



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin Monaghan County Council

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
047 30586

Airgeadas
Finance
047 30589

Na Bóithre
Roads
047 30597

Clár na dToghthóirí
Register of Electors
047 30551

Comhshaol
Environment
042 9661240

Na hEalaíona
Arts
047 38162

Iasachtaí /Deontais Tithíochta
Housing Loans/Grants
047 30527

Leabharlann an Chontae
County Library
047 74700

Mótarcháin
Motor Tax
047 81175

Músaem an Chontae
County Museum
047 82928

Pleanáil
Planning
047 30532

Pobal
Community
047 73719

Rialú Dóiteáin/Foirgnimh
Fire/Building Control
047 30521

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
047 71818

Seirbhísí Uisce
Water Services
047 30504/30571

Mr. Adrian McCreesh, Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6DT

RECEIVED
25 APR 2022
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

To the Elected Members and Executive of Mid Ulster District Council

Re: Request for Support for the progression of the N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme

The N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme proposes to upgrade 28km of the N2 Dublin-Derry National Primary Road through County Monaghan. This is an important project to enhance road safety and provide key North/South and Regional connectivity to the North West Region, particularly through counties Tyrone, Derry/Londonderry and Donegal.

The early planning and design of the scheme is listed as a policy objective of the Republic of Ireland's National Development Plan 2018-2027 and 2021-2030. The Northern & Western Regional Assembly included the planning and construction of this road scheme by 2032 as a policy objective to support the growth ambitions for the region in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032.

Monaghan County Council, in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), has been working to progress the N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme for over 14 years. In early 2021 a Preferred Route Corridor for the scheme was identified and the project entered the next Phase of the TII design process (Phase 3; Design & Environmental Evaluation), with the project receiving funding on a year-on-year basis. Please find enclosed a briefing note providing additional information on the project.

Even though the project was progressing well, no allocation was received for the scheme in 2022 due to the need to balance available funding across the national roads programmes, projects and operations having regard to the National Development Plan funding periods. This has resulted in the suspension of the project. No design work can take place, and the current design phase cannot be closed out.

If the current design phase was completed a detailed business case for the project would be available, allowing a further assessment of the costs, benefits, risks, delivery and affordability of the scheme. This would allow an informed decision be made about whether this scheme should be an investment priority for Government. Monaghan County Council requires funding of approximately €3m in 2022/2023 to complete the current design phase.

Fáltfionn an tUdarás Áitiúil roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, Oifig an Chontae, An Gleann, Muineachán, Éire.

Monaghan County Council, Council Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland.

☎ 00353 47 30500 📠 00353 47 82739 🌐 www.monaghan.ie

✉ enquiries@monaghancc.ie info@monaghancc.ie

Monaghan County Council has written to An Taoiseach asking that funding be made available for the project from the Shared Island Fund to complete the current design phase. Monaghan County Council would appreciate any support Mid Ulster District Council can offer in supporting funding requests and supporting this important transport project which will benefit the entire northwest region.



John Murray
Deputy Chief Executive

N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme

Briefing Note, 28th February 2022



Project Background:

- 28km upgrading the N2 Dublin-Derry Road to a 4-lane road, bypassing the urban areas of Monaghan Town and Emyvale Village.
- Along with the proposed N2 Ardee to Castleblayney project, it will enhance key North/South and Regional connectivity, improve road safety, improve journey times and provide journey time certainty for cross-border traffic.
- Listed in the National Development Plan 2018-2027 and 2021-2030 to be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning.
- Listed as an objective in the Northern & Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for planning and construction by 2032.
- It will provide investment of €250-€300m in road transport in the border region.
- It will form part of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Comprehensive Network.
- It will complement a proposed upgrade of 85km of the N2/A5 route to dual carriageway standard in Northern Ireland (The A5 Western Transport Corridor from Aughnacloy to Derry).

Progress to Date:

- Route selection process first commenced in 2008 and a Preferred Route Corridor was identified. Costs to that point – Approx €1m.
- Design work suspended in 2012 due to the economic downturn.
- Project recommenced in 2018. Due to changes in environmental legislation, design standards and the Public Spending Code, a new route selection process was undertaken, this time at a cost of approx. €1.75m.
- The new Preferred Route Corridor published in early 2021.
- Initial appraisal of the project looked positive. A Preliminary Business Case for the scheme dated February 2021 showed a Benefit Cost Ratio of 2.5.
- Project entered Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) of the TII design process in early 2021.
- Work started on surveys and investigations have commenced. Planned to have an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Compulsory Purchase Order ready to submit to An Bord Pleanála for statutory approval in 2023.
- No funding received in 2022. The design of the scheme has been suspended.

Implications of a delay to the project:

- The NDP identified this project to support the development of the border region. The Northern & Western Regional Assembly included the planning and construction of this road scheme by 2032 as a policy objective to support the growth ambitions for the region in their RSES. Failure to progress the project may impact the long-term growth and development of the northwest region.
- Extended delays may impact on landowners and restrict development within the 400m Preferred Route Corridor.
- This project was being progressed in tandem with the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme. The same Engineering Consultancy was appointed to both projects. There may be a loss of efficiency and financial implications for both projects if one project does not progress.
- The Phase 3 design process is required to prepare a 'Total Scheme Budget' (a detailed cost estimate for delivery of the project) and detailed business case to allow a further assessment of the costs, benefits, risks, delivery and affordability, allowing an informed decision be made about whether this scheme should be an investment priority for Government.
- Approximately €3m required to complete the Phase 3 design process in 2022/2023.
- If an extended delay is experienced the cost will increase, and surveys/investigations/design work will need to be repeated at further additional cost.



Planning Department
Silverwood Business Park
190 Raceview Road
Ballymena
BT42 4HZ

Tel: 02825 633500

Email: planning@midandeantrim.gov.uk

29 April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Mid and East Antrim Local Development Plan 2030 draft Plan Strategy - Notice of Independent Examination

In accordance with Regulation 22 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, I am writing to advise that the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) will commence the Independent Examination (IE) hearing sessions in relation to the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan 2030 draft Plan Strategy on **Monday 6 June 2022 at 10.30am.**

These sessions will be conducted remotely. Details of how the IE sessions will be conducted are available on the PAC website at www.pacni.gov.uk/local-development-plans

Further Submission Document

Further to the submission of the draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents to the Department of Infrastructure on 29 March 2021, the Council has prepared a further document entitled Schedule of Proposed Corrections (reference DPS-144), dated June 2021. This document has been submitted to the Department and is included in the submission for Independent Examination before the Planning Appeals Commission.

Revised Local Development Plan Timetable

I would also like to take this opportunity to advise that the Council has recently revised its LDP Timetable. The LDP Timetable sets out the key stages of the LDP process and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal process along with an indicative framework that the Council will try to meet for each key stage in the LDP process.

The revised Timetable and all the LDP documents submitted for Independent Examination, are available to view on the Council's website at www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/ldp or at

the Council Planning Office during normal office hours (by appointment only) at: Silverwood Business Park, 190 Raceview Road, Ballymena, BT42 4HY. To make an appointment please telephone 02825 633500.

Please note there is no further opportunity for comment on the draft Plan Strategy. Jurisdiction has now passed to the Department for Infrastructure and the Planning Appeals Commission to assess the soundness of the Plan.

For further information, please contact me or visit the Council's website at www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/ldp

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Adams', written in a cursive style.

Sandra Adams
Head of Local Development Plan Team



Northern
Ireland
Office

The Rt. Hon. Conor Burns MP
Minister of State
Northern Ireland Office

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www.gov.uk/nio
Follow us on Twitter @NIOgov

Mr Paul McClean
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT
By email: info@midulstercouncil.org

6 May 2022
Our reference: MC/22/101
Your reference: C058/22

Thank you for your correspondence dated 29 March 2022 and I apologise for the delay in responding. I am responding on behalf of the Prime Minister to your letter.

I am acutely aware of the pressure that increases in the cost of living are placing on households and businesses in Northern Ireland and across the United Kingdom. Much of this had initially been the result of adjusting global supply chains but the regrettable onset of war in Ukraine has exacerbated these problems. My officials are continuing to monitor the impact this is having in Northern Ireland and the UK Government has taken a number of significant steps to help households and businesses in Northern Ireland with the cost of living pressures.

At the Spring Statement, the UK Government announced a new Tax Plan which delivers the biggest net cut in personal taxes in over a quarter of a century as well as bringing about the largest cash terms cut that has ever been applied to all fuel duty rates at once.

The cut in personal taxes includes raising the threshold at which people pay National Insurance contributions (NICS) by £3,000 from this July and means that people can earn £12,570 without paying any National Insurance or Income Tax. This change will help over 30 million working people and save the typical employee £330 per year from July. The UK Government's action in increasing the National Insurance thresholds will provide a tax cut for 800,000 workers in Northern Ireland.


The basic rate of income tax will also be cut by 1p from 6 April 2024 and will benefit 870,000 taxpayers in Northern Ireland. This planned cut to income tax, the first in 16 years, means that taxpayers will gain £175 on average and is worth £5 billion for workers, savers and pensioners across the UK.

To further help families with the cost of living, the UK Government announced in the Spring Statement a 5p cut on fuel duty on petrol and diesel for 12 months which will mean a one-car family will now save on average £100. To help small businesses to grow, the UK Government has increased Employment Allowance by £1,000 which will benefit around half a million businesses across the UK.

In addition, the UK Government announced at the Spring Statement that Northern Ireland will be receiving an extra £47 million next year through Barnett consequential for the Executive to spend according to its priorities. This money is on top of the £300m in additional funding from the UK Government through Barnett consequential arising from the Government's previous announcements on energy relief and costs of living.

The wide ranging package of support and additional money provided by the UK Government demonstrate our deep commitment to supporting families and businesses with the cost of living pressures in Northern Ireland and across the UK. I agree that it is also vital that there is an Executive in place after the May Assembly election so that it can allocate the additional money provided by the Government and deliver for the people of Northern Ireland.

With all good wishes.

Yours ever,




Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

eileenforde@midulstercouncil.org

FAO Cllr Paul McLean
Mid Ulster District Council

County Hall
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Tel:03002007894
Fax:02882254009

Your reference:
Our reference: MT137168-22

13th May 2022

Dear Cllr McLean

RE: CONTACT DETAILS FOR MID ULSTER MAINTENANCE SECTIONS

Thank you for your letter of 4 May 2022.

As you may be aware all roads and footways are maintained in line with the current limited service Roads Maintenance policy. Actionable defects are recorded during routine inspections and subsequently repaired in line with this policy.

The Department also responds to reports of defects. For example, we were made aware through an officer within the District Council of a defect in Castlecaulfield and this was followed up and repaired. We also received an online enquiry regarding the road junction of the Derrycourtney Road and Main Street Caledon which has already been programmed for patching.

Whilst we are aware of many village footpaths that are showing signs of fatigue, we do not have resources to program resurfacing of these at present and we will continue to operate within the current inspection and repair policy.

Subsequent to staff moves last year, Councillors were introduced to the lead personnel at local DEA meetings – their details are shown below.

Section/ Section email address	Section Engineer	Assistant Section Engineer	Telephone Number
Mid Ulster North Midulsternorth@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk	Neil Bratton	Conall McKee	028 867 68216
Mid Ulster South Midulstersouth@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk	Lesley Maxwell	Colm McGuone	028 877 75122

For enquiries we encourage the use of the online enquiry system which allows the elected representatives and the public to plot the location of a particular defect and give details of same via the following link:-

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

Occasionally there may be queries that cannot be plotted via the online system, so contact should be made to each section via the section email as noted in the table.

I trust this information is useful and I look forward to building on the positive relationship developed by my predecessors and Mid Ulster District Council.

Yours faithfully,



Daniel Healy
Divisional Roads Manager
Western Division