



7 June 2021

Planning Policy
Cork County Council
Carrigrohane Road

Public Consultation on the Cork County Council Development Plan

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Lee to Sea Strategic Greenway envisions a world-class walking, running, and cycling route that connects Inniscarra Dam to Crosshaven, passing through Cork County's largest town of Carrigaline and connecting other County settlements of Inniscarra, Passage West, Monkstown and Ringaskiddy.

The Lee to Sea Greenway is supported in objectives within Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and Regional Spatial Economic Strategy / Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.

We welcome the acknowledgements within Draft Plan Vol.1 paragraphs 12.7.14 and 12.7.21 in relation to the CMATS and CMASP objectives supporting the Lee to Sea Flagship Greenway as a **short to medium term deliverable** and the proposed Lee2Sea greenway sections to deliver connections between Carrigaline, Passage West and Ringaskiddy.

The route would serve commuting, leisure and tourism functions for **tens of thousands of regular users of all ages and abilities**. The Lee to Sea would be **well connected** to bus, rail, cruise liner and ferry terminals, with close proximity to Cork International Airport. It would be **within 2 km of 157,000 people around Cork Metropolitan Area** where the county is proposing the majority of growth. This would significantly **reduce transport emissions**. It would **reduce traffic congestion and parking demand** around the Cork metro by creating an **attractive active travel corridor** connecting Cork's major retail, educational and employment hubs with its residential areas.

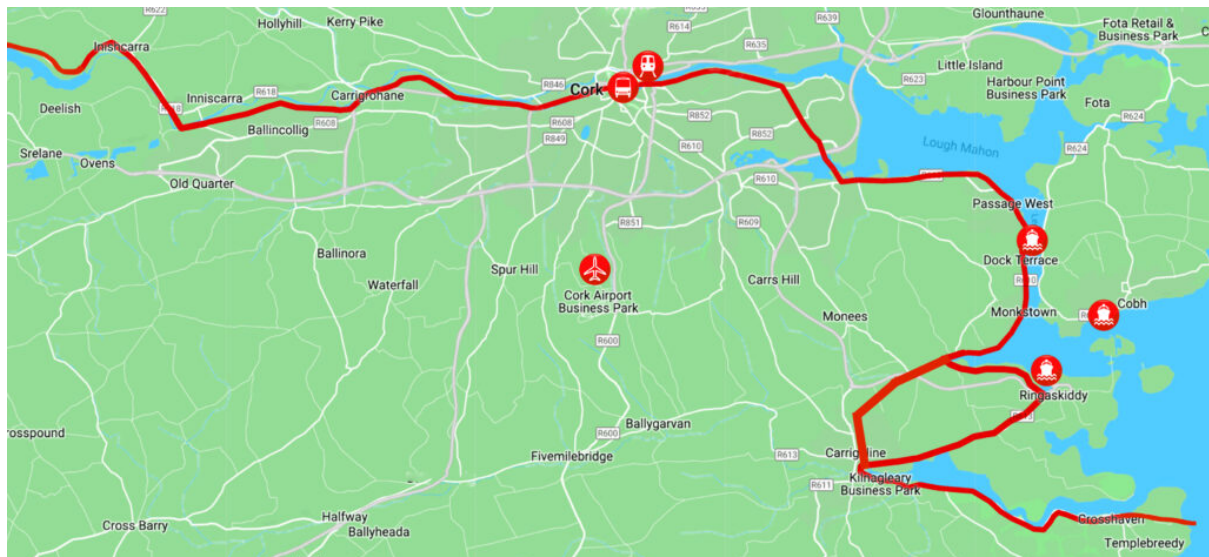
The Lee2Sea delivers the **CCDP's multiple, intersecting objectives** of developing "...County Cork as an attractive, competitive and sustainable place to live, visit and do business, where the quality of its economy, natural and built environment, culture and the strength and viability of its communities are to the highest standards, in accordance with all relevant Government Policy and Guidance." (CCDP, Vol.1, p.19)

We are **disappointed** that the draft Cork County Development Plan provides **no objectives** in support of the Lee to Sea Flagship Greenway given the following material considerations:

- a) the **numerous representations** made in support of the Lee2Sea Greenway during the **pre-draft stage**,
- b) the **CMATS objectives** including support for the Lee2Sea greenway as a **short to medium term deliverable**, and
- c) the **CMASP objectives** supporting the Lee to Sea Greenway.

The Lee2Sea Greenway has **multiple benefits for Cork County**. It would:

- 1) Give **10% of Cork County's population** easy access to the route to commute to work, school, businesses and shops
- 2) Serve as an **international gateway attraction** for visitors to the county cultural assets, shops, cafes, restaurants and hotels
- 3) **Reduce the carbon footprint** for commuting traffic
- 4) Create a **non-vehicular route for children to travel** to and from schools and colleges
- 5) Help **address the challenges of climate change** and **support the transition to a low carbon society**
- 6) Be **eminently achievable** given that much of the route already exists and can be delivered within a short time frame (**as acknowledged within the Draft Plan Vol.1 para 10.12.5**)
- 7) It would act as a **key enabler for the growth** of Carrigaline, Passage West, Ringaskiddy, & Crosshaven



Given that:

- a) sections of the Lee to Sea Greenway already exist,
 - b) the 'Cork Harbour Greenway' will form significant sections of the entire route - connecting Passage West to Carrigaline and Ringaskiddy, and
 - c) the distance between Inniscarra to Ballincollig is only 4.4 km;
- it would take little effort to push forward with the entire Lee to Sea Strategic Greenway route as a short to medium term deliverable, in line with CMATS, RSES and the higher level NPF in terms of active commuter travel, reduced carbon footprint, cleaner environment and healthier communities, along with national legal targets for Ireland to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

We request the County Council reappraise and prioritise the Lee to Sea Greenway and to **elevate it as a short-to-medium term deliverable** in the Cork County Development Plan, supported by the following:

- i) To identify the Flagship Lee to Sea Greenway within the Core Strategy (and associated map) as a strategic transport commuting route,
- ii) To include a **Plan Objective** for the Flagship Lee to Sea Greenway as a **short to medium term deliverable**,
- iii) To include within the objective a **commitment to carry out a feasibility study for the entire route** (Phase 1 Passage West to Crosshaven and Phase 2 Inniscarra to Ballincollig),
- iv) Objective criteria committing to **applying for funding** to deliver this project for the residents, employees, students, and visitors to Metropolitan Cork.
- v) Objective criteria to include **planning and delivery/implementation** of the Lee to Sea Greenway in the short to medium term as a strategic active travel, leisure, and tourism amenity in Cork harbour and to Inniscarra dam **in line with CMATS and CMASP objectives**,
- vi) Objective criteria to include **use the Lee2Sea to promote active travel** to work, school, and shopping around the region to support transition to a low carbon society **in line with national targets** to be carbon neutral by 2050,
- vii) Objective criteria to include coordination with Failte Ireland, Cork City Council and National Transport Authority to develop a consistent **universal design approach, placemaking sections** to connect to cultural assets/transport interchange points/parks/open space, consistent **strong brand identity** for the Lee to Sea Greenway and to **market it as a major attraction** to Cork Metropolitan Area, Munster and Ireland.

We appreciate the opportunity to feed into this second consultation and hope that the above points are progressed within the County Development Plan 2022-2028. If you require any clarifications, we are happy to discuss any of the above points.

Kind regards,

Dean Venables
Chair of the Lee2Sea Greenway Committee
Lee2sea@yahoo.com