

To whom it may concern

By resolution of Council, a sub committee of Kildare County Council's SPC on Planning & Economic Dev have met to consider and prepare the following submission on National Planning Framework process, which we are now submitting for your consideration.

The following are issues that we ask you to consider in developing the National Planning Framework, we have posed certain issues as questions as while we can readily identify the problems we are less certain of the solutions in a regional context, but would ask that you give serious consideration to these issues when developing strategic frameworks and policies from same.

To focus development based on a sustainable integrated rail network that can achieve acceptable levels of commuter times for workforce while concentrating sufficient numbers to deliver a competitive, attractive workforce to prospective employers. It may be worth considering optimal locations for new transport hubs on railway lines and certainly the re locating of current railway stations to facilitate the development of 21 st century facilities in more appropriate strategic locations for rail users, on sites that have capacity to encompass mixed use of complimentary services such as childcare facilities.

Developing an integrated public transportation network is vital and the rail link to airport should be a priority objective of National Infrastructure.

Accepting that the centre of economic development will be capital based, it is imperative that the working and living ratio achieved by Dublin city be ambitious and aggressively pursued, to fail at this level will guarantee failure at every other level. Setting residential densities that require multi storey living is essential in reaching these targets successfully. Objectives and policies that incentivise the delivery of attractive high rise residential that afford a higher level of space and amenity to residents are required and should be replicated in all Tier 1 towns throughout the GDA.

To achieve the densities required to deliver sustainable communities will necessitate certain current population centres to stagnate and de populate, this phenomenon also needs to be planned and policies of mitigation for successful transition are required.

Matrix need to be developed that encompass all infrastructure elements necessary for successful development, these standards need to be high and specific, eg. ratios of qualitative green space (identifying levels of trees and foliage to be achieved), parkland, recreation and amenity facilities, robust educational facilities that don't just take account of primary school requirements but life long educational requirements.

Meeting changes in retail activity and challenge of revitalising town centres, will require a suite of targeted initiatives. Strict adherence to sequential development with new ratios for zoning retail space and identified uses for current over supply will need to be addressed. Recognising the need for lost leader participants in retail package to create an attractive sustainable dynamic in town centres will require policies that support this practice. Review of current rates mechanism may be necessary to deliver a more customised approach that allows

for a diverse range of 'butcher, baker, candlestick maker' activities. Developing objectives for independent retail ratios with effective policies may be justifiable, as this type of activity generates incomes that circulate further locally, fosters community resilience, identity and strength.

Suggest that we re consider current sequencing of plans and National Census Collection.

How do we plan to insulate communities from an over reliance on FDI's or indeed any mono employer?

How do we develop robust policies that ensure resources follow plan?

Quality broadband supply is imperative particularly to foster and facilitate micro business and start up initiatives, many of whom begin in bedroom/ office conversions. High participation rates in these activities will be required to achieve reasonable levels of success. Should this plan be setting objectives to develop the most effective method of delivering comprehensive infrastructure to support this necessary service?

Should plan be considering re balancing of development, within sustainable parametres, that removes over reliance on finite resources of Liffey?

How do we support the exploration of alternate resources to carbon, while protecting and insuring both communities and environment from inherent risks associated with a revolutionising energy sector?

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive engagement on these issues, we look forward to considering the outcomes of this process.

Yours faithfully

Suzanne Doyle
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County Council