

Clr. Damien O'REILLY

RATOATH
MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT



 **FIANNA FÁIL**
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Meath County Council
Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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Cllr. Damien O'Reilly,
Meath County Council,
County Hall,
Navan,
Co. Meath

31/03/2017

RE: Submission Paper to the National Planning Framework 2020-2040

Dear Minister,

Over the next several decades Ireland will reach unprecedented population levels. There are predictions that our population will soar to over 8m people on this island by 2040. This is a unique opportunity for the whole of Ireland to put in place a planning framework that will secure a country where people are happy to live, work, study, receive good public services, play and raise a family.

Long term planning and investment is key; to achieving a sustainable future for all of the people of Ireland and reducing the need and reliance of activity within the M50 region. By strengthening the links between growth centres in each region and their hinterlands, the aim is to create a set of coherent and sustaining regions with more self-reliant integrated economies where people can find high skill employment and live.

This vision of so-called 'Balanced Polycentric' regional development – involves cities or towns in less developed regions pursuing a more self-reliant development path, rather than as primarily being residential hubs for larger employment centres, such as Dublin. In terms of industrial development policies, where the NSS focus was on encouraging economic specialisation in regions and around particular gateways, evidence suggests that this is a misguided focus for regional development policies as the benefits of specialisation are limited.

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The Leinster Outer Orbital Road.

The Leinster Outer Orbital Road must be prioritised as its primary purpose will be to relieve the M50 of the duty of carrying long distance traffic, leaving it as a distributor road for the city and opening up Leinster for 'Balanced Polycentric' regional development and surrounding counties such as, Down, Cavan, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Leitrim and Sligo.

As the east of Ireland is hindered by gridlock and over concentration on Dublin City, the Leinster Outer Orbital Road when developed will open up the regions of Ireland for economic growth as innovation, human capital, trade, infrastructure, availability of finance and social capital will follow with ease of access.

Development of services and high tech industry which in turn display a strong tendency to locate outside the Dublin City region as access to skills support services and appropriate infrastructure will be available when the Leinster Outer Orbital road is constructed and operational.

Dublin Metropolitan Area

Due to the expansion of Dublin's commuter belt into Meath, Louth and Kildare, the Dublin Metropolitan Area within these counties must be protected in the National Planning Framework 2020-2040.

In the context of **Meath** this must be expanded from **Clonee, Dunboyne, Kilcloon** and **Kilcock** to also include, **Ashbourne, Dunshaughlin, Kilbride, Ratoath** and **Stamullen** to assist in providing high quality infrastructure, energy, water provision and increased transport links which will assist in making these towns economically vibrant on the edge of Dublin with growing population bases.

The protection and expansion of the Dublin Metropolitan area within the National Planning Framework 2020-2040, for Louth, Meath and Kildare will provide a more compact urban form, allowing for the accommodation of a greater population than at present, with much-enhanced public transport system, with the expansion of the built up areas providing for well-designed urban environments linked to high quality public transport networks, enhancing the quality of life for residents and workers alike.

• **Ratoath Municipal District:** Batterstown • Clonee • Culmullen • Drumree • Dunboyne • Dunsany •
• Dunshaughlin • Kilbride • Kilcloon • Kilmessan • Kiltale • Moynalvey • Mulhussey • Ratoath •

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Is mise le meas,

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