25 January 2021

The Senior Planner

Planning Department

Kilkenny County Council

County Hall

John St

Kilkenny

**Re: Draft Joint Local Area Plan for Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch 2021-2027**

To whom it may concern,

I refer to the above. The Department of Education wishes to make the following submission in relation to the above proposed draft joint Local Area Plan.

The Department of Education wishes to acknowledge the Draft Plan and notes the proposal to zone an alternative site for Duiske College. The Department does not object to this proposal. This should not be interpreted as a commitment to acquire the site or provide a new school. The matter would have to be fully explored in the context of available resources and value for money vis a vis developing the school’s existing site in accordance with the Public Spending Code. The main focus of available resources over the last decade and for the coming period is on provision of additional capacity to cater for increasing demographics. There is no significant demographic demand identified in Graiguenamanagh. Nevertheless, it is accepted that the zoning of this alternative site potentially offers an option to address long-term development needs for the area should this be required.

If you have any queries in respect of the above, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Mary Carney

Statutory Plans

Forward Planning Section