

Summary report on the position of Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale

Work to date on Newcastle West Distributor Road

A Feasibility study was undertaken in 2013 looking at potential docking points, east and west of Newcastle West, for a potential bypass/distributor road/relief road. This report was undertaken in house and there was no cost associated with it. In 2017, ARUP undertook a high level review of junctions on the N21 in Newcastle West. This report fed into submissions made by Limerick City and County Council to have a bypass funded and progressed. The cost of the report was €3,075, incl. VAT.

What is required to progress these distributor roads?

The existing Local Area Plans (LAPs) for both Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale contain indicative distributor roads. These distributor roads were included to open up zoned lands for development in both towns. To date, these distributor roads have not progressed by developers in either Newcastle West or Abbeyfeale.

The need for, and inclusion of distributor roads will be considered as part of the review of the existing LAP'S and the preparation of new LAP'S, which will commence in May 2022. It should be noted that both towns now have TII Road Schemes at early stages of design, which will have an impact on the traffic diversion needs previously indirectly associated with the existing distributor roads.

If distributor roads (either new versions or similar to previous alignments) are to be included in the proposed LAP's, which may be determined as part of the LAP process, it is likely that they will have to be again developer led. External funding at a national level to build these roads would require strong business case backing for their construction with very strong emphasis on environmental and financial appraisal justification. This is essentially the same process as is already committed to for the aforementioned TII Road Schemes for both towns.

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