



INISHOWEN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PÁIRTÍOCHT FORBARTHA INIS EOGHAIN



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To Whom it may concern,

Inishowen Development Partnership is one of 49 Local Development Companies in the Republic of Ireland. We are a publically funded, not-for profit company with charitable status, limited by guarantee.

IDP work closely with our Local Authority- Donegal County Council, Government Departments and other statutory agencies in the delivery of a range of programmes including, but not limited to; the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the Rural Development Programme (LEADER), Tús, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Jobs Clubs, CE Schemes, Family Support Programmes and the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA), as well as many more enterprise, training, activation, educational and community supports. Some of the government departments / agencies we work in partnership with include: the Department of Social Protection, the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, the Department of Education & Skills, the Department of Children & Youth Affairs, the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, TUSLA and the HSE.

The Board of IDP at their recent Board meeting mandated that a submission be made to the National Planning Framework consultation document - Ireland 2040 in order to have some salient points pertaining to our area recognised:-

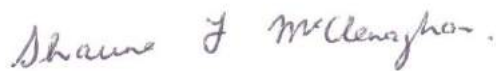
- Recognition of critical regional mass c.400,000 people in our region
- Up to 30,000 people are commuting cross border and Inishowen is particularly affected in this regard with our natural hinterland being in a different jurisdiction with the imminent Brexit situation now about to be invoked.
- The need for better accessibility to the North West is a significant barrier and there is an urgent need for the development and significant improvement of the N2/A5 road network to address this. This will require national investment in infrastructure.
- For Donegal and the North West region, building regional resilience is a priority requirement. There are a number of areas of concern in this regard e.g. strategic road projects within the county N13/N14/ N15 require emphasis.
- Investment in key strategic ports i.e Greencastle is also an issue for our area and has potential for increasing sustainability for the region with tourism potential.
- A significant area for development of the region is the need for support for Derry city airport and indeed Donegal Airport. Derry airport with its connection to London needs to be strengthened and a greater connection to Dublin with the reinstatement of the Dublin Derry route would be of immense benefit to business development in the area.
- IDP feels that it is critical to increase collaboration with other stakeholders in the region e.g Derry City & Strabane District Council with our own Donegal County Council. The good collaborative work that has been initiated in this regard should be supported and encouraged.
- We feel that the NPF should act as a platform for collaboration, knowledge transfer and regional economic activity with tangible actions developed and implemented recognising the potential on issues that transcend boundaries. There is a need to

build on the potential we have, having Derry as the 4th biggest city in the Island and with Letterkenny as a gateway.

- In the area of Education, the need for further development and expansion of University of Ulster and LYIT is also seen as critical by our Board. It is worth noting that 35% of our population is under 25 and there are 40,000 third level pupils here. We need to plan to keep them rather than continuation of the trend of exporting them. We should tailor 3rd level provision to business needs.
- Infrastructure is the backbone of economic activity and we need to have our public transport issues addressed. The emerging issues with the loss of Bus Eireann routes to Dublin from Derry further compounds this as there is no investment in Rail in the region.
- The need to ensure that broadband is rolled out in our rural areas in order to provide opportunities for the development of digital hubs and remote working opportunities. This will support sustainability in the region and decrease the carbon footprint of our workers commuting to the larger urban centres while retaining the local population and even encouraging highly talented people to avail of the potential for good quality of life in our area. This may also address the vacant town centres and help to support a scheme to build, repair and inhabit our rural towns and villages.
- Health provision – there is a need to review the mapping of health provision in the region taking account of commute times rather than distance. Resources should be allocated in a more appropriate balanced way and work as a region.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission. If you have any questions in this regard, please feel free to contact me.

Regards



Shauna McClenaghan
Joint CEO



EUROPEAN UNION

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European Social Fund



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanáil,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation programme (SICAP) 2015-2017 is funded by the Irish Government and co-funded by the European Social Fund Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2016 and includes a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative

Directors: Dermott McLaughlin (Chairperson), Fionan Bradley, Kevin Cooley, Cllr. Nicholas Crossan, Cllr. Albert Doherty, Raymond Doherty, Tommy Doherty, Cllr. Rena Donaghey, Paddy Gallen, Joan Hamilton, Helen Nolan, Aideen Tighe, Peter Walker, Nicola Harvey, Kevin Lake, Daniel McDonald, Cllr. Bernard McGuinness, John H McLaughlin, Paddy McLaughlin

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