

# **An Appraisal of the Proposed Variation (No. 1) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023**

## **What is the County Development Plan?**

The content of the County Development Plan is set down in law as part of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. See

<http://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2000/act/30/section/10/revised/en/html>

## **What is a Variation?**

A variation is a set of changes made to the original County Development Plan by means of a process outlined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000. See

<http://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2000/act/30/section/13/revised/en/html>

## **What are the reasons given for this particular Proposed Variation?**

As per Section 13 (3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the reason for the proposed variation, as stated by Kildare County Council in the notice of the proposed variation is as follows:

*...to respond to the recent changes in national and regional policy, namely the publication of Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (NPF), The Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).*

The requirement is explained in detail in the National Planning Framework Implementation Roadmap, Chapter 2. Kildare County Council are choosing the option of rendering the CDP to be consistent with the RSES through a variation, rather than a full review (which is allowed if considered to be more appropriate).

### **Where was the public consultation advertised?**

On the council's Facebook and Twitter pages.

The notice was placed in a national newspaper (Irish Independent), but not any of the local newspapers.

### **What are the main changes being made by the variation?**

There are several changes to update references to the national plans and frameworks and any newer versions of council strategy documents.

Maps, statistics etc. are updated to the most accurate versions.

The most notable changes are to the Population and Housing Unit Allocation table in the Settlement Strategy. The population projection adjustments are being updated to match new projections.

### **What is driving the population projection adjustments?**

The population growth projections are based on figures in Chapter 3 of the National Planning Framework Implementation Roadmap document. See <http://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/NPF-Implementation-Roadmap.pdf>

### **What are the population projections provided in the NPF Implementation Roadmap?**

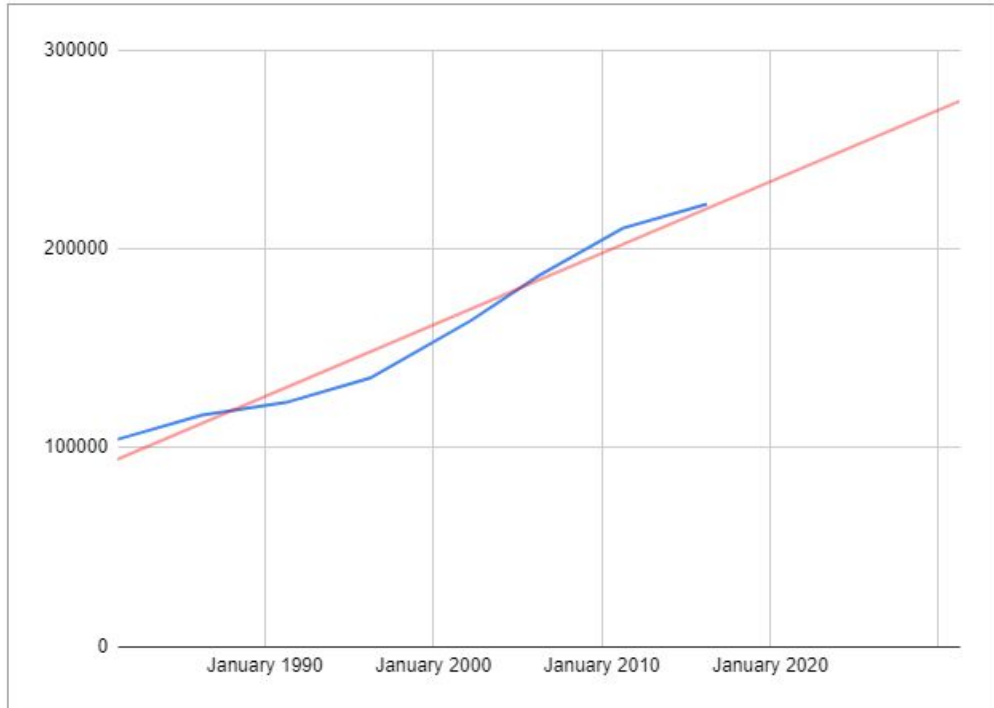
The projections for County Kildare are between 249,000 - 254,000 by 2026 and 259,000 - 266,500 by 2031.

The County Development Plan can also allow 25% headroom additional growth for 2026.

### **Are the growth targets in line with population growth in the county over the last few decades?**

The upper limit of the projection ranges does appear to be in line with population growth for the county since 1981. The chart below shows the current trend based on actual census results.

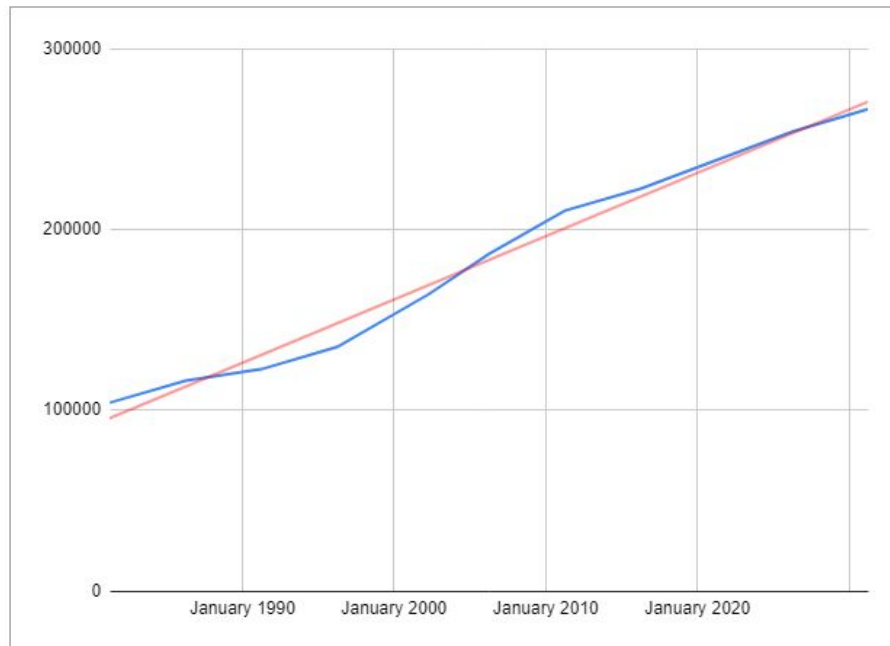
April 1981	104122
April 1986	116247
April 1991	122656
April 1996	134992
April 2002	163944
April 2006	186335
April 2011	210312
April 2016	222504
April 2026	
April 2031	



*Population of Kildare: 1981 to 2016*

The projections are then added to a second chart, and appear to be in line with the population trend for the county.

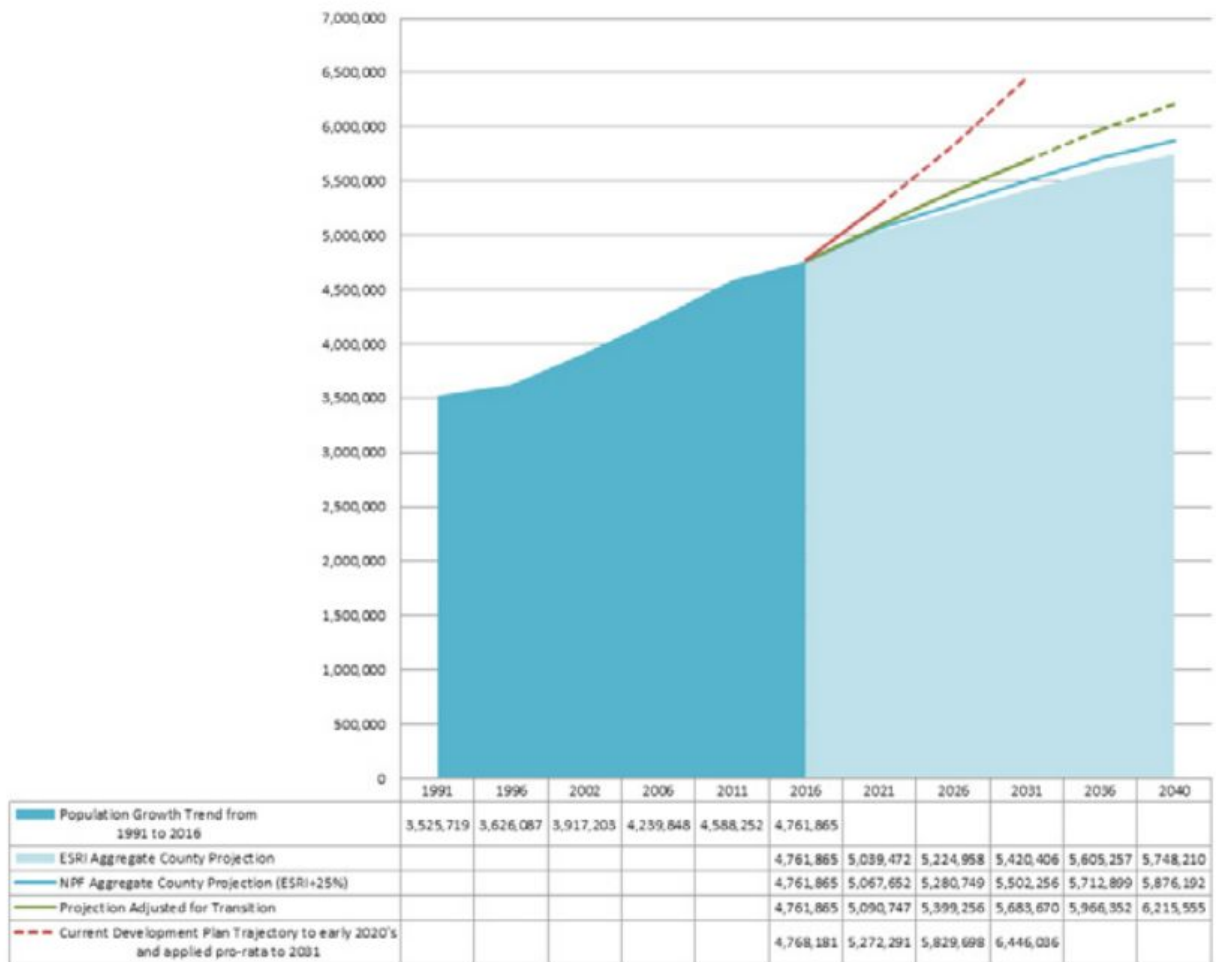
April 1981	104122
April 1986	116247
April 1991	122656
April 1996	134992
April 2002	163944
April 2006	186335
April 2011	210312
April 2016	222504
April 2026	254000
April 2031	266500



*Population of Kildare: 1981 projected to 2031 by NPF Implementation Roadmap*

The Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework notes that, “cumulatively, current city and county plans are based on post-2006 population projections that provide for a quantum of significantly greater population growth than occurred and that also exceed any likely scenario identified as part of the NPF/NDP preparation process.”

The graph below shows the projected growth as per current development plans using a dotted red line.



### Are the projections open to review?

Yes. According to the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework, the framework will be “subject to regular cycles of review and if necessary, updating, particularly during the post-2021 Census period.”

### **What is the projected population growth for 2026 in the proposed variation?**

The projected population growth being used in the variation is based on the upper limit of the range given in the Implementation Roadmap of the NPF. The upper limit of the projected population in 2026 is 254,000.

The population of Kildare as of the 2016 Census was 222,504, so the projected growth is 254,000 - 222,504, which is 31,496. The council added 25% headroom to this figure, as provided for in the Implementation Roadmap, so the final projected growth is  $31,496 \times 1.25$ , which is 39,370.

### **How is this converted to projected dwellings needed by 2026?**

It is stated as a footnote in the variation that the occupancy rate is taken as 2.8, based on a 2016 Census.

The projected population growth of 39,370 is divided by 2.8 to give a project dwelling unit target of 14,060.

### **How are the dwelling projections by area for 2023 calculated?**

The existing Allocated Growth rate per area is used to determine the dwelling projections per area. For example, the allocated growth rate for Villages is 3.7%, so  $14,060 \times 0.037 = 520$ . This gives the projected dwellings needed by 2026.