

Aoife Brennan

From: Correspondence Unit <no-reply@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 19 January 2022 10:36
To: Aoife Brennan
Subject: DES-CU-06082-2021

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Ms. Aoife Brennan
Staff Officer
South Dublin County Council

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Ref: DES-CU-06082-2021

Dear Ms. Brennan,

I refer to your e-mail of 17th December 2021 to the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley TD, on behalf of the members of the Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee.

You sought a meeting between the Committee and senior officials from the Planning and Building Unit of the Department of Education. The purpose of the meeting sought is to look at population trends in the Lucan and Palmerstown Fonthill Electoral Areas which could necessitate additional schools. You refer to a particular focus on the growth of Adamstown SDZ and the commencement of planning applications for Clonburris SDZ.

Firstly, the Department's submission to the draft South County Dublin Development Plan (2022-2028) addresses the overall projected school place requirements for these areas based on the Local Authority's own population targets in the draft plan. A link to the Department's submission is attached for reference.

<https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/submission/sd-c195-256>

The Department will be reviewing the long-term demographic position/projections again in 2022 including in light of the more specific settlement targets being adopted in the County Development Plan. There are a number of school building projects (new schools and expansion of existing) underway in the areas you refer to in order to cater for identified oncoming needs. In the case of the two SDZ areas (Adamstown and Clonburris) the school sites are identified and available to be activated as required.

In an overall sense, it must be borne in mind that a number of factors will mitigate the need for new/additional school places over the immediate coming period. The main factor is the trend in school enrolment levels in all areas of the country (including SDCC). At primary level, enrolment levels have peaked and are on a downward path. At post-primary level, enrolment levels are due to peak in the next two/three years and will then be on a downward path. A useful report to explain this issue is available online at

<http://www.gov.ie/en/collection/projections>

Your attention is drawn to the graphs at page 21 which graphically illustrate the trends at both levels.

This overall decline in enrolment levels will serve to compensate to a large extent in many areas the additional demand arising from new housing development.

The Department also has regard to the 2040 NPF population projections in its forecasting processes. Notwithstanding overall significant projected population growth, the figures underpinning the ESRI population growth calculations do indicate that there will be less people of school-going age as a % of the population going forward.

I hope the foregoing is of assistance in assuring you that the Department is actively monitoring the school requirements of your area. I regret that the Planning and Building Unit is not in a position to facilitate attendance at meetings of the Committee. However, I hope the information and context provided is useful.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Newcombe
Private Secretary