

From: WordPress <wordpress@npf.ie>
Sent: 05 October 2017 16:21
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040 Submission from Caroline Joyce
Attachments: ireland-2040-plan-south-east.docx

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Message:

See attached for comments. In general, the plan is good, needs following up in the case of Waterford and the South East region.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on National Planning Framework (<http://npf.ie>)

Re: 'Ireland 2040 Our Plan' – South Eastern Region

Firstly, I would like to compliment the persons/organisations who researched and put together this plan, I believe the objectives of the plan are solid. It is clear from the text in the main document, that Ireland is at a crossroads; do we recognise that we need strong regional growth to act a counter to Dublin's dominance in all regional cities or do we continue to continue the mistakes of the past, choke Dublin and its hinterland with more and more planning, development, traffic, infrastructure, environmental and associated issues.

With particular regards to the South East of the Country, I agree that Waterford, as the main/largest regional city in the region should be a focal point for growth. I have a few suggestions on how this can happen or what the people need for the region to grow, act as a counter, compete and develop in a sustainable manner:

1. Facilitate the proposed 300+million private investment in the Waterford North Quays by providing for required infrastructure. This is recognised and mentioned in the plan, top priority, provide monies to council ASAP for private investment to begin.
2. The South East region is underperforming at the moment, it needs a strong city to drive this and the infrastructure to help it succeed: A good motorway network in the south east is half way there, there are already excellent links to north via the M9, the routes West need improvement, links to the likes of Dungarvan (N25) and Carrick on Suir, Clonmel and onto Limerick (N24) need significant improvement. The N24 is particularly poor.
3. The South East has an educational deficit, however all is not lost, there is an opportunity there on how this may be best addressed: establishing a University or Technical University to help attract more hi-tech employment and entrepreneurship. Waterford and South East if it is to have a Tech Uni. Needs more than just a name change but actual support and investment, it has had virtually zero investment in facilities in last 10-15 years.
4. For too long, Waterford and the S.E. has received a poor number of IDA/FDI visits. A strong IDA office is needed for the S.E. The office should be able to fight for investment and jobs even without the need for having a strong minister based in the area.
5. Medical care, a recent report shows that University Hospital Waterford has the highest and near highest waiting lists in the country in a number of areas, it is a disproportionate amount of these red marks and it is due to understaffing and underinvestment. Investment in the HSE seems to be driven by political weight, not clinical/population need.

In conclusion, the plan is good but only so far as it is carried out, Waterford needs to expand and grow so the region can grow and thrive also.

Caroline Joyce