

In my view the following comment is not accurate “lessons from the past suggest that if we continue to focus on multiple towns, this will continue to undermine the performance and potential of our cities and ultimately the wider regions”.

The reasons for failure involved political motivation rather than looking at hard facts, together with not following through properly with infrastructural & staffing arrangements - possibly as a result of not thinking through outcomes.

There have been organizations for close on 20 years. There is enough information, Knowledge & now bad experiences gone through, to move forward. Surely one “good strong state spend” would ignite the requirement to balance the lopsidedness.

Obvious residing & working issues in Dublin can be relieved or stymied by modest (in a national longterm sense) spend on broadband and upgrade of national routes to regional towns from airports etc as well as cities.

Travelling to a destination for an hour or more from airports is now not deemed excessive.

Ireland is physically small & in the short /medium term “the penny would drop”, if opportunity existed regarding quality of life/lifestyle if a more regional centered approach to industry and business were presented by development agencies. E.g. Cork has a strong pharmaceutical presence. There is no reason why any other major centre with a port or airport could not expand in the same way if physical access is achieved – with other local towns feeding into this.

International examples of what I may not have clearly expressed above are as - Gatwick is to London or just recently - air connections from Cork to USA- to an airport 1.5/2 hours from the bigger centers.

Rural towns would thrive and become self sustaining that could become attractive alternatives to urban locations.

The time for procrastination is over, especially since “Brexit” vote!