



SUBMISSION TO

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

31st March 2017

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1. ABOUT LAKELAND DAIRIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

Lakeland Dairies, a major dairy processing co-operative, operates within a fifteen county catchment area across the northern half of the island of Ireland. The Group processes about one billion litres of quality milk annually into a range of value added dairy foodservice products and functional dairy food ingredients.

Lakeland Dairies is a cooperative society owned by approximately 4000 shareholders and was formed as a result of the merger of Killeshandra and Lough Egish Co-operatives in 1990. The Killeshandra Co-operative was founded in 1896 with the Lough Egish Co-operative founded in 1901. The Co-operative acquired the Bailieborough Milk Drying Facility in 2001 and a Milk Drying Facility at Omagh in 2003. The Pritchitts Foodservice Business at Newtownards was acquired in 2004.

There are three Business Units or Divisions within Lakeland Dairies. The Food-Service Division manufactures food-service products, such as Ultra High Temperature (UHT) or long-life milks, ice-cream and butter portions which are supplied into foodservice businesses and trades these globally. The Food-Ingredients Division manufactures a range of milk powders, including skim milk powder, whole milk powder, 'fat-filled' powders and butters which are traded globally and the 'Agri-Trading' Division supplies feed and other provisions to suppliers and other farmers, while also looking after the interests of the suppliers / shareholders. Sales and marketing personnel are predominantly based at Killeshandra, Bailieborough, and Bromley in the UK.

The Group currently has manufacturing sites at Killeshandra and Bailieborough in County Cavan, Lough Egish in County Monaghan and at Newtownards in Northern Ireland.

2. PURPOSE OF SUBMISSION

We wish to highlight seven key areas which are of immediate concern to Lakeland Dairies Co-Operative Society

1. Energy Policy and Infrastructure;
2. National broadband and communications:
3. Roads and transport;
4. Education and training;
5. Housing/Schools/Local Sustainability;
6. Medicare;
7. The impact of Brexit.

3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Energy Policy and Infrastructure:

We are currently constrained by the lack of energy infrastructure to the sites and consider that the NPF needs to address this need to large industries in this region. We consider that the NPF has to address the deficit that current and future commercial enterprises endure and must invest in closing this deficit. We consider that this will be the answer to reducing the intensive investment in the Dublin region and will make regions like Cavan more attractive to investors. We consider that the following are required to meet our own needs:

- As a major energy producer of 10 MW per year of which 6/7 MW is used on site, Lakeland Dairies Bailieboro must be able to export the balance to the National Grid i.e The same ESB Network infrastructure to be in place.
- Security of supply through increased investment in interconnectors between Ireland and United Kingdom and also between Ireland and France.
- Continued diversification of Ireland's electricity fuel generation mix and expand the renewable mix.
- To zone land suitable to build anaerobic digestion plants to generate biogas, which could displace 20% of our current natural gas consumption (Killeshandra).
- Maintenance of the Power Lines;
- Maintain the Gas Networks in Baileboro.

3.2 National Broadband and Communications:

The lack of broadband to County Cavan has been well documented and whilst we are aware of the stages of the National Broadband Plan, rural counties like Cavan and Monaghan need to be prioritised in the rollout of the scheme after the tender has been awarded. The lack of broadband to our 2000 Rural suppliers needs also to be urgently addressed in the NPF.

- Award the National Broadband Plan (NBP) intervention to a contractor and confirm the deployment schedule nationally.
- Roll out the system nationwide to incorporate farmers and rural business as they are integral part of the economy.
- Broadband Connection is critical for the Farmers who supply Lakeland Dairies Co-Operative Society Ltd to ensure the Plants can communicate quickly and effectively with the Farmers.

3.3 Roads and Transport:

With no rail option, our enterprise is solely reliant on the road infrastructure of our region to transport our goods, both into and out of our Plants. With an average of 200 HGV vehicle movements into and out of our sites daily, we are heavily reliant on the road infrastructure of County Cavan and the region as a whole. Unfortunately we are not on direct access to a national road and so are heavily reliant on regional routes to transport our goods. This needs to be recognized in the NPF. We consider that the regional routes serving large enterprises and employing large numbers of people need to be prioritised and allocated additional funding by central government for their maintenance, repair and upgrade. It is imperative that the East West Link from Dundalk to Sligo is prioritised to ensure balanced regional growth.

- Progress funding mechanisms for road projects delayed or postponed over the last decade with particular attention to the upgrading of the rural road network and the roads between Bailieborough and Killeshandra, Bailieboro to Lough Egish, Killeshandra to Cavan and Killeshandra to Ballyconnell.
- Progress development of and maintenance of roads identified as major HGV haulage routes. e.g. the road network around the plants carrying an extensive number of HGV which servicing major industry in the area and the plants.
- To maintain roads around Cavan and Monaghan to a high standard.
- Hedges and Trees along the local roads to be maintained and trimmed where necessary.
- Promotion of the use of Electric Vehicles with the roll out of charge points locally and nationally.

3.4 Education and Training:

Current plans for our business has developed strong links with Ballyhaise Agricultural College and we consider that there is an opportunity for this link to be expanded to educate the 2000 Farmers supplying Lakeland.

- Ensure that Ireland meets the targets of Innovation 2020 and Harvest 2020. More opportunities and funding for Masters and Doctoral programmes should be provided.
- Promote and develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Agriculture programmes.
- Lakeland Dairies have developed joint Research and Development links with Teagasc Advisory.
- Innovation, Research and Development Facilities built by indigenous Irish Industries should be exempt from development contributions and Rates.
- Courses based on the Rural Based Economy should be promoted in the local schools and Colleges.

3.5 Housing/Schools/Local Sustainability:

We believe there is a need to invest in amenities, public spaces and good quality housing so that the Bailieboro, Killeshandra & Lough Egish can benefit from the presence of such an employer.

- Investment in the amenities around Castle Lake in Bailieboro, Town Lough in Killeshandra and Lough Egish in Monaghan should be prioritized.
- Investments in the local National Schools and Secondary School (Bailieboro);
- Upgrade of Bailieboro Wastewater Treatment Plant (Irish Water) to improve water quality in the River Lear/Castle Lake. Killeshandra Wastewater Treatment Plant (Irish Water) should also be upgraded.
- Grants should be made available to houses in close proximity to Lough Egish and Town Lake (Killeshandra) to upgrade their septic tanks and/or connect to Main Services.
- The upgrade to the water treatment plant in Killeshandra should be progressed.

3.6 Medicare:

To examine the growth of the region without considering all services would be remiss and we feel that retention of the services in Cavan General Hospital aids regional growth and a national priority on the provision of GPs and healthcare facilities should be a priority for growth of this region.

- Keep the Emergency Department in Cavan General Hospital open and No scale back to existing services.

3.7 A Brexit – proof Strategy:

- In light of Brexit secure current and future cross border infrastructure projects especially those dependent on EU funding.