

APPENDIX 3b

DFI Report – Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Local Development Plan Guidance

The Department will add/amend development plan guidance as required by the review of current processes following adoption of a number of LDPs.

Recommendation 2

Consultation Bodies in Plan-Making

The Department will undertake to review the statutory list of consultees in plan-making to determine whether it remains relevant / appropriate to local planning authorities.

Recommendation 3

Digitization in the Planning System

The Department will work with councils and other stakeholders to determine whether there are ways in which to enhance online / digital means of communication in plan-making, development management, and in the planning system generally to improve accessibility for citizens.

Recommendation 4

Categories of Development

The Department will review existing thresholds and categories of development to determine the need for revisions.

Recommendation 5

Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) and Notice

The Department will bring forward proposals to provide for both in-person and on-line/electronic PACC public engagement. This will include consideration of any recommendations to emerge from the work of the Planning Engagement Partnership. Clarity on the PAN process could be provided in expanded guidance if appropriate.

Recommendation 6

Call-In Applications

The Department will review the policy approach in terms of clarifying call-in criteria and will seek to improve the efficiency of the process going forward.

Recommendation 7

Incomplete Applications and Validation Check-Lists

The Department will bring forward proposals to introduce statutory 'validation check-lists' and will seek to advance policy development at the earliest opportunity. Councils should consider the introduction of compulsory training for members of planning committees, including procedures where training requirements have not been met.

Recommendation 8

Time period for consultation responses

The Department will explore further and give consideration to the legislative requirements around statutory consultations including timeframes for consultations responses, penalties for late responses and how councils can proceed if statutory.

Recommendation 9

Pre-Determination Hearings (PDH)

The Department will bring forward proposals to make PDH discretionary for councils in the exercise of their functions.

Recommendation 10

Matters Raised at Appeal

The Department will bring forward proposals to supplement existing s.59 provisions which would disallow the variation of a development proposal at appeal.

Recommendation 11

DFI Directions

The Department will undertake a general review of current departmental directions.

Recommendation 12

Commencement of Development

The Department will review this provision to establish if any technical amendments are appropriate.

Recommendation 13

Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

The Department will review current requirements around TPOs with a view to bringing forward proposals to permit councils to vary or revoke TPOs. The Department will also consider whether there is a need for guidance to clarify certain TPO terms or definitions.

Recommendation 14

Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMPs)

The Minister is to consider options on the way forward with regards to ROMPs early in 2022.

Recommendation 15

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN)

The Department will explore the possibility of applying FPNs to advertisement control.

Recommendation 16

Planning Fees

The Department will undertake a general review of planning fees including an automatic annual inflationary uplift, and multiple fees for retrospective applications as part of a wider review of planning fees.