



## **28<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 - Publication of Annual Report and Accounts 2017**

An Bord Pleanála's Annual Report and Accounts 2017 were published today. 2017 was the 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary since establishment of An Bord Pleanála.

### **Planning Casework and Performance**

In 2017, there continued to be an upward trend in the number of planning cases received and disposed. Total case intake was up just over 19% to 2,570 compared to 2,163 in 2016. The total number of cases decided during 2017 was 2,143 (2,078 in 2016). Compliance with the statutory objective period to decide appeal cases was down on previous years at 67% as the number of decisions decreased due to vacancies at Board level.

The increase in intake has continued in 2018 and at the end of August 2018, cases disposed numbered 1,701 (10.5% up on the same period last year). The total number of cases decided to end August 2018 is 25% higher than the same period last year at 1,701 now that the a fully resourced Board is in place. However, the compliance rate with the statutory objective period is still low at 35% for appeal cases as the backlog generated is cleared.

Membership of the Board has been replenished in the course of 2017 and 2018, with a current compliment of ten Board Members.

### **Strategic Housing Development – One Year On**

Legislation came into effect in July 2017 to allow for applications for housing developments of more than 100 units and student accommodation of over 200 bed-spaces to be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. The first application was received by An Bord Pleanála on 21st September 2017.

In the first 6 months of operation of the new process, 47 requests for pre-application consultations were received. By the end of December 2017, An Bord Pleanála had received 13 applications for Strategic Housing Developments.

A further 46 pre-application consultation requests and 23 applications have been received in 2018 (end August). 25 of the 36 applications were concluded in 2018 and these were disposed within the statutory 16-week time period.

## **Strategic Infrastructure Development Cases**

Since legislative provisions for direct applications for strategic infrastructure developments became operative in 2007 to end 2017, a total of 162 local authority and private applications have been received.

Four private strategic infrastructure development applications were decided in 2017 including the National Maternity Hospital at St. Vincent's in Dublin 4, two wind farms (one in County Offaly and one in County Meath) and a waste materials facility at Cappagh in Dublin. Cases currently on hands include major wastewater applications for the Dublin region and for airport infrastructure.

## **Strategic Development Zones (SDZ)**

Proposed new urban/housing areas at Poolbeg in Dublin 4 and at Clonburris in South Dublin are being advanced by means of comprehensive SDZ Planning Schemes. Both proposed schemes are under appeal to the Board. Proposed amendments to operational SDZ schemes in Dublin City at Grangegorman and at North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock are also under consideration.

## **Strategic Plan 2018-2023**

An Bord Pleanála completed work on its Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 during 2017, a framework to guide the organisation for the next five years reinforcing our trusted reputation for impartiality, driving the highest standards in timely decision making and service to the public. Following a public consultation, the draft Plan was submitted to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in July 2018. It has recently been published and is now available at [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

## **New IT Systems**

A new IT system (Plean-IT) was introduced during 2017. The first phase which includes a case management and geographic information solution was deployed in October with all new cases processed using new IT software. Work is underway on the development of a new website and a portal to facilitate online submission of appeals and other cases to An Bord Pleanála.

**Note for editors - key points:**

- 36 applications for Strategic Housing Developments received July 2017-August 2018. 25 concluded all within 16 weeks.
- Case intake in 2017 up by over 19% on previous year.
- Launch of Strategic Plan 2018- 2023: Planning for our Future.

An Bord Pleanála's Annual Report is available [here](#).