

MONAGHAN PPN– DRAFT VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Overall Vision

Monaghan is a welcoming place where people live amongst friends. Diversity is celebrated, and everyone is equally valued, can live well, and build a future. We have a strong and diverse local economy and first-rate infrastructure and services that support our health, education, work and recreation. We are well-informed and our Local Authority operates transparently and involves us in decisions that affect us.

We live and work sustainably, actively protecting our precious natural environment. We cherish our history and heritage, which is celebrated and passed on to future generations. Our dynamic community and voluntary groups demonstrate how we care for one another. State agencies and communities work collaboratively together to ensure that no-one is left behind.

Social and Community Development

Monaghan is a safe, secure place where everyone is welcomed and treated equally. There are plenty of opportunities for people of all ages, different abilities and cultures to access all our excellent services and amenities. There are good jobs, education opportunities, housing and services available. Our community groups are well-funded and at the core of providing community services. We involve all our community and particularly our young people in planning for the future to ensure that this is the place they wish to rear families and retire in.

- We are a genuinely inclusive and connected community where people of different ages, cultures and interests mix and we understand and respect our diversity.
- We have access to excellent, well-resourced, local facilities and services that are provided through community initiatives and relevant agencies which support us to live full lives that are healthy and well.
- All of us can access work, education and recreation amenities through an improved public transport network throughout the County.
- We have a great array of opportunities for sport and leisure, with amenities that cater for diverse groups within the community. There are excellent recreational activities and venues for our young people who are supported to play an important and active part in our community.
- It is easy to access information on services and supports available.
- Our strong culture of volunteering is valued and community groups have resources to ensure they can meet the needs in their local areas, connecting people with one another and providing services.

Work, Economy and Resources

In Monaghan, all of us enjoy a high quality of life. Monaghan is an attractive place to live, work and invest, where we actively work to maintain our vibrant local economy and community. We have a resilient, sustainable, local economy with strong indigenous business and agri-food sectors, well-served with excellent and integrated communications and transports infrastructure. There are easily accessible supports available for new and existing enterprises, both social and commercial, to thrive. Employment conditions are good, and facilities are in place to support workers and the self-employed. Excellent training and education programmes support those seeking work, those upskilling and employers' needs.

- Monaghan is well connected through efficient and high-quality communications and transport infrastructure. Excellent local transport services throughout the County support travel for work, education, and amenities.
- Business supports are flexible and address all aspects of start-up and established business operations including location, services, infrastructure, workforce and operating costs. We actively support traditional activities, commercial businesses and not-for-profit/ social enterprises.
- There is a high standard of life-long education accessible locally for those in employment and a wide range of training and education opportunities support people of all abilities to access work. The needs of employers are also addressed in the training on offer, supporting them and the workforce to be flexible, highly skilled and able to adapt to economic changes.
- Workers benefit from employment support programmes, provision of childcare, and excellent local amenities and services.
- A diverse supply of mixed and affordable housing ensures that all of us have a home suitable to our needs.
- We are vigilant to ensure that there are no pockets of deprivation in the County and that no-one is treated differently.
- We recognise and acknowledge the value of paid and unpaid work and support everyone to contribute according to their skills and abilities.

Culture, Values and Meaning

Monaghan is a County that ensures everyone gets a warm welcome and that all citizens are equal. We are a diverse and multi-cultural community where there is a strong sense of belonging, people are compassionate and respectful, and it is a safe and caring place to live. Through a wide range of initiatives, community action, and great venues and amenities we protect and celebrate our local heritage and culture, arts, local enterprise and traditional livelihoods. All generations engage together to learn and share all aspects of our collected cultural heritage to ensure it continues to thrive.

- We respect one another and everyone is valued and has a voice. We understand and celebrate the rich diversity in our community and we ensure that all of us are involved and fully part of the community.
- All aspects of our Irish heritage and culture are valued and celebrated, including our language, sports, music, arts and traditions.
- Members of all generations, across our community, come together to share their knowledge, skills and talents in all aspects of our heritage, culture and traditions, to ensure young people and those new to our community are informed about and can embrace them so that they remain alive now and future generations.
- We record and preserve all aspects of our history and heritage and run education and activity programmes to share and promote this.
- We have excellent, well-resourced and flexible, community facilities and amenities that support cultural activities and the arts.
- Our community and voluntary organisations are well-resourced and are central to sports, music, arts, heritage, events and social gatherings in the County. Community

facilities are central to the strong community spirit across our County as places where neighbours and friends can meet to support each other.

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

We all actively participate in our robust, transparent, and effective local democracy and we can influence decisions that affect us. We have proactive and flourishing community and voluntary groups whose work is valued, resourced, and supported. These work together and in partnership with the local authority for the benefit of the community.

- We are all educated about how local government works and understand how we can be involved. We actively engage when consulted and hold our elected representatives accountable for their actions.
- Our local government has the structure, authority and resources to address local issues within the County:
 - It operates openly and shares information regularly and fully, making it accessible to all within the community.
 - Our elected representatives reflect the diversity in our community. They communicate regularly, and formally with the community, staying in touch with local issues and feeding back on Council actions.
 - We can trace all issues from when they arise until they are resolved.
 - We can monitor decision-making, expenditure, and proposals through clear, up-to-date and easily accessible information.
 - The voice of all groups within our community and particularly those of our young people are sought and included in all decision-making.
- The work of our many community groups is recognised and encouraged. Regulations and administration requirements are kept to a minimum and our active culture of volunteering is valued and supported with adequate resources.

Health (Physical and Mental)

In Monaghan we look after everyone in our community. The great services, facilities and activities that support our health and wellbeing are affordable and accessible to all of us. We have excellent mental and physical health services that meet the needs of all members of our community. These work in partnership with proactive, community-led supports and initiatives. We have a wide range of high-quality sports, leisure and cultural opportunities. All of us are educated and active in taking responsibility for minding our own health and wellbeing and helping others wherever needed.

- We have effective programmes co-ordinated across all relevant agencies to reduce drug use and provide support to those dealing with addiction. There are also services available for people in crisis.
- All services and supports recognise and meet the different needs in the community from those of our youngest to our oldest citizens, across all abilities and cultures and in all parts of the County. There are targeted initiatives, where needed, to support children and adults with disabilities, our young people, the elderly and new communities.

- We are all aware of the importance of good mental health and we receive information about how to maintain this from childhood throughout our lives. We have local access to excellent 24-hour mental health and addiction supports which have the capacity to respond to all needs as they arise.
- Everyone in Monaghan is registered with a General Practitioner (GP) and there are sufficient doctors so that waiting lists do not occur. We have great primary health centres, out of hours services and day care facilities. Our carers are actively supported and there are flexible and well-resourced respite services.

Environment and Sustainability

In Monaghan we actively reduce waste production, re-use and recycle before using best practice to handle waste so that we protect our natural resources and environment. We use green energy and transport systems. There is environmental education and information across all age groups, and we live sustainably. All of us take actions that protect our biodiversity and this is also supported through sustainable local food production. Our community groups are committed to caring for the natural and built environment, all policies support the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and we each play our part in taking action to address climate change. We care for and protect the history and heritage of the County.

- We use innovative and creative approaches and adopt best practices that reduce the waste we produce and manage its disposal safely. All of us are committed to these actions.
- We rely on low carbon energy transport networks and infrastructure, including good public transport that serves rural areas well, and there is provision for safe cycling and walking throughout the County.
- We use locally generated, renewable energy sources that are affordable and efficient.
- Throughout our lives we have information that allows us to make wise decisions and behave in ways that do not damage our natural resources or precious natural environment.
- Our farmers are supported to use sustainable agricultural practices and we enjoy excellent locally produced food and access to rural areas.
- All of us are aware of the importance of supporting and encouraging flora and fauna in rural and urban environments. We manage our natural and green areas to provide maximum opportunity for biodiversity, nature restoration, carbon sequestration and amenity.