

Eoin Murphy TD,
Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin
D01 W6X0
8th November 2017

Re: Submission on *Ireland 2040 Our Plan - National Planning Framework*

Kerry County Council welcomes the publication of the Draft National Planning Framework and the emphasis on regional development as a roadway for balanced development throughout the country. The Draft National Planning Framework while respecting the needs of the Dublin Region to continue to grow also reflects a fundamental understanding that current growth patterns will if allowed continue create huge disparities in regional development and inhibit overall national growth as a result of underperforming regions not reaching their full potential.

In this context the Kerry submission to the National Planning Framework reflected the importance of Kerry in driving regional development, both in the context of its functional and economic links with Limerick and Cork and in the context of the internal economic core of the County encompassed by Tralee, Killarney & Killorglin acting as a regional driver for the wider dispersed geographical area.

The Economic strengths of the County in Tourism, Fin-tech and Agri-tech have the potential to impact on a transformative scale on the regions economic development.

Population Growth Targets for Larger Towns



In this regard Kerry County Council would strongly argue that population growth targets of 40% be assigned to the towns of Tralee & Killarney that have similar important strategic functions in the region as the towns identified in the North West Regional Assembly Area. On an objective basis this population growth should apply to large towns outside a 75km/1hr commute from Dublin and the four designated regional cities identified in the Draft NPF.

The interdependent relationship between the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Tri-angle and Cork and Limerick.

Kerry through its geographical location has strong economic, educational, cultural and access links to both Limerick (Mid-West) and Cork (South West), and this has been evident through Kerry's association with Limerick and Cork at various times through regional planning, tourism and economic development bodies.

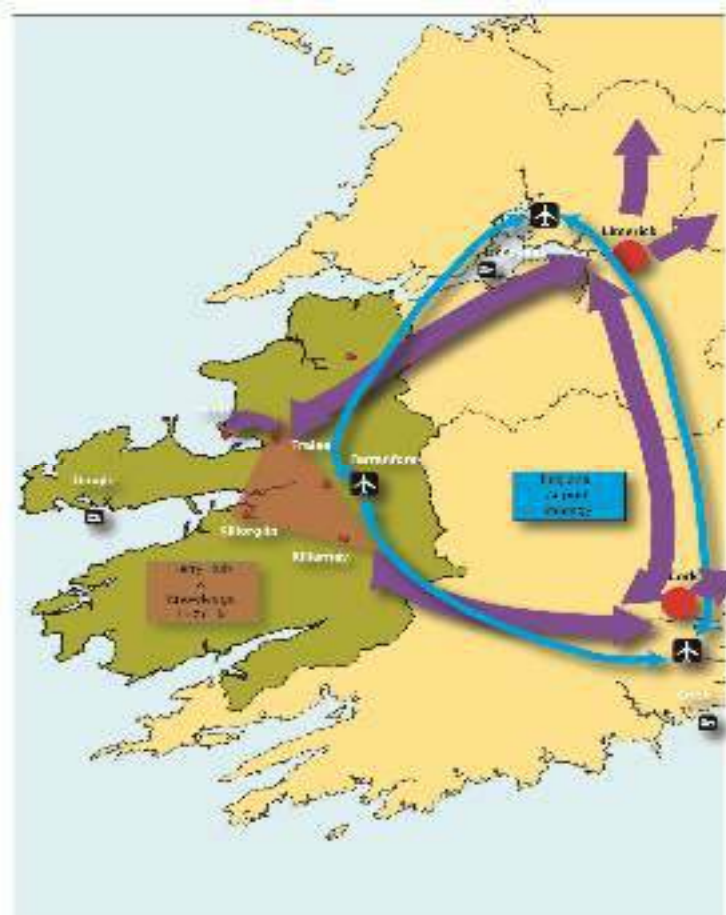
Kerry has a **strong internal economic core** comprising off the linked hub towns of Tralee, Killarney and by extension Killorglin forming a knowledge tri-angle. Policies and investment linking this region with the two adjacent city regions of Limerick and Cork can lead to the economic and spatial growth of this region offering a critical mass and viable

alternative to the current unsustainable model where national economic growth is largely dependent on the success of the Dublin region.

Improved international and inter-regional access to the region via air, rail, sea and road is a central component of future success. Equally, only with high quality mobility and connectivity within the region can the Southern Region market itself with the confidence of operating as a cohesive entity and scale of economic activity that can establish it as a true regional counterbalance to the wider Dublin area. This improved connectivity through physical infrastructure, regional air strategy, intellectual alliances, industry clusters, and the growth of FDI/indigenous industrial partnerships will facilitate the Region in reaching its full potential.

Support and targeted investment in key infrastructure will therefore be essential to ensure the sustainable growth of the Southern region as a counter balance to Dublin.

Strategic Access to and within the Region.



International access through Shannon and Cork supported by Kerry Airport, Universities and institutes of technology throughout the region, port access through Cork, Limerick, Foynes and Fenit, the tourism links strengthened around the Wild Atlantic Way and the strategic link to Clare via the Tarbert Ferry are all key regional links to and within the South & Mid-West.

The attached map (left) identifies the key priority access routes to and within the region. This clearly illustrates the significance of both Cork and Limerick to the regional growth of Kerry.

Similarly these key access routes are also highly significant for the future growth of the Limerick and Cork City regions.

The Kerry hub and Knowledge Tri-angle - Cork - Limerick through targeted investment in key infrastructure.

Critical Mass

The Kerry Hub of Tralee and Killarney has an existing combined population of 77,554 (2016 CSO figures which indicate a 2.4% increase on 2011 census) and with additional support is well positioned to grow its population/labour pool to a critical mass that is attractive to employers. Investment in targeting employment to the HUB area will create a natural increase in economic activity that will grow this critical mass, enhance the

associated rural areas and contribute to effective development of the designated city regions under the NPF of Limerick and Cork.

Strategic Opportunities.

The Kerry hub and Knowledge Tri-angle – Limerick corridor transverses the Shannon Estuary. The estuary presents significant opportunities for future sustainable economic development and employment growth. The estuary features 500km² of navigable water running from Kerry Head and Loop Head as far as Limerick City, a distance of 100km and it is one of the premier deep-water locations in Europe. The Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) [an interagency land and marine based plan for the future development and management of the marine-related industry and tourism along the estuary] has been prepared and, coupled with key infrastructure offers an unrivalled opportunity for future regional economic growth.

Education – Research & Development.

Kerry County Council, IT Tralee, Higher education and Industry leaders including Fexco are developing proposals to create a Knowledge Cluster (Centre of Excellence) and Service Design Innovation Hub (I-Hub) between Tralee, Killarney and Killorglin focusing on Research & Development, Innovation and Product Prototyping in the areas of Fin-Tech and Smart-Agri. The I-Hub will develop strategic partnerships of a regional, national and international significance. The establishment and growth of out-reach third level research centres in the natural environment offers a regional and national resource and a significant contribution to the established third level institutions in Limerick and Cork

Quality of Life, Place-making Cost-Effective Location.

The Kerry hub and knowledge tri-angle is set within an attractive natural environment consisting of mountains, lakes and sea which offer real benefit in terms of quality of life to future employers and employees.

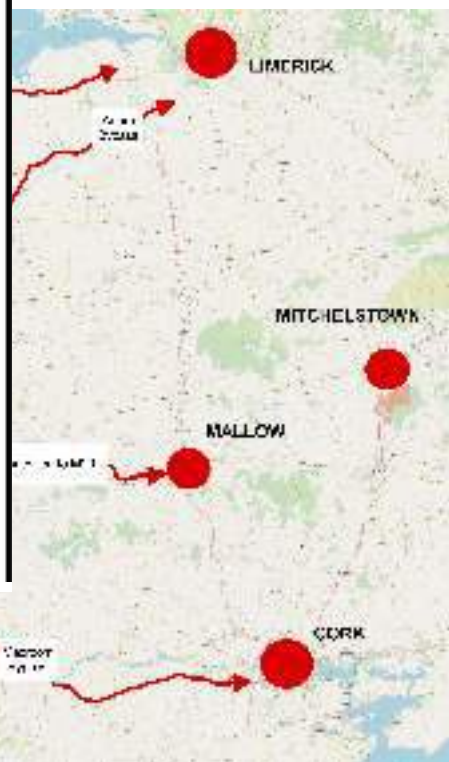
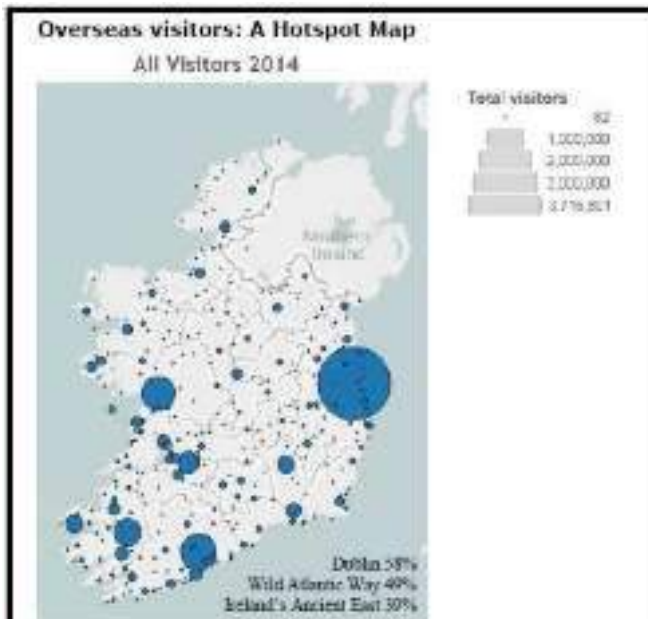
The development of Greenways within the county as part of a regional Western Greenway Strategy will bring added benefit to the region and significantly impact on tourism in the wider region. The cultural richness of the county, its heritage, range of recreational activity and the strength and value of community that exists offers an exceptional quality of life. Through targeted investment in infrastructure, the Kerry Hub and Knowledge tri-angle can offer an attractive place to reside whilst working in one of the two designated city regions of Limerick or Cork.

Tourism.

The Kerry hub and knowledge tri-angle offers a very strong international tourism product with potential to grow further east into the region in a sustainable way. Within the tourism sector Killarney has a significance in tourism and marketability that is both recognisable in the National and International arena and contributes to wide regional economy.

Killarney provides a major regional anchor for the industry with extensive tourism accommodation second only to Dublin in the state. The international reputation of the County and its global appeal in respect of place names such as Killarney, Dingle, Skellig, Listowel Writers, Rose of Tralee, Puck Fair and others position the county as a regional and national centre for tourism. This drives a regional economy throughout an extended tourist season and has the potential with growth in business tourism to provide a regional

base for a growing conference sector which can influence and positively impact on the wider Limerick and Cork city regions.



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The above map identifies the critical access routes and key pieces of infrastructure requiring investment, to allow the Kerry hub and knowledge tri-angle to augment and support the targeted growth of the Limerick and Cork city regions.

These include:-

- The N21 national road from Tralee to Limerick including in particular the completion of the Adare by-pass.
- The N22 Cork to Kerry, route, via Macroom and Ballyvourney, including in particular, the completion of the Macroom by-pass
- The construction of the Killarney By-Pass, which carries 18,900 vehicles daily and where junctions are at capacity – critical to county growth
- The construction of the N69 Listowel by-pass, to provide improved access to Foynes and Limerick. *(The CPO and EIS for this Scheme was published in May 2017 and the decision of An Bord Pleanála is awaited).*
- Proposed M20 linking the two designated cities via Mallow - Mitchelstown with a link to the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Tri-angle. Kerry linkage to the metropolitan loop.
- Investment in Killarney-Tralee-Fenit route corridor and in particular the R558 (Tralee – Fenit road) and the extension of the Tralee Northern relief road, to support the growth in indigenous industries in the Kerry Hub, as indicated on the attached map.
- Expansion of Fenit Port to support the growth in indigenous industries in the Kerry Hub.
- Dingle Inner Relief Road Phase 4 - Tourism growth & Housing
- Development of the Greenway Network. South Kerry – North Kerry and Tralee - Fenit
- Water & wastewater infrastructure to support development plans for the county. Lough Guittane Water upgrade (Kerry Central Regional Water Supply Scheme)
- Growth of the Third level sector in the county (Munster Technological University) – ITT growth central to the County
- Development of Kerry Airport – better co-operation and cohesion along WAW
- The development of the Ballylongford landbank – Shannon Foynes Integrated Plan
- Development of Broadband in the County.

As stated in the outset Kerry County Council welcomes the focus on enhanced regional development contained in the draft National Planning Framework. While accepting the key role that is identified for the four regional growth cities Kerry County Council wishes to highlight the following;

The effectiveness of these regional drivers will only be fully realised with effective investment in infrastructural and economic linkages to the wider regional catchments. The growth targets for Large Towns as identified in the Draft NPF should have growth targets of mirroring those of the North West Regional Assembly Area if they are located

more than 75km and 1Hr commute from Dublin or the four identified regional city drivers. In the case of Kerry this would include both Tralee and Killarney. Given the experience of the lack of coherence between population growth targets in the National Spatial Strategy and the resulting actual population increases in the designated gateways and hubs the National Planning Framework and the National Investment Plan must be specific in relation to the policies and investments that will enable targeted growth be achieved.

I trust that you will consider the issues raised above which I believe are critical if the NPF is to achieve on its promise and have a transformative impact on regional development allow the county as a whole reach its full economic and social potential.

Yours faithfully,

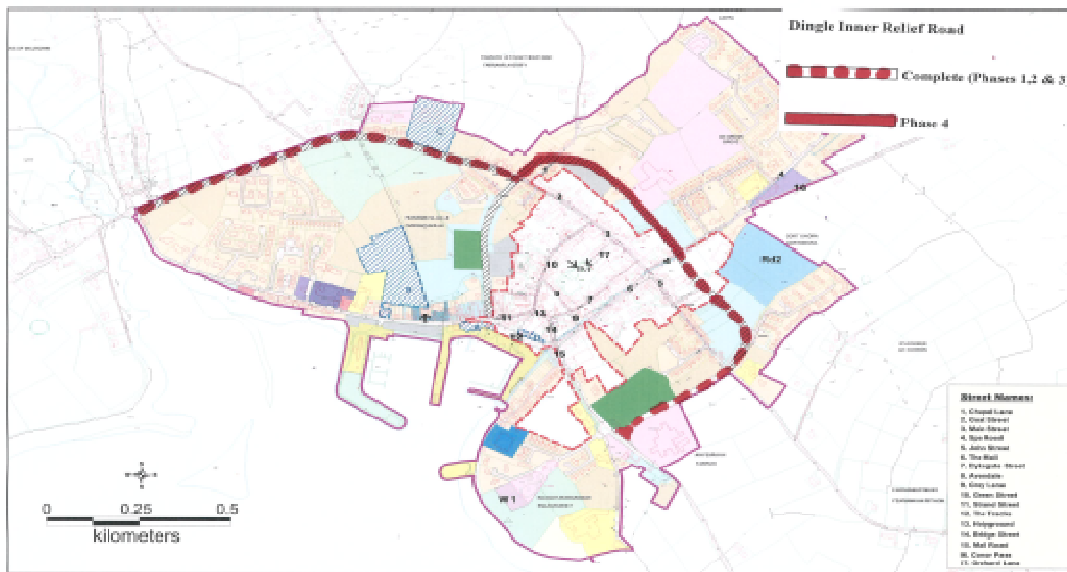


Ms. Moira Murrell

Chief Executive Kerry County Council

Príomh-Fheidhmeannach Chomhairle Contae Chiarraí

Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act/Oifigeach Ainmnithe de réir Acht um Brústocaireacht a Rialáil



Dingleon Uí Chóis Map 26
Land Use Zoning
June 2012

Proposed Residential Public Use Business/Professional Medium Open Space Car Park Community Area Industrial Centre of an Industrial Area Street
 Existing Residential Public Library/ Recreation Health/Community/ Public Services Medium Open Space Industry Commercial Town Centre
 Mixed Use Public/Community/ Institutional/Community Rural Housing Water Space Framework Light Industry Pedestrian Access
 Community Area Industrial Centre of an Industrial Area Street Town Centre Pedestrian Access Town Boundary

