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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS  
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Monday, May 14, 2018**

**QUESTION NO.4**

**QUESTION: Councillor W. Lavelle**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a written statement in response to the vote by elected members on motion no. 3 at the March meeting of this Council to request the initiation  of a  development plan variation process and the commencement of a consultation with the public and statutory stakeholders ahead of a separate vote in the substantive matter of the variation proposal?

**REPLY:**

Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) sets down the statutory provisions in relation to the making of a variation to a development plan. The decision to commence making a variation to a development plan is an executive function and not a reserved function.

At the March 2018 County Council Meeting this issue was addressed as part of the debate in relation to Motion 12. Notwithstanding the vote and as outlined on that occasion it is not considered appropriate for the Chief Executive initiate a variation to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016 – 2022 (the Development Plan) to alter the zoning matrix for the RW (Retail Warehouse) zoning by making ‘*Shop Neighbourhood*’ open for consideration and by the insertion of ‘*Specialist Forms of Retailing*’ as open for consideration by virtue of the fact that there is no policy support for such a change. Such a variation would be contrary to the Regional Planning Guidelines, the County Retail Strategy and the Development Plan policies and objectives which are aimed at restricting the role of retail warehousing to the sale of bulky goods. Furthermore it would seriously impact on the vitality and viability of existing designated town centres and major retail centres in the area and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development.

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