



Roads Acts 1993 to 2015 Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

ABP-313509-22

Notice of a decision by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the proposed Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme, all in the County of Dublin.

An Bord Pleanála has, on the 27th March 2024, in exercise of the powers vested in it by section 51 of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, made an order to approve subject to conditions the proposed road as submitted by the National Transport Authority.

The conditions of the Board's decision are summarised as follows:

- The proposed road development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions.
- The mitigation, environmental commitments and monitoring measures identified in the plans and particulars relating to the proposed development, including those set out in the submitted Natura Impact Statement (NIS), Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) shall be implemented in full or as may be required in order to comply with the following conditions.
- Pre-construction surveys shall be carried out to determine the presence of protected mammal, bird, or bat species.
- The proposed development shall be amended as follows:
 - The bus shelter proposed on Fitzwilliam Street Lower shall be omitted.
 - The 11 street trees proposed on Fitzwilliam Street Lower shall be omitted.
 - Scaled elevations of proposed bus shelters to be provided throughout the route are to be submitted for the written agreement of the relevant planning authority. Bus shelters on Baggot Street Lower and Baggot Street Upper shall not have advertisement panels included.
 - A free-standing heritage information panel is to be designed and provided in the vicinity of the relocated Bloomfield Gate explaining its background, relocation, and history, for public viewing.
 - The existing concrete benches identified as CBC1415BTH087, CBC1415BTH088 and CBC1415BTH089 in the application documentation are to be removed, stored, and incorporated into the new boundary treatment in the vicinity of their current location.
 - The buffer zone between the loading bays and cycle track on the northern side of Baggot Street Upper is to be extended from 750 millimetres to 850 millimetres.
 - A yellow box is to be provided on the inbound lane at the Willow Park entrance gates to facilitate traffic turning movement requirements.
- Revised drawings showing compliance with these requirements shall be submitted to the relevant planning authority for written agreement.
- Works on installation of the construction compound shall only take place between the months of April-September.
- The developer shall submit a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and a Construction Stage Mobility Management Plan (CSMMP) for the construction phase of the development.
- The developer shall monitor queuing time/delays at each works location and record traffic flows on the local road network at locations to be agreed with the planning authority.
- The developer shall prepare in consultation with the relevant statutory agencies, an updated CEMP, incorporating all mitigation measures indicated in the NIS and EIAR and a demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols.
- The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with the updated CEMP, which shall be agreed in writing with the relevant planning authorities. This plan shall provide details of intended construction practices for the development.
- The developer shall submit an Invasive Species Management Plan to the relevant planning authority.
- Water supply and drainage arrangements, including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the relevant planning authority for such works in respect of both the construction and operation phases of the proposed development.
- A suitably qualified ecologist shall be retained by the applicant to oversee the site set up and construction of the proposed development and implementation of mitigation measures relating to ecology set out in the NIS and EIAR.
- Prior to the removal/replacement of trees, hedging and planting which is to be altered the developer shall agree with the relevant landowner the species, size, and location of all replacement vegetation. The developer shall also employ the services of an appropriately qualified Arboriculturist and Landscape Architect.
- Trees to be felled shall be examined prior to felling and demolition to determine the presence of bat roosts. Only trees indicated for removal in the submitted Arboricultural Impact Assessment are to be removed subject to the provisions of these conditions.
 - No ground clearance shall be undertaken, and no vegetation shall be cleared during the bird breeding season, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant planning authority.
 - Tree protection measures for all existing trees shall be put in place prior to the commencement of development or phases of development.
 - All details of soft landscaping as well as tree planting species and maturity shall be submitted for the agreement of the relevant planning authority.
 - Post-construction management, monitoring, and replacement (if necessary) of climbing vegetation on the proposed new concrete wall along Nutley Lane at the frontage of the Elm Park Golf and Sports Club shall be put in place for a period of 5 years post construction.
- Details of all signage shall be submitted to the relevant planning authority to be held on record.
- Noise monitoring shall be carried out during the construction phase of the proposed road development by the developer to ensure that construction noise threshold levels (LAeq, period) shall not exceed the levels set out in the EIAR.
- All works to protected structures, and structures of cultural heritage interest shall be monitored and recorded by an Architectural Conservation Specialist.
- The undertaker shall facilitate the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features that may exist within the site.
 - All lighting shall be operated and cowed in such a manner as to prevent light overspill to areas outside of compounds and works areas.
 - The developer shall submit a detailed public lighting plan to be held by the planning authority.

The full text of the Board's decision, including conditions, can be viewed on the Board's website at <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/313509>. A copy of the Board's decision and the EIAR is available for inspection at the offices of the National Transport Authority during office hours on working days for a period of 8 weeks beginning on the date of publication of this notice.

A person may question the validity of a decision by the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986), in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie

Date of publication:

Hot meals scheme is expanded to 900 new schools

Up to 150,000 additional pupils to benefit from the programme

DARRAGH NOLAN

Nine hundred more schools are set to be approved for the Hot School Meals programme from today.

Around 150,000 additional children will now benefit from the scheme, marking its most significant expansion to date.

An announcement will be made on the expansion by Taoiseach Simon Harris and Social Protection Minister Heather Humphreys today.

Last December, Ms Humphreys announced her intention to extend the Hot School Meals programme to every primary school across the country.

Her announcement will be made during a visit to St Thomas's Junior National School in Lucan, Co Dublin – one of the 900 additional schools being brought under the scheme.

"My ambition is that a child born in Ireland today will be guaranteed access to a hot meal by the time they start school," Ms Humphreys will say today.

"The major expansion I am announcing today means we are now well on course to achieve that objective."

Schools were contacted and invited to make a submission expressing interest in the scheme. Those schools will now be provided funding for the scheme by the Department of Social Protection. Each school will choose a supplier of hot meals "in an open, fair and transparent manner" based on national and EU legislation.

Schools not yet covered by the scheme are invited to express interest with a view towards every primary school across the country receiving funding for hot meals.

Those yet to sign up to the scheme that apply now will receive free hot meals for pupils from September.

"My ambition is that a child born in Ireland today will be guaranteed access to a hot meal"



Social Protection Minister Heather Humphreys

The School Meals Programme was first introduced in 2003. However, hot meals first became a part of the scheme in 2019, starting with a small pilot scheme of 37 schools.

From the initial pilot scheme, the number of schools grew to more than 500. Following today's announcement that number will stand at more than 1,400 schools.

A plan was approved by the Government in March last year aimed at expanding free hot school meals to all schools at primary and post-primary level by 2030.

It would mean 950,000 pupils across 4,000 schools would receive a free hot meal every day.

Rate increases for the programme were introduced last year, bringing the rate up to 75c for breakfast, €1.70 for cold lunch, €2.50 for dinner and €3.20 for hot school meals.

"The contribution of the suppliers to the success of the School Meals Programme has been significant. Funding under the School Meals Programme is at a specific rate per meal, per child, per day," Ms Humphreys said.

"I am delighted to have this week secured government approval to increase the meal rates which importantly will be backdated to January 2023."

The School Meals Programme aims "to provide regular, nutritious food to children who may be unable, due to lack of good quality food, to take full advantage of the education provided to them".

The scheme received an additional €42.5m in funding in Budget 2024 after €94.4m was provided for the School Meals Programme the previous year.