



To: Chief Executive of each Local Authority,
Directors of each Regional Assembly,
An Bord Pleanála

CC: Directors of Planning Services, City and County Councils,
Senior Planners, City and County Councils and Regional Assemblies

Circular FPS06/2018

30th July 2018

Re: National Planning Framework

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to the issuing of Circulars FPS04/2018 (NPF Implementation Roadmap) and FPS05/2018 (URDF Call for Proposals) dated 3rd July 2018, I am directed by Eoghan Murphy TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to inform you that these are now available to access and view on the Department's websites (www.housing.gov.ie and www.npf.ie).

A number of environmental assessments of the National Planning Framework were undertaken throughout its development and finalisation, including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). In addition, Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken in order to comply with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.

In order to ensure full transparency in the approval process of Project Ireland 2040 having particular regard to the Appropriate Assessment and more particularly, the Appropriate Assessment Determination, on 29th May 2018, the Government reaffirmed its previous decision to adopt and publish the National Planning Framework as a strategy, intended to replace the National Spatial Strategy, having considered the post-consultation Natura Impact Statement prepared in respect of the finalised National Planning Framework, the Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement, as



well as the Appropriate Assessment Determination, signed by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

This decision ensures transparency in the process as well as protecting the integrity of the National Planning Framework as it moves into a significant phase of implementation.

In accordance with Article 9 of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and in accordance with the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 200 of 2011), the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has published a newspaper notice advising of the adoption and publication of the National Planning Framework dated 30th July 2018.

The purpose of this Circular is to clarify that the adoption date of the National Planning Framework is 29th May 2018 and should be referenced accordingly.

All relevant documentation can be viewed and downloaded online on the Department's websites at the following links: www.npf.ie or www.housing.gov.ie.

Any queries on this circular may be directed to Maude Ni Bhrolcháin or Aoibheann Nevin at npf@housing.gov.ie or (01) 888 2000.

Yours sincerely,

Niall Cussen
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Forward Planning Section