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**Ireland  
2040  
Our Plan**



NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

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Report on

# PRELIMINARY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

National Planning Framework





**This report has been prepared by the National Planning Framework (NPF) Unit  
with the assistance of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC)**

**August 2016**



**An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,  
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil**  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
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# Ireland 2040 Our Plan



NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK



National Planning Framework will be the long-term, 20 year strategy for the spatial development of Ireland that will promote **a better quality of life for all**, with sustainable economic growth and an environment of the highest quality as key underlying principles. The NPF will influence regional strategies and county development plans as it will be the **central planning policy document for Ireland** and through this it will provide a clear vision to **guide future development and investment decisions**.



‘Towards a National Planning Framework - A Roadmap for the Delivery of the National Planning Framework 2016’.

December 2015

# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to report on the National Planning Framework preliminary key stakeholder consultation events held in June 2016. A range of issues, opportunities and challenges were debated over the course of the events and consequently the findings of the consultation are presented in section 2 of this report. The report also indicates the next steps in advancing the preparation of the NPF (section 3).

## 1.2 Context

The National Planning Framework will be the longterm, **20 year strategy** for the spatial development of Ireland that will promote **a better quality of life for all**, with sustainable economic growth and an environment of the highest quality as key underlying principles. The NPF will influence regional strategies and county development plans as it will be the **central planning policy document** for Ireland and through this it will provide a clear vision to guide future development and investment decisions. The new National Planning Framework will be the successor to the National Spatial Strategy 2002 (NSS) **and will be known as the (NPF)**.

The National Planning Framework will be the strategy for the place Ireland will aim to be in terms of economic activity, social progress and environmental quality, through co-ordinated policy, investment and action at national, regional and local levels.

As a statement of the Government's objectives for Ireland's spatial development, the NPF will form the top tier of Ireland's planning policy hierarchy. It will build on the strengths of the former strategy while at the same time addressing newer challenges in relation to:

- **Economic circumstances and an integrated, evidence approach to economic research and demographic fore-casting.**
- **The new Regional Assembly structure and the need to optimise the potential of the regional assembly areas.**
- **The need for greater emphasis on environmental matters such as climate change and sustainability, as informed by European Union legislative requirements that have been introduced since the NSS was published.**

In terms of sectoral economic strategies that will inform the NPF, the Government's Medium Term Economic Strategy 2014-2020 'A Strategy for Growth' sets out the actions being taken to consolidate Ireland's economic recovery and drive wider employment growth and through improved economic conditions and social progress. This is further recognised in the Government's Enterprise 2025 Strategy, which identifies optimising regional potential – **place-making** as a key objective:

**“We will develop attractive places to invest, live and work throughout Ireland and to optimise the potential of our regions.”**

## 1.3 Spatial Planning Hierarchy

While the NPF will adopt a strategic approach to spatial development, it will also inform the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs), which are to be prepared by the three Regional Assemblies, comprising the Northern and Western Region, the Eastern and Midland Region and the Southern Region. Each Regional Assembly will develop its own RSEs. Recognising the large geographical area of the three assemblies, their overall strategy will be developed taking into account inputs from smaller sub-regional Strategic Planning Areas (SPAs) that relate to key economic catchments within each assembly area.

Together with the preparation of the three RSEs and the generally broadened the role of local government in the economic and community development spheres, the National Planning Framework is part of a three-tiered approach to strengthen the capacity of the Irish planning process to create opportunities for the optimal development of Ireland.

### The three tiers (or levels) comprise the following:

- **National Planning Framework** – higher level strategic plan led by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and informs the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy process.
- **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies** – Prepared by the three Regional Assemblies, taking into account the sub regional planning areas.
- **Local Authorities** will implement local policies and actions under their statutory City and County Development Plans and Local Economic and Community Plans.

## Planning Policy Hierarchy, Ireland



## 1.4 Stakeholder Consultation

Undertaking consultation is a critical step in the preparation and drafting of the NPF. Consultation must seek to prompt national debate in relation to the future spatial development of Ireland and in doing so create a shared sense of ownership to shape the delivery of our national spatial plan. The outcome of the consultation and engendering buy-in among stakeholders will be a critical factor in securing the successful implementation of the NPF over its 20 year implementation and delivery timeframe.

Initial consultation with key stakeholders was identified in the Department's publication 'Towards a National Planning Framework – A Roadmap for delivery of the National Planning Framework 2016', as being central to determining the key issues for consideration. Subsequently, as a first step in engaging with key stakeholders, a tailored consultation programme was prepared specifically for identified stakeholders in June 2016.

The consultation events were held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 and were designed to cater for key stakeholders who are involved in formulating and implementing national, regional and local policy, delivering services and generally representing the main sectors of Irish society and economy.

## 1.5 Stakeholders

Key stakeholders for this first series of consultation events were identified and categorised into the following sectors:

Local Government

Development Professionals

Economy and Infrastructure

Governance

Higher Education and Recreation

Management and Protection

Society and the Regions

Due to role of Local Government in preparing and implementing policy as well as being the closest and most accessible form of Government to people in their local community, the first day of consultation (June 9<sup>th</sup>) was dedicated to Local Authority attendees entirely. The second and third days of consultation were dedicated to the other representative sectors.

### 1.5.1 Attendance

152 representative agencies and bodies were invited with the number of invitees totalling 338 across the three days. Attendance varied over the three days with all 31 Local Authorities being fully represented. Total attendance over the three days was 210. For a full list of all invitees, refer to Appendix A.

## 1.6 Methodology

With assistance and input from the National Economic and Social Council (NESC), Dublin Institute of Technology's School of Spatial Planning and the Regional Assemblies, a methodology for consultation was established with the NPF Team.

### 1.6.1 Approach

Central to the consultation approach adopted was to ensure that the audience participation rate was high. In that respect, the majority of time during each of the consultation days was given to the invitees to allow for debate and discussion.

### Round Tables

The round table approach was adopted, an agenda agreed (refer to Appendix B) and six questions were put to the audience under the following three themes throughout the course of the day:

### Ambition

Strengths and Opportunities

### Drivers

Living and Working

### Game Changers

Infrastructure and Resources

Section 3 of this report presents the views of the attendees on each of the themes.

### 1.6.2 Plenary Session

Subsequent to each of the three themes being discussed at the round tables, a plenary session was held.

### 1.6.3 Attendee Exercise

On registering at the event, a secondary informative exercise was undertaken where all attendees were invited to share what places they consider to be a 'success' in Ireland – one for each of the following categories:

#### A Place to Live

#### A Place to Work

#### A Place to Visit

Attendees were also asked to list the reasons for the success of the places they chose. The purpose of this exercise was to demonstrate the variety and diversity of scale when people consider place as well as the high degree of subjectivity that is applicable to each of the responses. The results were compiled and presented to the audience in map format. Further information on the results of this exercise is presented in Appendix C.

### 1.6.4 Inputs

Additional supporting elements were identified to add value to the format of the consultation days as well as allowing for diverse and frank discussion to take place. These are listed below:

#### Facilitators

To enable a high participation rate, a facilitator was present to brief the audience on the format of the day, to guide and advise and to facilitate the plenary session that ensued after each theme (refer to Appendix D).

#### Rapporteurs

A Rapporteur was pre-assigned to each of the tables and was tasked with recording the discussion and issuing feedback. The three Regional Assemblies, the National Economic and Social Council as well as the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government provided staff.

#### Expert Panel

In addition, an expert panel (refer to Appendix D) was also in place for the duration of each day and during the plenary session. The panel comprised of a minimum of two experts per session representing the economy, rural, infrastructure, planning, legislation and governance and society.

#### Spatial Mapping

The All Island Research Observatory (AIRO) is a research and consultancy unit based at NIRSA in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth specialising in socio-demographic analysis, spatial analysis (GIS), spatial planning and data analytics.

Over the course of the three consultation days, AIRO collated the attendees' selections on the topic of 'place' and mapped the responses which were presented during the feedback session (Refer to Appendix C for the results).

## 2.0 Consultation Findings

Ahead of setting out the views from the consultation under the three themes of **Ambition, Drivers and Game Changers**, a separate theme that was not pre-defined for attendees emerged organically from the audience – the **'Sphere of Influence'** of the NPF.

**This section sets out the views and opinions of attendees as presented over the three days under four themes of 'Influence', 'Ambition', 'Drivers' and 'Game Changers'.**

### 2.1 Sphere of Influence

As already set out in sections 1.1 and 1.2, the role of the NPF is multifaceted and in this context, attendees at the consultation events expressed a number of views set out below reflecting the potential role, capacity and reach of the document.

Listed within this section in each of the following tables are the responses of the attendees with respect to how the document could be and should be regarded under the following four categories:



## STATUTORY

- Underpinning the NPFs capacity to have an effective impact is the enactment of the **Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016**. Securing a statutory footing for the NPF is central to firmly positioning the framework as the most central piece of coordinated government policy for Ireland.

## COORDINATIVE

- **The NPF as a coordinative document**, to reflect and activate a range of national strategies and actions.
- The challenge for the NPF is how **prescriptive** it can be – whether or not it can identify strengths in a framework and leave the detail to regional level.
- Set out a vision for what sort of country Ireland needs to be and to clearly identify within the NPF **what is wanted and what is not wanted**.
- A history of **failure to implement** plans in Ireland and a sense of fatigue associated with that failure.
- Establish a unified bureaucracy that shares the **same priorities**.
- Success will depend on **major urban areas**, without these, the resources will not be available for other areas.
- **Regions** need to be provided with the appropriate infrastructure that will enable them to take advantage of their strengths and also external opportunities.
- The scale of what is being planned for could range from **an additional 600,000** people or an additional 2.5 million people over a longer period.

## COMMUNICATIVE

- The NPF can provide a **shared narrative** to bring all of the stakeholders together.
- The NPF can support a vision at the local level. **Crisis can be the catalyst** for change but the response needs leadership, planning and vision.
- **Playing to strengths** is a good term to use for NPF as it's not about growth – but achieving potential – avoids the cherry picking that undermined the NSS.
- Make **tough choices** otherwise the document is meaningless.
- National and local planning policies tend to be too universal or generic and as such they **don't really engage** with the needs and strengths of local communities.
- **Strategic uncertainty** due to period of rapid change, the greater complexity of planning and the deep uncertainty about outcomes.
- **Details and Implications** – Technical details need to be presented such as demographics, scenarios, Employment/sectors etc.



## POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

- **Balanced regional development** requires Government commitment. The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) reflected a paper commitment to balanced regional development and subsequent policies and objectives did not follow through.
- Need a strategy that embeds and promotes a national focus on **quality of life** and for live-work places but acknowledge that moving to cities is a fact of life.
- **Prevent developer-led** pattern of development.
- The NPF should **incentivise collaboration**.
- Explore what the future scenario will be – is the NPF planning for an **overall population** of 6 million or 10 million?
- Fostering **place-based** strategies in the NPF that can **influence the spatial distribution** of economic activity and also settlement patterns.
- Realign the drafting time to allow for the full suite of **Census 2016** data to be factored into a draft document.
- Planning in an **All Island** context.
- **Review of governance and institutional operations** at local level to bring out latent opportunities.
- **Create** sustainable communities.
- **Align** spending with the policies of the NPF.
- Tackle **institutional culture** within Local Authorities.
- NPF can **recapture the value** of infrastructure and could consider some of the principles (site tax) with legislation etc. to follow.

## 2.2 Ambitions and Strengths

Under the theme of Ambition and Strengths, each of the round tables was asked to respond to two questions which are set out below:

The National Planning Framework will be a long term national plan for Ireland as a whole. Current discussion tends to focus on ‘urban v rural’ or ‘Dublin v the rest’ and ‘balanced regional development’ may be interpreted in different ways... in this context:

**How do we ensure that every place can play to its strengths?**

**How do we ensure that opportunities are realised?**

The responses and views of the attendees relating to Ambitions and Strengths are separated into the following three categories, with the contributions from the attendees further listed in the subsequent tables.



## FRAMEWORK TO IDENTIFY

- Can the NPF **capture the local level auditing and assessments** that are undertaken through other processes, such as the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs)? The example of the methodology included in **Semper in Cork/EPA Strive project** was mentioned as a best practice approach that could be used. Lack of community cohesion and engagement were cited as some of the reasons for why monitoring and assessment projects at a local level do not succeed.
- Focusing on comparators such as average house prices in a county or region may not be indicators of anything other than identifying the supply and prices of houses within a thirty minute commute of city or town. This is **now relevant** as it relates to commuting patterns.
- If the identified strengths of a place are to be used as the **basis for investment** then everyone claims they have it, evaluation becomes difficult.
- Need a consensus on strengths nationally and **not have a parochial approach**.
- Ask communities what they want. How do you see your town in ten years' time? What does it need? **Ask people what they don't want as well**. The example of **The Wheel** was given as an existing hub for community engagement and discussion.
- Tie in the National Planning Framework to budgets and ensure it is properly costed.
- If there are areas **not suitable for Foreign Direct Investment** then the NPF needs to recognise this
- Most sectors are likely to be stable (agriculture, manufacturing and construction). New opportunities are microlevel enterprise which **exploits place and human capital** e.g. food and tourism and these are mainly female entrepreneurs.
- **Maintaining population** – this is also linked to education and the wider role of third level education.
- **Socially inclusive** – this is a key message in attracting people from outside Ireland.

**“Aspirations  
are great  
if they are  
free”**

**“In some  
centres, start with  
economic, in other  
centres, start  
with social”**

**“Balance  
not  
uniformity”**

## TAILORED FIT AND COLLABORATION

- **Prioritise growth centres** and **make interventions** to ensure that communities beyond these **are resilient** (in education and other supports)
- Need an urban hierarchy – the **issue of 40% economic activity in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA)** needs to be grappled with.
- Dublin **plus five main urban centres** and corridors between them.
- **Densify Dublin** in planned way or maintain business as usual and watch as areas like Balbriggan and Drogheda expand in an unplanned way.
- Competing (or overlapping?) sets of infrastructure needs.
- Dublin which has its own dynamic.
- **Connectivity between** population centres.
- **Empower local communities** and their infrastructure needs.
- **Enable planners** to be more developmental - one of the barriers is the litigious nature of the planning system but this can be addressed and another issue is **how well resourced and supported planners can be**.
- Collaboration at the appropriate levels and across existing administrative boundaries is important in playing to ones strengths. The Cork Area Strategic Plan (**CASP**) involved collaboration between Cork City and Cork County Councils while more recently **the REDZ pilots have involved cooperation** between Cork and Limerick Councils and this is a new development.
- **Each region has to have its own character and advantages set out**. Make sectoral clusters and **make overt connection between jobs and spatial policy**. Need diversity as risk of reliance on one company or sector.
- **Rural areas that do well usually collaborate** – e.g. Ballyhoura, Connemara where the focus is on creating a ‘bigger pie’. In these instances leadership becomes key, this can be learned and is usually diffuse and dynamic.
- There was a view that if people have **strong sense of community**, it influences how they behave and act.
- Engagement with the community is key as this can **mobilise people and harness capabilities and capacities**.

## MOBILISING LOCAL/ GRASSROOTS

- Identifying and acknowledging the **community as the nucleus** of any place.
- Small investment can **mobilise the local** – the example of the Wild Atlantic Way was given.
- The idea of places and assets **without** boundaries.
- Querying whether the system of regional and county plans built from bottom-up is **fit for purpose?**
- Review regional structures – can we go national to local with some intermediary?
- Lots of cooperation exists at an informal level and there is evidence that some towns will work together. REDZ will help to provide evidence that **people are willing** to work together.
- Need strong city and council managers and leadership. When local innovation sparks, need it to be supported and captured so it can succeed. **Plan for that potential** rather than be reactive to crises.
- Local leadership has to emerge and it can be **challenging to generate**. SEAI projects mentioned as a good example.
- Question around what ‘lagging’ regions need and what is needed to **enhance ‘local’**.
- Rural embodies a more **entrepreneurial approach** and can represent the drive to support entrepreneurship.
- Scrutinise **what has happened in Westport** to understand it better as that is not being captured in the system.
- **Community Futures** in Mayo was highlighted as good example of how local communities can be actively engaged in formulating policies designed to facilitate development in their areas.

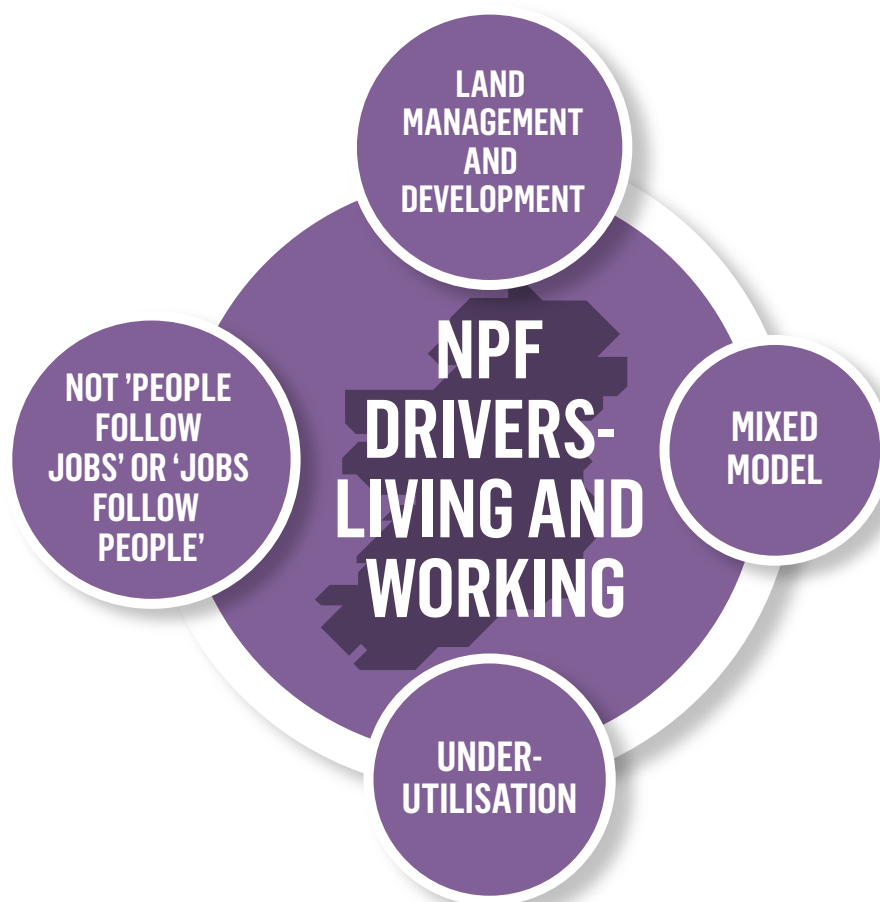
## 2.3 Drivers – Living and Working

Under the theme of 'Drivers', each of the round tables was asked to respond to two questions which are set out below:

“Current projections indicate that there will be approximately 600,000 additional people in Ireland over the next 20 years and that the proportion of older people will increase significantly... bearing this in mind:-

**Where will we live?**

**Where will jobs of the future be?**



## LAND MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Knowledge transfer:** how to create knowledge transfer about what worked/ is working?
- Need central driving agency – e.g. **the Docklands Authority** created transformation.
- ‘Do’ the **Kenny report**.
- Create the option of **buying a serviced site in urban areas** and build the house you want: encourage but at higher density.
- Build in flexibility to allow for **high density delivery** at a later stage.
- Need to look at cities as functioning urban areas (OECD) – how to take Galway, Limerick and Waterford and make them **proper functioning cities** - Leipzig Charter is helpful.
- Case study: Cork east, **Middleton project** was given as a good example.

## MIXED MODEL

- If Navan works, then **complete the loop** (connect it into the centre via rapid public transport).
- Feminisation of the workplace: key change as the **choice of workplace is more often a joint one** and influenced by the services needed for two people working (childcare).
- Choice about where people can live is limited because of **affordability** issues.
- Focus on life-cycle and transition (and cost of transition) to **different house types over time** – flexibility of building use.
- Tangible **shift to renting** will continue and that this will be an integral part of Ireland’s housing system.
- **Mismatch between supply and demand** for housing and care for older people. Older people need access to services – transport, healthcare, social amenities. Need to be in settlements, not isolated one off housing.
- Avoid the creation of **ghettos**.
- “**Vancouver** had a vision of a green city which has transformed the urban centre and surrounding neighbourhoods. They had a clear objective and went for it – involved both hard and soft policies – harnessed local capabilities – there is potential to do this in Ireland in towns and cities but it needs a vision and real leadership”.

“Radical  
new approach  
needed;  
re-imagining  
urban”

“More urban  
and dense is  
more  
efficient”

“Conservation  
not always a  
constraint  
but it some-  
time is”

## UNDERUTILISED SERVICES

- **Maximising the benefits** of previous investment in transport infrastructure requires a coherent and consistent approach to land use planning rather than allowing local development that can undermine the potential of previous investment.
- Re-evaluate our suburban areas, use assets optimally and **densify those areas** because services are already there.
- **Vacant space** needs to be better utilised in towns and cities.
- Guidelines on one-off housing undermined NSS but key may be to **make urban more attractive**.
- NPF should take a **stronger stance on 'one off' housing** which is not sustainable. There should almost be a presumption in development plans in favour of development within existing spatial settlements.
- What is the role of smaller towns and how do they work? Need to understand what could be done to keep them alive.
- Require **incentives** to live in town centres.
- **Towns being hollowed out/dying** – is it a planning failure? People's lifestyle choices impact too. Discount supermarkets should locate in the centre.
- Keeping older people integrated into communities: introduce **downsizing incentives**.

## NOT “PEOPLE FOLLOW JOBS” OR “JOBS FOLLOW PEOPLE”

- Jobs will follow well educated people but places need **critical mass**.
- Need to tease out **different types** of employment – small Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to smaller towns e.g. engineering.
- Scale critical but can be **multi-scale** meaning scale needed for different sectors as companies vary.
- Goods and services follows population – importance of retail: the **foundational economy** as deeply mismanaged in Ireland: Retail employment – key issue also is where will we shop: RGDATA
- Importance of the **marine and Gaeltacht** (and of ‘Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth’): importance of export rich and employment rich options.
- **Competitiveness will determine where jobs will be**, therefore Dublin for FDI; other areas SMEs, agriculture and marine.
- **Density of employment** impacted by practises such as hot desks.
- Trend of **big companies locating on periphery** of big urban areas.
- Tendency of companies to locate near higher education
- Technology/broadband (and working from home) as just one factor in location decision and working patterns.
- **Evolution of workplace** as online and remote working.
- ICT based sectors and knowledge intensive employment will be attracted to places that provide a high quality of life (culture; social infrastructure; city vibe) as these are the locations that the workforce for such employment will be attracted to (**element of agglomeration but also social dimension**).
- Consequence of investment in broadband can be **divestment example** of banking leading to jobs being consolidated in Dublin.

**Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a small part of the story**

**“Research shows how spending in locally owned shops provides a greater level of benefit for the local community”**

**The link between places and work is uncertain**

## 2.4 Game Changers

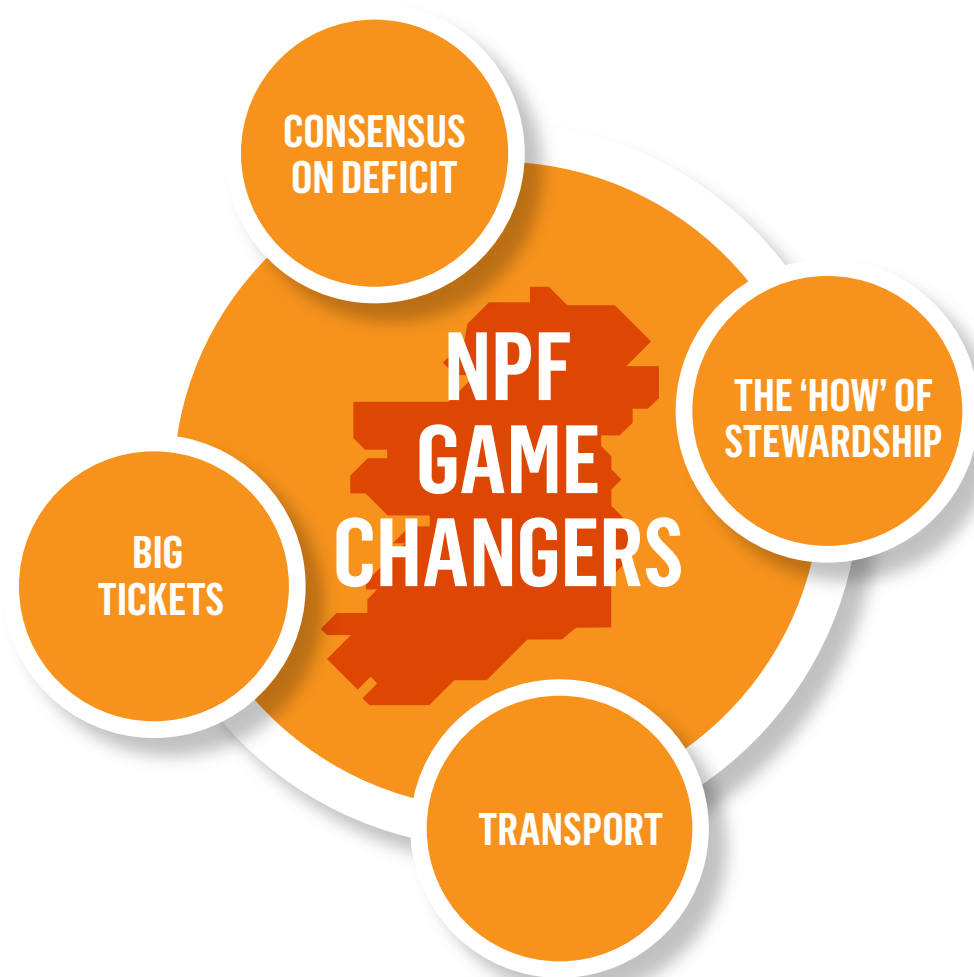
Under the theme of 'Drivers', each of the round tables was asked to respond to two questions which are set out below:

For Ireland to develop sustainably, it's important to identify infrastructure projects that can make a difference and to align infrastructural investment with land use planning and environmental strategies. In this regard:

**What infrastructure is needed?**

**How will we ensure effective stewardship of finite resources?**

The responses and views of the attendees relating to Ambitions and Strengths are separated into the following four categories, with the contributions from the attendees further listed in the subsequent tables:



## CONSENSUS ON DEFICIT

- Widespread Agreement there is an **Infrastructural Deficit** and it is a recurring theme
- The latest world competitiveness reports supports the 'deficit view' [IMD 2016: Ireland is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> overall but **40<sup>th</sup> for basic infrastructure**, 19<sup>th</sup> for technological infrastructure, 21<sup>st</sup> for scientific infrastructure, 13<sup>th</sup> for health and environment and 18<sup>th</sup> for education].
- Infrastructure as **too start-stop** and the lack of long-term strategy.
- Improving connectivity (major roads) about allowing goods and services to flow more easily not to facilitate local commuting patterns or suburban sprawl. Should be designed **to facilitate a more dense population settlement** at key nodes rather than a dispersed spatial settlement.
- Cost benefit analysis is needed but needs to be broader, long-term and more sophisticated.
- Need to look at **alternative forms of financing** (pricing).
- **Prioritisation** of infrastructure is critical.
- Infrastructure planning also needs to be development focused **rather than seeking to fill in deficits as they arise or become constraints**.
- Accessibility and connectivity requires a more **ambitious approach** to infrastructure investment. Similarly towns and villages need to be more accessible and connected if they are to be viable.
- Challenges and difficulties arise around the **time limit on decisions** related to infrastructure consent and delivery.

**In 2015 Ireland  
had the second lowest  
level of gross public  
investment as a percent-  
age of GDP  
(2% of GDP) when it  
should be 4%**

**Requires a new approach  
to infrastructure invest-  
ment, shift in mind-set from  
seeing infra-structure in-  
vestment as a mechanism for  
dealing with legacy issues to  
being more forward focused  
and developmental**

## THE “HOW?” OF STEWARDSHIP

- Transitioning to a **low carbon economy** will require a cross government, interagency approach and real buy in - it can't just be the responsibility of one department.
- It will be key to show that what is done (decision) is the right one: need intellectual rigour; societal and political buy-in (**persuasion not consultation**).
- Need more effective management of natural resources and **ways to manage the trade-offs** between environmental protection and development.
- Need a raw materials plan. This should come from DJEI and not just be environment-driven. Need balanced planning but first important to quantify it.
- Need to encourage **individual responsibility for energy use**; need to encourage decentralisation of energy.
- Need a new narrative around **what citizenship means** and get people engaged more in their societies and local places.
- Dunmore East- did a mapping audit and looked at built, human and natural assets - **changed mindsets locally**.
- Finite resources named as landscape, biodiversity, water, energy and energy transmission capacity; money and finance; resilience in rural areas, volunteerism and **human capital**.
- **Education** as key.
- Wind energy prepared when **scale needed was less**; NPF needs to have spatial plan for energy.
- **Compensating** ‘losers’ e.g. wind farm from community gain to buy-in - NPF can't distance itself from this issue.
- Example of forestry and importance of focus on **multiple uses** (amenity role).

”  
Resources  
are also  
amenities  
”

”  
Need a  
national risk register  
for natural  
resources.”  
”

## TRANSPORT

- Transport that is **visionary** can drive the additional growth of communities.
- NPF needs to put transport measures in place to move us onto **low carbon trajectory**; transport poorly organised and little progress in regional urban areas - it will need to be subsidised but think clever and include the role of lean engineering.
- Transport needs to move from the current silo approach to an emphasis on a **multi-modal transport strategy** which aims to connect different modes (i.e. ports, roads and railways).
- There is no national authority for transport and so no-one is in charge of transport in smaller cities and towns. Using **transport hubs** for all users e.g. public and private buses using public bus stations.
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland isn't **supporting** local development.
- **Accessibility** to services.
- **Car dependency** a huge problem and there is a lack of public transport in rural Ireland.
- **Commuting trends going the wrong way**, increasing and not just to work but also school roads increasingly trafficked by car.
- Get serious about **climate change**, especially transport.
- Current goals for modal shifts in transport are **not ambitious enough**.
- Need to reengineer expectations. **Move away from 'community by car'**.

## BIG TICKETS

- Travelling from Dublin Cork in **1.5 hours** as a real deliverable.
- Belfast – Dublin as a **European growth** hub. Need to work with Northern Ireland, not just take it into account
- The **Atlantic Corridor** has real potential however it requires **investment in core infrastructure** to harness this potential.
- Ireland's **growing population** is a key strength; getting education right must remain key.
- Government's **National Broadband Plan is not sufficient** both in terms of the speed of provision and the 'business' model being adopted.
- Step change in effort to incentivise energy efficiency; key innovation for many (denser) areas is **district heating**.
- Water as an **opportunity** – one of the main industry needs
- **Export potential** and renewables.
- Circular economy – **waste to energy**.
- Energy – for the transmission network, the key issue is how to address community resistance.
- **Bottlenecks to Dublin Airport**, largely M50 congestion.

# 3.0 Commentary and Future Paths

## 3.1 Synopsis

The wide range of views, opinions and recommendations which were shared and subsequently collated over the three days of stakeholder consultation is exceptionally valuable in establishing both the remit and the reach of the National Planning Framework through its preparation and implementation.

In addition to the views expressed under the themes identified in Section 2, listed below are some key messages for the NPF which emerged over the course of the consultation.

### NPF Sphere of Influence

- As set out in section 2.1, the 'Sphere of Influence' of the NPF is wide ranging and attendees largely felt that as a document, it presents an opportunity for Ireland to comprehensively communicate and coordinate national policy.
- Create a framework for identifying the assets that contribute to making 'places' in Ireland successful.
- To clearly establish the national planning policy framework that will inform and guide the formulation of planning policy for the three Regional Assembly areas and the 31 Local Authority areas.

### NPF Ambitions and Strengths

- To reflect strong international and national ambitions for Ireland as a growing economy and a transitioning society in a global context.
- To comprehensively guide the growth of Ireland through a robust spatial policy that recognises the potential of 'place', whether within a rural or an urban context.
- 'Next Generation Ireland' to create a national coordinated policy that is capable of guiding how future generations may continue to realise the potential of Ireland's places, in a sustainable and planned way.
- To create a positive, resilient policy document that has the buy-in and stakeholder commitment enshrined in its content and as part of its implementation.

### NPF Drivers

- As a priority, to identify the nature and scale of infrastructure that is required to be delivered in order to realise national ambitions, particularly within the economic sector.
- The need to align the NPF with capital spending was suggested by attendees throughout the three days as being critical to the document's credibility and implementation.
- In order to promote durable and balanced growth in the future, address infrastructure needs as a means to support a structural shift in the composition of general government expenditure towards investment.
- The role of Irish cities as key 'drivers' was discussed at length by attendees and the clarity and direction that the NPF needs to provide in this regard was heavily referenced during the consultation.
- Communities across Ireland were identified by attendees as being 'champions' of 'place', and 'drivers', particularly where they are responsible for delivering local initiatives and projects.
- Address the topic of 'scale' in our cities, towns and villages and guide where growth is **needed** to take place through evidence based policies.

### NPF Game Changers

- Examine how cost benefit analysis can be embedded into the NPF.
- Prioritisation essential to managing expectations and capturing potential.
- The opportunities that investment in transport infrastructure offers as it often 'opens up' land.
- The management of finite resources and consideration of the future export potential of renewable energy. Generated in Ireland.

## 3.2 Framework Approach

In progressing the NPF, number of suggested approaches were discussed by attendees and the expert panellists. The Danish model was referenced where, at a national level, there is less emphasis placed on spatial based policy and a greater emphasis placed on promoting specific sectoral issues. At a regional level, planning concentrates on fostering growth orientated strategies to facilitate regional development. Municipal planning undertakes physical land use tasks and responsibilities in urban and rural areas.

Secondly, the Scottish National Planning Framework was referred to where four themes have been identified centring on three focal points:

### 1. City Strengths

### 2. Reinvigorate Towns

### 3. Innovation in Rural Areas

The following four key themes were identified within the 'Roadmap' document for the National Planning Framework in December 2015:

- **Maximising potential**
- **Identifying infrastructural priorities**
- **Transitioning to low carbon society**
- **Ensuring resilience of natural resources and cultural assets.**

## 3.3 Next Steps

### 3.3.1 Public Consultation

Wider pre-draft national public consultation on the NPF is envisaged to take place in Autumn of 2016.

### 3.3.2 Preparation of Consultation Papers

As part of the national public consultation stage of the NPF (pre-draft), a 'strategic issues and policy choices' paper will be made available to engender engagement and provide thought provoking information which will inform and encourage readers to engage with the consultation process. To comprehensively relay the relevant information, the NPF Unit requires input from government departments, the Regional Assemblies and other external agencies to accurately reflect the current policy landscape and to assist in identifying priorities of national importance.

### 3.3.3 Continued Engagement

Ongoing consultation with stakeholders remains a priority for the NPF Unit and is viewed as critical to retaining buy-in and ownership of not just the eventual document but also the process employed to produce the document.



# Appendices

# Appendix A

## Invitees

An Bord Pleanála

An Taisce

Arts Council

Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland

Association of Irish Local Government

Athlone Institute of Technology

Blanchardstown Institute of Technology

Bord Bia

Bord Iascaigh Mhara

Bord na Móna

Bus Éireann

Carlow County Council

Carlow Institute of Technology

Cavan County Council

CEDRA

Chambers Ireland

CIE

Clare County Council

Coillte

Cork City Council

Cork County Council

Cork Institute of Technology

County and City Management Association

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Department of Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources

Department of Education and Skills

Department of Finance

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Department of Health

Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Department of Justice and Equality

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Department of Social Protection

Department of An Taoiseach

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Donegal County Council

Dublin Airport Authority

Dublin Bus

Dublin City Council

Dublin City University

Dublin Institute of Technology

Dublin Port Company

Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology

Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council

Dundalk Institute of Technology

Eirgrid

Engineers Ireland

Enterprise Ireland

Environmental Protection Agency

Ervia

ESB

ESRI

FAI

Fáilte Ireland

Fingal County Council

Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Irish Environment

GAA

Galway City Council

Galway County Council

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

Galway City Council

Galway County Council

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

Geographical Society of Ireland

Heritage Council

Housing Agency

IBEC

IDA Ireland

Irish Farmers Association

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Irish Rugby Football Union

Irish Academy of Engineering

Irish Exporters Association

Irish Forum on Natural Capital

Irish Islands Federation (Comhar na nOileán)

Irish Landscape Institute

Irish Peatland Conservation Council

Irish Planning Institute

Irish Rail

Irish Rural Link

Irish Senior Citizens Parliament

Irish Sports Council

Irish Tourist Industry Confederation

Irish Water

Irish Wildlife Trust

Irish Wind Energy Association

Junior Citizens Ireland

Kerry County Council

Kildare County Council

Kilkenny County Council

Landscape Alliance Ireland

Laois County Council

Leitrim County Council

Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Limerick City and County Council

Limerick Institute of Technology

Local Government Management Agency

Longford County Council

Louth County Council

Marine Institute

Mayo County Council

Meath County Council

Monaghan County Council

National Asset Management Agency

National Disability Authority

National Transport Authority

National Treasury Management Agency

National University of Ireland, Galway

National University of Ireland, Maynooth

National Youth Council of Ireland

National Economic and Social Council

Nevin Economic Research Institute

Northern Ireland Department for Infrastructure

Offaly County Council

Office of Public Works

Pobal

Port of Cork

Property Industry Ireland

Property Registration Authority

Regional Studies Association

RGDATA

Roscommon County Council

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Shannon Airport Authority

Shannon Foynes Port Company

Sligo County Council

Sligo Institute of Technology

Small Firms Association

South Dublin County Council

Tallaght Institute of Technology

Think Tank for Action on Social Change

Teagasc

The Irish Small and Medium Enterprise Association

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland

The Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland

Tipperary County Council

Tralee Institute of Technology

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Trinity College Dublin

Údarás na Gaeltachta

University College Cork

University College Dublin

University of Limerick

Waterford City and County Council

Waterford Institute of Technology

Waterways Ireland

Western Development Commission

Westmeath County Council

Wexford County Council

Wicklow County Council

Young Planners Network

# Appendix B

## Agenda

TIME	ITEM
9:30am - 10am	Registration
10am - 10.15am	Welcome and Introduction
10:15am - 11:30am	<b>Session 1 - Ambition - Strengths and Opportunities</b> <p>The National Planning Framework will be a long term national plan for Ireland as a whole. Current discussion tends to focus on ‘urban v rural’ or Dublin v the rest’ and ‘balanced regional development’ may be interpreted in different ways... In this context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 How do we ensure that every place can play to its strengths?</li> <li>2 How do we ensure that opportunities are realised</li> </ol>
11:30am - 11:45am	Tea/Coffee
11:45am - 1pm	<b>Session 2 - Drivers - Living and Working</b> <p>Current projections indicate that there will be approximately 600,000 additional people in Ireland over the next 20 years and that the proportion of older people will increase significantly... Bearing this in mind:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Where will we live?</li> <li>2 Where will jobs of the future be?</li> </ol>
1pm - 1:45pm	Lunch
1:45pm - 2pm	Presentation of information from submissions at registration
2pm - 3:15pm	<b>Session 3 - Game Changers - Infrastructure and Resources</b> <p>For Ireland to develop sustainably, it’s important to identify infrastructure projects that can make a difference and to align infrastructural investment with land use planning and environmental strategies... In this regard:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What infrastructure is needed?</li> <li>2 How will we ensure effective stewardship of finite resources?</li> </ol>
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Next Steps and Close (DHPCLG)

# Appendix C

## Exercise

All attendees were given an 'exercise' (refer overleaf) to complete on registering at the events which involved identifying a place in Ireland that they considered to be 'successful' under three separate categories, **a place to live, a place to work and a place to visit**. In addition, attendees were also asked to list the reason(s) for the success of their choices.

All of the responses were collated and mapped by AIRO and subsequently the results were spatially represented to the attendees on each of the three days. The reasons given were also collated and presented to attendees.

It is to be noted that that results are not representative of an overall 'national' view but instead represent the choices of a select sample of people. The choices of the attendees on each of the consultation days are presented in the pages overleaf as well as the summation of the reasons.

# NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

## Preliminary Stakeholder Consultation

### June 2016



Name three places (of any scale) in Ireland that you consider to be 'successful' under the categories listed below. Place can include a settlement (e.g. Limerick), suburb (Blackrock) or a specific area (e.g. Smithfield).

For each of the places you list, write down 1-2 main reasons that you consider contribute to making these places 'successful'

'SUCCESSFUL' PLACES	COUNTY	REASON (S)
Place to Live		
Place to Work		
Place to Visit		

# Results

## Place to Live

June 9<sup>th</sup>



June 10<sup>th</sup>



June 14<sup>th</sup>



# Results

## Place to Work

June 9<sup>th</sup>



June 10<sup>th</sup>



# Results

## Places to Visit

June 9<sup>th</sup>



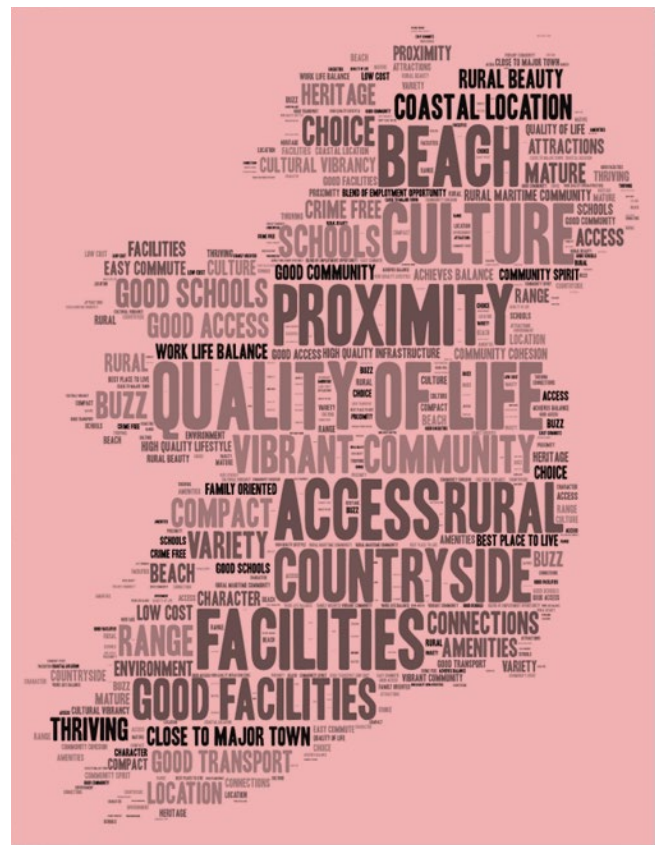
June 10<sup>th</sup>

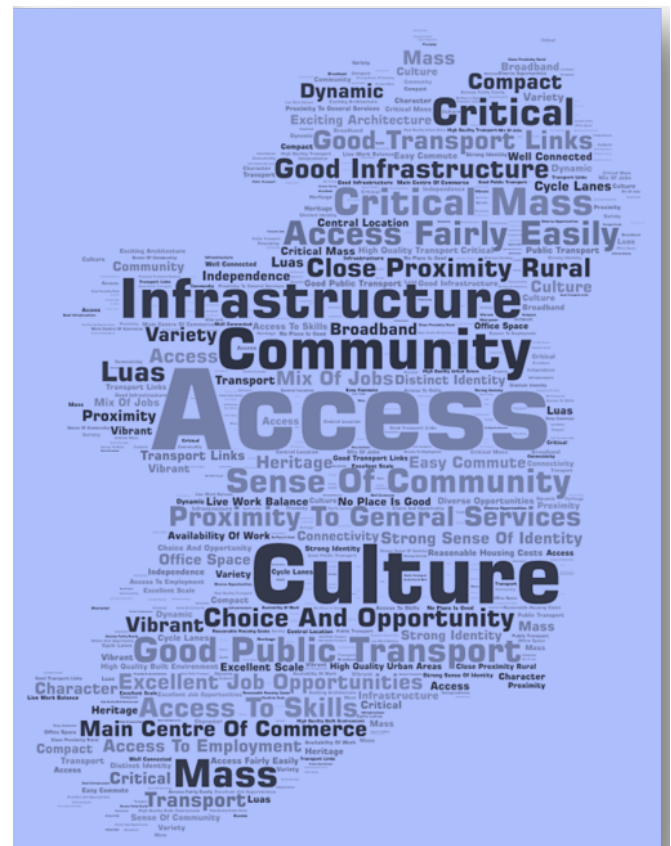


June 14<sup>th</sup>

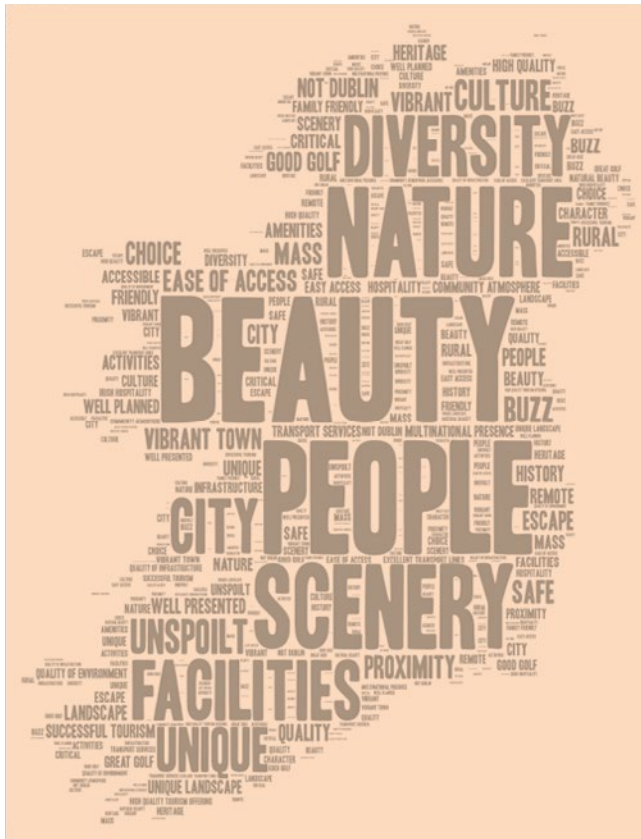


## Reasons Given Live





## Reasons Given Visit



# Appendix D

## Facilitators and Expert Panellists

Facilitators	Organisation
Dr. Larry O'Connell	National Economic and Social Council
Hendrik van der Kamp	Head of School of Transport Engineering, Environment and Planning, Dublin, Institute of Technology

Expert Panellists	Organisation
Dermot Byrne	Engineers Ireland
Kieran Feighan	Engineers Ireland
Dr. Berna Grist	UCD School of Planning and Environmental Policy
Ciaran Lynch	Limerick Institute of Technology
Dr. David Meredith	Teagasc
Dr. Edgar Morgenroth	Economic and Social Research Institute
Dr. Rory O'Donnell	National Economic and Social Council
Professor Cathal O'Donoghue	Teagasc
Peter Quinn	Engineers Ireland



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta  
National Economic & Social Council







