

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

FINGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2029

TUESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Chapter 14 - Development Management Standards

Motion from Councillor David Healy, Councillor Karen Power, Councillor Daniel Whooley, Councillor Ian Carey, Councillor Pamela Conroy: 81990

Data Centres

That the following be added to DMSO94:

Applications for data centres will be required to demonstrate that they meet the Principles for Sustainable Data Centre Development, as regards Economic impact, Grid capacity and efficiency, Renewables additionality, Co-location or proximity with future-proof energy supply, Decarbonised data centres by design, and SME access and community benefits, set out in the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy, July 2022

(note: <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/publication-files/government-statement-on-the-role-of-data-centres-in-irelands-enterprise-strategy.pdf>)

REPORT:

DMSO94 relates to Space Extensive Developments and states: *Proposals for space extensive developments such as data centres are required to address the following:*

- *Energy efficiency measures for the development to reduce the carbon footprint in support of national targets towards a net zero carbon economy, including renewable energy generation*
- *The extent of energy demand and proximity to multiple high voltage strategic grid connections with significant electricity supply capacity available including areas with high concentration of renewable energy electricity generators*
- *The availability of appropriate infrastructure such as high voltage electricity, fibre optic cables, water and waste water etc. to support the use as a data centre*
- *Measures to support the just transition to a circular economy*
- *Measures to facilitate district heating or heat networks where excess heat is produced*

- *High-quality design approach to buildings which reduces the massing and visual impact of same. A visual impact assessment may be required in some circumstances, depending on the specific site*
- *Details of employment numbers once operational*
- *Details of the levels of traffic to and from the site at construction and operation stage*
- *Evidence of sign up to the Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact*
- *A decommissioning report which sets out the development strategy for the site if and when the data centre is no longer in use, in order to bring the site back to a future developable state.*

Government policy seeks to enable the 'twin transitions' of digitalisation and decarbonisation of our economy and society. These transitions can - and must be - complementary. For this to happen, digital and climate change policies need to move in tandem and the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy (July 2022) sets out how this will be achieved in respect of data centres.

It is considered appropriate that proposals for data centres should be required to demonstrate that due consideration has been given to the Principles for Sustainable Data Centre Development as per the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy (July 2022).

As such, it is considered appropriate that an additional point be added to DMSO94 which states:

Have regard to the Principles for Sustainable Data Centre Development as per the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy (July 2022).

It should be noted that Chief Executive's Recommendation CE CH 14.3 seeks to amend the title of DMSO94. In the interests of clarity, the recommendation below will seek to further amend Chief Executive's Recommendation CE CH 14.3.

RECOMMENDATION:

Amend Chief Executive's Recommendation CE CH 14.3 as follows:

DMSO94 ~~Utilisation of Vacant Properties for Remote Working Facilities~~ Space Extensive Developments

Proposals for space extensive developments such as data centres are required to address the following:

- Energy efficiency measures for the development to reduce the carbon footprint in support of national targets towards a net zero carbon economy, including renewable energy generation
- The extent of energy demand and proximity to multiple high voltage strategic grid connections with significant electricity supply capacity available including areas with high concentration of renewable energy electricity generators
- The availability of appropriate infrastructure such as high voltage electricity, fibre optic cables, water and waste water etc. to support the use as a data centre
- Measures to support the just transition to a circular economy
- Measures to facilitate district heating or heat networks where excess heat is produced
- High-quality design approach to buildings which reduces the massing and visual impact of same. A visual impact assessment may be required in some circumstances, depending on the specific site
- Details of employment numbers once operational
- Details of the levels of traffic to and from the site at construction and operation stage
- Evidence of sign up to the Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact
- A decommissioning report which sets out the development strategy for the site if and when the data centre is no longer in use, in order to bring the site back to a future developable state.
- **Have regard to the Principles for Sustainable Data Centre Development as per the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy (July 2022).**