

Submission to the National Planning Framework on behalf of Sinn Fein Nenagh

Social economic and demographic development has been over concentrated in the Dublin Region for decades with the Dublin region now accounting for 49% of the Irish Economy. This overgrowth of Dublin has been done to the detriment of the growth of the Mid West. The last National Planning framework failed in its objective of reversing this trend in favour of a balanced regional development. The National Planning framework must provide an effective counterbalance to the overgrowth of the Dublin region.

Cities play a vital role in creating growth and jobs. Sinn Fein Nenagh recognise the vital role that the city of Limerick has in the counterbalance to the overgrowth of the Dublin Region and we are calling for increased state investment in transport , broadband , water services , health and education infrastructure in the Mid-West region , putting an infrastructure fund in place to drive the economic impact in the region. This funding should target many infrastructure projects across the Mid-West region which should unlock further investments from local councils in the Mid-West region and also infrastructure funding from the European Investment Bank in a joint coordinated partnership.

We would suggest that the Foynes/Shannon port could be one of the Regional Assets used to drive regional growth as it could unlock huge economic benefits for the region. The Shannon estuary is one of the most valuable natural resources for Ireland. The estuary adjoins the counties of Limerick , Clare and Kerry however its economic impact extends far beyond this area including Tipperary . It has a depth in excess of 18 metres making it Irelands premier deep water resource, capable of handling vessels of up to 200,000 deadweight tonnes and is connected to all major international shipping lanes.

We also recognise that Lough Derg and the Shannon are massively important for the future economic viability of the Mid-West and under no circumstances should any major infrastructural projects like Irish Waters proposal to extract 300 million litres of water a day from Parteen for the purposes of treatment and transfer to the Eastern and Midlands region be considered as it will only reinforce the unbalanced regional development of the Country. It also has the potential to destroy forever, huge amounts of Agricultural lands and effect the economic development of the farming community along the corridor.

We strongly believe that North Tipperary has a huge role in the Economic future of the Mid West region . We believe that the zone of influence should extend to Nenagh as it is an important support growth centre and we believe that Nenagh can support new business clusters within the region and support economic development in ovr own right.Nenagh has an adundance of industrial units , up to 1000 housing planning permissions , a strong educated workforce , strong educational facilities , very strong sporting facilities including an indoor athletics area, F A I Regional status soccer facility with Full All Weather pitch , strong G A A and Rugby clubs a growing Gymnastics club and a wide range of other sports . Nenagh can provide the perfect work life destination for workers and their families who will add to the workforce in a strong counterbalanced Mid West region with Limerick at the centre of this growing region because of the ease of access through road and rail but the services must be reatined and enhanced as it is not operating to its potential .

We would suggest that the National Planning Framework should pilot the Scottish City deals model in the Mid-West region , which would put an infrastructure fund in place to drive the economic impact on the region. The Gateway fund under the national planning framework failed but the City Deals project in Scotland as it has worked there in terms of structure incentives , financial arrangements

and governance . It would bring a partnership approach of the State, Local Councils , Chamber of Commerce and the E I B .

Yours sincerely Cllr. Séamie Morris 31/03/17