



Uimhir Thagarta Uathúil: CRK-C155-DEV21-188

Stádas: Submitted

Aighneacht:

The Cork CS/BW international group submission on chapter 7 of the draft city development plan.

Údar: Cork CS/BW

Comhairliúchán:

Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028

Dáta a cuireadh isteach: 03.10.2021 - 21:50

Litir Chumhdaigh

The Cork CS/BW group primarily represents those new to Cork who have arrived to study or work in major multinational companies, pharmaceutical IT etc. as well as in local businesses. The biggest impediments to the excellent quality of life in Cork is the lack housing close to employment retail and leisure opportunities and the poor public transport infrastructure. Both problems are intimately intertwined with low density dispersed nature of residential but also retail and employment development. This is the number one impediment to recruiting and retaining high quality mobile international talent to Cork and Ireland which maintains and draws international investment to the cork region.

The quality of life in Cork is excellent that is what drives people to live here people want to live in a vibrant multicultural community. They want to be able to walk or cycle to work and when longer journeys have to be taken they want reliable frequent public transport links.

Low density Suburbs and driving is not part of the vision of people who move here to work or study. Despite the many attractions of Cork the lack of housing the fact that people are forced out long distances to commute and that once you leave the city centre the car becomes dominant is driving people to give up well-paying jobs and leave the city and the country. It is extremely frustrating for people looking for somewhere to live in an urban centre close to where they work see so much space given over to car parking and roads. And when they do finally find an apartment to find that a substantial portion of the space and cost of that apartment block is accounted for by car parking spaces which habitually lie empty or are rented out to commuters at low cost. It takes the same amount of space and the same cost to provide a parking space as a bed space in a city centre apartment block yet while people regularly are forced to pay €1000 a month for a small bedroom in an apartment shared with strangers parking spaces in the same apartment block are rented out for a pittance.

In order to facilitate the efficient working of public transport and the take up of active travel which are the preferred mode of the vast majority of people who come to work and study in the city their needs must be prioritised above those drive. This means that if road space is limited, footpaths come first, then bike Lanes, then a bus lane and only if there is still space a car Lane. It means that the funding for public transport and active travel must be greater than that for building roads. It means that the first priority for policing should be safety of vulnerable road users, not keeping traffic flowing or moving on beggars or drinkers. It means that targets must be set for removing parking from the city centre and increasing the provision of public transport.

Tuairimí:

Detailed comment on Chapter 7 Economy and Employment, Cork CS/BW international group submission on the draft city development plan.

Caibidil: Volume 1 - Written Statement» 7. Economy and Employment

Ábhair: New strategic employment sites

We welcome Objective 7.13 Suburban General Offices

We are concerned that Objective 7.10 New Strategic Employment Sites does not explicitly prevent general offices, call centres and tech firms from locating in these light industrial locations.

A large portion of our membership has relocated to Cork to work for major employers in the city. One of the biggest difficulties they have with life and Cork, other than the lack of suitable accommodation, is the location of offices in inaccessible, remote, suburban locations.

We therefore strongly welcome the commitment in objective 7.13 to concentrate general office accommodation in the city centre and a number of highly accessible district centres.

We are however extremely worried that objective 7.10 does not specifically prevent the location of general offices, call centres and tech firms in the proposed strategic employment zones, which are almost all in remote inaccessible locations which would present serious difficulties to any international worker who was employed at such a site. This presents a problem both for workers to arrive in Cork not realising that they cannot walk cycle or easily take public transport to such offices. It also presents a serious competitiveness challenge for the cork region as highly skilled workers regularly quit their jobs when offices are located in such locations to move to cities where they can more easily live and work in a city centre environment.

Documents Attached: Níl

Teorainneacha Gafa ar an léarscáil: Níl