

**Laois County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Laoise**



**Economic Development & County Promotion  
Strategic Policy Committee**

**INDUSTRIAL SITE & ENTERPRISE UNITS  
POLICY DOCUMENT NO. 2**

**Agreed at S.P.C. Meeting on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2005**

**Draft Policy on Industrial Sites & Enterprise Units**  
**Agreed S.P.C. Meeting on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2005**

**Background:**

The document entitled “Review of the Role of Laois County Council on Industrial Sites & Enterprise Units” dated May 2004, sets out the historical and current situation relative to this matter.

The said document also raise questions on relevant aspects of policy.

**Guideline Policy – General.**

1. Laois County Council is charged with responsibility for ensuring balanced economic development and equitable distribution of employment opportunities throughout the County. In achieving this the Council will strive to diversify the economy, including that of rural areas, by promoting knowledge based industries, innovation, research and development, engineering, agriculture, tourism opportunities.

It is the policy of Laois County Council to promote Economic Development throughout the County. In doing this the Council is cognisant of the role of I.D.A. (Ireland), Enterprise Ireland, other Government Departments which have a critical role to in promoting or financing investment, Laois County Enterprise Board, Laois LEADER and private sector business’s either individually or collectively.

The Council will also ensure that it supports and sustains existing industry, commercial activities, enterprises and employment opportunities in the County.

The Council will continue to liaise with educational interests to plan for the future economic development of the County and the creation and fostering of enterprise.

**2. Sites**

It is the policy of the Council to:

- (i) Identify and appropriately zone land for industrial / commercial use in towns and if appropriate villages based on need for the development of small enterprise activities.
- (ii) Service such land and lay out same in half acre sites. Services to include; roads, water, sewage and others as available / appropriate.
- (iii) Dispose of the said serviced sites to applicants based on the following criteria.
  - (a) Legal Requirements
  - (b) Standard tendering procedures
  - (c) Applicant and proposed project being suitable and in accordance with all relevant regulations.
- (iv) Acquire serviced sites from the private sector – subject to availability should such sites not be in the ownership of the Council.
- (v) Enter into appropriate arrangements with the private sector for the provision of sites and / or enterprise units.
- (vi) Examine opportunities for enterprise development in areas of dereliction within town and village boundaries.

### **3. Enterprise Units**

It shall be the policy of the Council to:

- (a) Encourage the adaption and refurbishment of suitable industrial buildings for enterprise use.
- (b) Provide Enterprise Units of varying size at locations throughout the County.
- (c) Construct such units for specific purposes.
- (d) Construct multi purpose units as appropriate – cluster and specialist type enterprise to be encouraged.
- (e) Arrange for the construction / provision of such units by the private sector and / or by way of PPP.
- (f) Enter into financing arrangements, including lease, with other agencies and the private sector.
- (g) Examine and optimise all possible sources of finance to fund such projects.

#### **4. Resources**

The fulfilment of these policies will be facilitated by and subject to the availability of resources e.g. Human, Financial, Infrastructural and other.

Issued by the Economic Development Section, Laois County Council

25/02/05