

Submission to the NPF2040 draft plan.

- I am totally opposed to the findings of the Waterford Boundary Commission where they suggest a change to Kilkenny's County Boundary. Having spent most of the report lavishing praise on both council's in the area as to what they are doing currently for all communities in the area, to then finish up by suggesting a boundary change to Kilkenny's County Boundary because of inherent rivalry is not very professional and an insult to Kilkenny people who have always worked for the betterment of the region. The Waterford Boundary Commission's report is all about Waterford only and very little notice taken to the impact the report if sanctioned would have on Kilkenny. I agree with an increase of population in the South East in the Waterford hinterland area. However this has to be managed by co-operation rather than divisive changes to Kilkenny's County Boundary or any County Boundary for that matter. A Cross Boundary committee with a statutory function is the way forward. This should also apply to any part of the country. On a larger scale it is similar to the current Cross Border situation.
- The infrastructure in the South East is appalling. The M9 has not had the desired effect because it helps in channelling everything through Dublin. We have no motorway East to West from Rosslare one of the largest ports in the country. Easy access by motorway to Rosslare including Belview Port in Slieverue Co Kilkenny would open up the area to a lot more business coming to the South and South East. Getting to Dublin Port and the Airport is now very difficult, traffic jams constant and everywhere within 20 kms of Dublin. Easy road access to Rosslare for Freight and passengers by an East West Motorway on the current N24 (which is not fit for purpose and very accident prone) will attract business in to the area. Not enough using the N24 because of its poor quality and safety. This infrastructure has to be put in first.
- Keep the rail lines open as they will be needed in the future.
- Regarding energy, "Solar and wind power like all energy schemes should only be considered where it forms part of a plan which complies in full with Ireland's obligations under the Aarhus convention. Any consultation and planning must be in full compliance with the Aarhus convention. "
- Public transport needs to be greatly improved in the area especially leading into and in and around Waterford City. Currently not enough services and not frequent enough from the rail and bus stations in Waterford City to the Industrial Estate, schools and hospitals. Buses

should be coming every 10 to 15 minutes to and from and better services should be put in place for the neighbouring towns and villages.