – Guidance for Siting Waste Management Facilities*', the scope of which includes broad siting criteria and facility specific guidance for consideration when siting a waste facility. We recommend that reference to this new guidance document be made within Section 6.6 *Waste Management* and within Chapter 16 *Development Management Standards*, in particular Section 16.11.8 *Waste Management Infrastructure*.

**Proposed inclusion of reference to  
new draft *Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of Resource Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Waste Projects***

Please note that in April 2021 the Environmental Protection Agency published the new draft guidelines, '*Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of Resource Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Waste Projects*', for which public consultation closed in June 2021. The draft guidelines, which will be finalised shortly, supersede the '*Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Waste Projects*' which were published in July 2006. We recommend that reference be made to these new draft guidelines - in Section 6.6.5 with reference to Construction and Demolition Waste and in Section 16.11.5 on Construction and Environmental Management Plans.



The SRWMPO will be happy to provide further input or assistance regarding waste management, resource efficiency or the Circular Economy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Margaret Murphy  
Resource Efficiency Officer  
Southern Region Waste Management Plan Office