

Frank O'Rourke T.D. Kildare North

Submission to the National Planning Framework 2017

I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the National Planning Framework and hope that it will deliver on its recommendations, which are much needed.

However, I would like to emphasise the importance of continued support and progression of the existing Plans, ahead of further Development Plans. It is important that the existing development plans are successfully initiated before factoring in future plans.

I outline below, a few points I would like to contribute:

Public Consultation Process. Submissions to, for example, Local Area Plans, can require extensive time and work on behalf of the applicant, who then feel somewhat disheartened when their efforts are rejected, which happens frequently.

Infrastructure. I would welcome the promised funding on infrastructure being delivered to support existing Development Plans for towns, such as those in my own constituency of Kildare North – Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth, Clane, Kilcock and Naas. All of these towns are at capacity and experience traffic gridlock.

In order to ease the traffic congestion, additional bridges are required for Celbridge, Leixlip and Clane and Ring Roads are necessary for both Maynooth and Naas.

Public Transport. Major investment is required in Kildare North to improve both train and bus services, in terms of capacity and frequency. Trains serving Celbridge, Kilcock and Naas are at full capacity. Bus services, particularly on routes 66, 67, 115 and 120 are also at full capacity. Commuter towns such as these require a major overhaul of public transport to serve the requirements of growing populations.

Broadband. Effective roll out of The National Broadband Plan is urgently required in Kildare North, in terms of local businesses, people working from home, and the large student population.

Regional Development. Balance is also required for the development of towns and areas outside Dublin e.g. East Coast, West Coast, North West etc. There are a number of counties where nothing or very little is happening. For these to develop properly the following needs to be a priority:

Plan for Outer Ring Road linking up the M7 and M4 for example. Upgrade N2, N3, N4, N5 etc. to develop the areas to bring FDI, Jobs, Improve Tourism and much more.

Many thanks again for the opportunity to contribute to the National Planning Framework.

Yours sincerely,



Frank O'Rourke T.D.