

National Planning Framework Stage 2

Submission by James Browne TD

General Observations

- In my view, the predicted population growth of 16-25% is too small. Wexford's growth as a commuter county signals a rise in the numbers of people living and working in the county. I request a revision of this prediction.
- The prediction that 30% of growth will arise from brown-field sites is too large. While this is positive projection, there is an insufficient number of brown-field sites to provide such growth.

Road Network and Infrastructure

- Rosslare Europort needs to be developed as key element of regional and national infrastructure.
- There is a need to maintain, upgrade and improve access routes to the Europort, including road and rail routes.
- The National Ports Policy (NPP) should be updated to promote Rosslare Europort as a Tier One port.
- The Dublin to Rosslare railway line should be upgraded from comprehensive to core status within the E.U.'s TEN-T transport policy.
- Irish Rail should reopen the rail line between Belview Port and Rosslare Europort. This is of particular importance for freight transport. With this line reopened, it will reconnect Rosslare Europort to the national rail network. Once reopened, goods could be transported from the west of the country to Rosslare Europort, providing direct access to continental Europe.

Rural Housing

- The economic needs requirement for rural housing is too constrained. The unique social and cultural needs of Ireland gives rise for the need for an expanded definition of who may apply for planning permission in the countryside. Otherwise, young people could be discriminated from building a permanent home in rural County Wexford.

Third Level Education

- Priority should be afforded to the Technical University for the South-East. It is pivotal that this project includes a substantial Wexford campus presence to curb the effects of a 'brain drain'.
- Third-Level Education is pivotal for the south-east's economic development. Without a university, the region is lagging behind other regions across the country.

Mental Health

- Given regional population growth, there is a need for an inpatient CAMHS unit in Wexford to serve the south-east of the country.
- There is a major issue with the lack of mental health services for Wexford and the south-east.

Towns

- With widespread demographic changes, County Wexford's towns, including Enniscorthy, Wexford, New Ross and Gorey require a comprehensive plan for future development.
- All towns in County Wexford require upgraded Primary Care Centres.