

Foreword

The Athy Town Development Plan 2006-2012 has been prepared under the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2004 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001. The Plan sets out the vision that will guide the development of Athy for the next six years.

The preparation of this Plan differs from its predecessors in that it is the first Development Plan for the Town Council to be prepared under the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2004 and also the first to be prepared within a clear hierarchy of Plans at National and Regional level. In particular, the recently adopted Regional Planning Guidelines are a significant influence in determining the strategy for the future development of Athy. This complies with the national policy framework. Key strategic decisions made at national and regional level are thereby translated to local County level.

The Plan addresses a range of development pressures and needs that are facing the town during the period of the Plan and beyond. In doing so, it sets out the goals and objectives to be followed by Athy Town Council, as well as the policies recommended to guide planning decisions and the activities of the Planning Authority over the period of the Plan.

The review of the Plan is being carried out at an opportune time in the continued development and growth of the town. Athy has experienced major sectoral growth and development since the adoption of the Athy Town Development Plan 2000.

Arising from the continued growth and development of the town, there is now a need to consolidate this progression in a sustainable and orderly manner in order to adequately provide for the physical and social infrastructural requirements necessary for the town. In order for the town to continue to occupy a strategic position in the County, it is crucial that the Council offers the people of Athy an enhanced and unparalleled quality of life over the coming years.

As a moderate growth centre it is necessary that Athy continues to grow while at the same time adequately accommodating the projected population of the town within the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.

The Plan presents an integrated approach for public and private investment towards the provision of the physical and social infrastructure facilities and services necessary for Athy as a moderate growth town. Clearly investment of the Council will be subject to sufficient resources being available as required.

The vision, therefore, is to look ahead with confidence to what we propose to do. It is also important to look back and review what has been done and what has been achieved working with and on behalf of the people of Athy.

The Plan has taken on board the recommendations and the principles outlined in the Integrated Landuse and Transportation Study, 2020 Vision for Athy and the resolutions adopted by the members. Accordingly, I am confident that the Plan, its goals, objectives and policies, will provide for sustainable development and the balanced growth of Athy Town in the interests of all its citizens into the next decade and on that basis I commend it to the Members of Athy Town Council.

Mr. Tommy Skehan

Town Manager,
April 2006

