

**From:** Councillor Eddie Mulligan <cllremulligan@waterfordcouncil.ie>  
**Sent:** 10 November 2017 10:56  
**To:** National Planning Framework  
**Subject:** Further Submission to National Planning Framework in addition to one attached dated 30.03.2017  
**Attachments:** NPF Submission Cllr Eddie Mulligan 30.03.2017.docx

Please find a further submission to the Draft National Planning Framework required by 1200 today, in the aftermath of a review and in support of my original dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

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**Further Submission to Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (NPF) by Cllr Eddie Mulligan Waterford City East**

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**1. Introduction**

I am delighted to see the draft NPF recognises that a stronger Waterford City will lead the recovery for the South East! Whilst many of my recommendations from my submission dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 are incorporated, I am disappointed in some of the omissions and the non commitment through vocabulary used to some of Waterford's infrastructural future needs.

**2. Planned Land Use & Transportation Study**

There is no reference to building the critical mass in Waterford City as defined in the Planning Land Use & Transportation Study (PLUTS) Report adapted by Waterford Council. If this study needs updating, it needs to be stated. I welcome the support of a pedestrian bridge linking the South side of the City to the North side but the omission of a second vehicular river crossing on the Eastern side of the City to plan for the city centre housing, retail, office space, education requirements and the supporting cultural, commercial and leisure activities expansion has to be reviewed if we wish to grow the City's population toward 100,000.

**3. Road Infrastructure**

The statement that improved road links to other Regional Cities including Cork and Limerick is welcomed.

**4. Boundary Committee Report**

The neglect of the NPF to emphasise the priority need for a local government/administration review with a solution needs to be addressed. An administration solution is needed as a priority from a Regional perspective to ensure Waterford City can expand to the North which benefit all citizens of the South East. This will enable the region's biggest urban area to maximise its potential as an economic driver and Gateway City.

**5. Waterford Airport & Future Airport of the South East**

Waterford Airport is a challenge that restricts the International development of Region as a Gateway to Europe. I am disappointed that despite my previous submission that commitment to the development of a Regional Airport in the area is not seen as a priority!

I am also disappointed that there is no reference to Waterford Airport in the section dealing with Waterford specifically or under Section 7, 'Working with our Neighbour' where a regional Airport is vital for Waterford City to achieve its full potential as the Regional Capital or as a Gateway to Europe! The document talks about how investment in airports is crucial for overall International Competiveness and high interaction it mentions no specific investment for Waterford Airport whilst it specifically states investment for access routes to Dublin, Cork and Limerick Airports in addition to sustainable growth for Galway Airport. Although stating that Cities should have airports, it states that Waterford Airport serves as a Regional Airport but unacceptably omits any indication of investment needs.

## **6. Third Level Education and University of the South East**

The use of non committal vocabulary and wording on the need for a regional University in the South East is disappointing! For example the wording of '...an Institute of Technology, with proposals to form part of a Technological University' gives no credible endorsement to the necessity of a Technological University of the South East despite my submission outlining the increasing need to support local industries into the future!

I again have to emphasise the wording I used in my previous submission

*'...The process of upgrading the merged WIT and Carlow Institute of Technology (CIT) to a Technological University of the South East is underway with a sense of lethargy, political unwillingness and non progress that is unacceptable. Waterford has traditionally been a workforce engaged in manufacturing and encouragement of a higher uptake of 3<sup>rd</sup> level education in the Region is vital. Investment in a University of the South East will help stop the 'brain drain' and ensure that the high level of unemployment within the under 25s is tackled....'*

## **7. Broadband Rollout vital for a smart & efficient Workforce of the Future**

I am disappointed that disappoint my submission that the NPF draft fails to recognise in the Key Growth Enablers for Waterford the necessity of a priority High speed broadband roll-out.

## **8. Public Transport**

I am disappointed that the draft NPF fails to recognise the importance into the future of the Waterford City Public Transport links from the City to the other Cities of the South, namely Cork and Limerick. The importance of maintaining and improving the efficiency of the Waterford to Limerick rail link in particular must be recognised in addition to the current failings of the City's public transport system and it's need for investment as the population of the City improves.

## **9. Healthcare**

Whilst the NPF acknowledges the need for Healthy Communities and talks about it in depth, I am disappointed that the Health Services Network infrastructure needs into the future are not dealt with to any aspirational minimum infrastructure to support the Communities as envisaged growing, other than stating 'Acute Hospital, A&E & Maternity' for Cities. Health in the NPF should have a stronger planning focus from a National and Regional infrastructural aspect!

## **10. Key Growth Enablers for Waterford**

1. All are welcomed with the following observations.
2. The Planning Land Use and Transportation Study adopted by Waterford Council needs to be reviewed and given weight and credence by the NPF.
3. A vehicular bridge for the East side of Waterford City must be considered an additional necessity and priority for Waterford into the future, by the NPF.
4. East West improved public transport connectivity must be a priority on a National scale in addition to the road infrastructure recognised.
5. The local Governance and administrative requirements of Waterford City expanding into South Kilkenny must be addressed as a priority.
6. Waterford Airport runway extension needs to be a part of ensuring the South East plans for sustainable and viable International travel for the citizens of the South East and is driven forward as a Gateway to Europe in the aftermath of Brexit.
7. Developing a bespoke human resource capital for the South East with Waterford City as the economic hub and provider, the recognition of the requirement of a Regional Technological University is vital. The presence of a strong University is a necessity for any core City and Regional development and must be delivered as a priority over localised educational politics.
8. The roll out of high speed broadband in Waterford must be recognised as a priority. This can ensure that we can deliver private investment from the City as a hub right out into the towns, villages and rural communities through better information technology connection ensuring the communities have a potential viable economic future through a smarter and more efficient

available workforce.

Submitted for Consideration

Eddie

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**From:** Councillor Eddie Mulligan

**Sent:** 31 March 2017 11:31

**To:** 'npf@housing.gov.ie'

**Cc:** Eddie Mulligan

**Subject:** Submission by Cllr Eddie Mulligan for National Planning Framework

Minister,

Attached please find my submission for the National Planning Framework Draft, for your consideration.

I would appreciate an acknowledgement.

Regards

Eddie

Cllr Eddie Mulligan, Fianna Fáil

*Working for Waterford*

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