COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

Tuesday, 27 September 2016

Motion from Councillor David Healy: public transport reservation – Swords to Donabate. AI028818

Add public transport reservation – Swords to Donabate as shown on the attached map

REPORT:
Motion No. **AI028697** (Councillor Healy) also seeks a public transport reservation – Lissenhall to Donabate.

It should be noted that the following is set out in the Draft Plan relating to Public Transport:

'For high volumes of travellers and for medium- to long-distance trips, the various modes of public transport are the most efficient modes of travel in terms of use of road-space, and the most sustainable in terms of environmental impacts. The National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), are primarily responsible for the funding, planning and implementation of public transport infrastructure in the Greater Dublin Area. However, the Council has an important role to play in promoting and facilitating public transport. In particular, the Council advises the NTA and TII on the locations of public transport routes and stops, reserves planned routes free from development, and allows high-density development along existing and planned public transport corridors. The NTA and TII have strategic responsibilities, for the Greater Dublin Area and nationally. The Council shall ensure that the policies, objectives and requirements of the County are fully understood and appreciated by NTA and TII. The Council shall continue to promote public transport connectivity between key urban settlements within the County.

Objective MT12

Support and advise the NTA and TII on the planning and implementation of public transport infrastructure, in particular by providing an understanding of Fingal's policies, objectives and requirements, including environmental sensitivities.'

The following is also noted in the Draft Plan regarding the proposed new Metro North:

Proposed New Metro North
A proposed new Metro North has been included in the Government's capital programme. It will link Swords via the Airport, to Dublin City Centre with a journey time of approximately 25 minutes. The revised scheme will require a new permission from An Bord Pleanála. A number of stops were permitted within Swords.

The provision of the proposed new Metro North is critical to the continued, sustainable growth of the County Town, Swords. It is essential that the metro stops are easily accessible to trip-intensive developments.

Objective MT13
Support TII in developing a revised design of the proposed new Metro North that addresses the needs of the Swords-Airport-City Centre corridor, environmental sensitivities and securing permission from An Bord Pleanála.

Objective MT14
Support TII in a possible future extension of the proposed new Metro North finishing point to connect with the Northern Line in Donabate, with a view to securing permission from An Bord Pleanála.

The proposed zonings at Lissenhall provide for the planned growth and development of Swords and its surrounding hinterland over a medium and long term basis. This, in tandem with the delivery of public transport infrastructure including Metro North, elevates the sustainability of lands at Lissenhall in terms of appropriateness and necessity for future development purposes.

Objective SWORDS 26 has been included in the Draft Plan which reinforces the need to consider the release of Lissenhall in the context of the development of Swords by committing to prepare a Local Area Plan for lands at Lissenhall (Refer to Map Sheet No. 8 LAP 8.A), which will provide for the longer term strategic development of the area as a planned sustainable mixed use urban district, physically and functionally integrated with Swords. The LAP will assess and determine the sequencing and phasing of development subject to the delivery of the necessary infrastructure, including the proposed new Metro North and any potential extension to lands at Donabate.

A public transport reservation from Swords to Donabate was assessed as part of the NTA's Fingal-North Dublin Transportation Study and it was excluded at the first stage.

In relation to Metro North, the National Transport Authority in their submission to the Draft Plan indicate that '*the process of planning and design for this project has now commenced. Part of that process will be the detailed consideration of various alignments and stop locations through the overall corridor, with the intention of optimising the final layout. For that reason it Is suggested that the alignment for new Metro North shown on Sheet No. 8 and on Sheet No. 11, which is currently labelled as "New Metro North Route" be relabelled as "Indicative Route for new Metro North".*

Accordingly the following was recommended at CE NTA 1.2:
Amend new Metro North route to "Indicative Route for new Metro North".

The Council also advocates the extension of new Metro North to Lissenhall and this is indicated on Sheet 8 of the Draft Plan maps. Furthermore, Objective MT14 of the Draft Plan clearly supports a possible future expansion of Metro North to Donabate.

The intention included in the proposed new motion, to make provision for a public transport reservation from Swords to Donabate is considered to be a positive proposal. However, it is considered that the specification of an exact location and alignment is inappropriate at this time until sufficient analysis has been completed on the most efficient / optimum route to Donabate. Furthermore, it is considered that Objective MT14 adequately captures and supports a public transport connection to Donabate.

Further feasibility studies and analysis is required to determine the optimum route and future extension of any proposed public transport link to Donabate, including the new Metro North. The location, alignment and timeframe of such a route is also dependent on the development of the lands at Lissenhall, as detailed above.

RECOMMENDATION:
It is recommended that no change is necessary in this instance and that CE NTA 1.2 be upheld.