

From: [REDACTED]
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To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040

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Dear sir/madam,

One of the biggest challenges that needs to be addressed is the incredible over reliance on Dublin as the economic powerhouse to the detriment of the rest of the country. London is too dominant in England but Dublin is actually 50% bigger as a percentage of our economy than London is to England.

In order to achieve this we need to strengthen the Atlantic corridor by connecting Waterford cork Limerick and galway with a wild Atlantic motorway! Unfortunately cork and Shannon airports are both poorly located and compete for business. One airport to the north west of cork would have served both cities but now that this is not an option we are stuck, however motorway connections will still generate flow most likely towards cork airport from both east and west.

Cork city boundaries need to be urgently redrawn. Currently you have the ridiculous situation where most of the west cork towns, Kinsale clonakilty etc are better maintained due to the county council funds coming from essentially city dwellers in Douglas ballincollig etc. Cork also needs a proper ring road to link up the north of the city while the dunkettle roundabout needs to be addressed. By developing cork as a stronger second city not only will you provide a proper alternative to Dublin but having good connections to Waterford and Limerick will benefit those two cities as well further reducing the over reliance on Dublin.

Also the obsession we have with urban sprawl needs to be addressed, this has happened in Dublin where apartment living is slightly more acceptable that it was twenty years ago but is still not desirable to most. The idea of a three bed semi with a garden means ever increasing urban sprawl which necessitates further road investments etc. Focusing investment and facilities towards city centres makes them more desirable look at Paris with its multitude of city parks and playgrounds, London too. City centres should be attractive places to live not just somewhere to work. This generally requires greater pedestrian only zones, green spaces playgrounds and the attempts at doing this in college green Dublin are commendable.

Yours faithfully
Ivan Cummins