

It's good we are planning forward but I would like to note a few things that came to my mind while reading the draft document.

In relation to the section on our relationship with Northern Ireland. Should there not be a plan in place for the case of a unified Ireland? There is a significant chance of this occurring between now and 2040. This would have a major effect on the island and how we plan for pretty much everything. It seems like an obvious omission.

I notice there isn't a major amount said about transport. I think this is one area in which we have completely failed in the last 60 years or so. We need to stop investing so much in the car and begin now to invest more in cycling, rail and bus. By 2040 we should have an entirely different relationship with the car. This will be a major change. How do we plan for this? How do we ensure that finally we have a decent country to cycle in or take a train? What do we do with the roads and other infrastructure which will no longer be needed for such a reduced level of car use?

Similar points can be made about sprawl. We need to ensure cities can cope with the rising population. Building heights, or at least densities need to be transformed from where they are today. Like with transport, these actions are long overdue. The time to act is now, not in 2039.