

Re: South Eastern Region and Ireland 2040

NPF Submissions,
Planning Section,
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin, D01 W6X0.

To whom it concerns,

As a person from the West living in Waterford, I can see the South East is underperforming when compared to the region of my birth. I see a few planning and investment reasons for this: the main ones being that underinvestment in the area in terms of IDA visits, education and health. Other reasons include the unusual planning/development in the area, Waterford City seems to be all to one side of the river, it can be no accident that this has happens as there is much evidence that the north of the river is largely ignored by the neighbouring council (Kilkenny Co.Co.). The status quo can't continue.

- For the region to grow in a similar way to the West, Waterford City Council needs to have administrative/planning control of the areas discussed and recommended in the boundary extension report.
- Investment is required on the N24 to better connect the South East towns, the current road links to the towns of Clonmel and Carrick on Suir are very poor, dangerous in fact for a national primary route.
- Investment in Education – establishing a University comparable to other existing universities for the South East. A name change to a technological university is not what is needed. Comparisons of government investment per student between various Universities and Institutes, highlight harsh reality of underinvestment in Waterford Institute of Technology.
- On a national level, childcare investment is badly needed for the country as a whole. Women, as 50% of the workforce could contribute more if some of the pressure was taken off them and parents in general. Beyond crèche years, long school holidays that people scramble to get minders/sitters for are a constant worry with the result being that women decide to give up work or go part-time.
- As we age as a population, we need better management of health spending, at the moment, funds seem to be not getting to the areas that need them, the South East for example does not have 24hr cardiac care where areas in Dublin and other regions are over supplied when compared proportionally. I have witnessed firsthand the reduction in care in UHW when attending UHW for the births of my 2 children.

Caroline Joyce,

