

I would appreciate if my views could be considered, I was aware that today was the closing date but did not realise that it was 12 noon.

Many thanks,

Mary Gleeson

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I am very disappointed at the lack of any clear vision for regional development in the draft national planning framework towards 2040. This is a document which should clearly outline how the mistakes of the past can be avoided with good planning and a realistic set of outcomes should be aspired to.

In relation to population growth, the suggestion that Limerick would grow by 50K and Dublin by over 250K already indicates a lack of any focus on ensuring an east – west economic balance is achieved. It is essential that this vision for the future starts with key infrastructure from the high spend Government departments such as Education, Health and Transport.

Limerick Hospital

The scale and number of specialities available at Limerick hospital should be at least doubled by 2040. We should aspire to a situation where many specialist areas can be treated here. This should be developed in tandem with an expanded Medical School at the University of Limerick. A visionary outcome would be that Killaloe, The University, The Train Station, The Hospital and Patrickswell would all be connected by an environmentally friendly light rail system. Ideally another spur would connect Shannon Airport to the Train Station. Attractive housing could be established in the satellite towns where people would not need cars as they would be so efficiently connected to all the required education and services. This would provide the first base for attracting people/industry to the region. People within a 40 mile radius would not need to bring their medical problems to Dublin. We should aspire to a situation where there are no longer waiting lists here. As the attractiveness and efficiency of a rejuvenated Limerick develops – high speed rail to Ennis and Nenagh would connect these important towns to the city. The bottom line is that unless there is a change in how the big spending government departments allocate their resources, Ireland will never create a well planned region.

SHANNON

- Expanded role for Shannon International Airport as part of the National Aviation Policy. Why is an extra runway required in Dublin when the runway in Shannon is available. National Aviation policy should require that traffic at all airports grow and if necessary ensure that Permission to fly from certain Airports is restricted to ensure balance – a recent case in Point is the loss of the United Service from Chicago to Shannon when Dublin has several services to This important city. The policy should also state that there needs to be a balance to ensure

Enough transatlantic services continue to use Shannon Airport. This is critical for connectivity for tourism and industry.

- Build momentum for the International Aviation Services Centre (IASC).
- Drive the airport status as the designated airport for the Wild Atlantic Way.

SHANNON ESTUARY

- Secure the development of the zoned sites in Clare for marine related industry.
- Engage and collaborate with partners to deliver on the wider potential of the Shannon Estuary.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK –

Develop the Medical School and other specialities as suggested above in relation to the hospital. The aim should be that no students within a 40 mile radius would see a need to attend other colleges.

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TOURISM AND THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

- Maximise the benefit of the Wild Atlantic Way including the development of loops off the main route;
- Secure the development of new tourism product including the development of a Conference Centre within the county; New product is particularly required to enhance the attractiveness of the off season.
- Through partnership with Shannon International Airport, undertake co-operative marketing and promotion to increase the number of visitors to the county.

RURAL ECONOMY

- Attract and avail of opportunities in the renewable energy sector to deliver new industry to rural areas.
- Promote the attractiveness of rural areas for quality of life and indigenous industry.

ENNIS

- Identify strategic sites and secure their development.
- Develop an attractive roofing for the narrow streets so that late evening and winter shopping is comfortable.