

Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government,

Custom House,

Dublin D01 W6X0

Re :- Ireland 2040-Our Plan

Dear/Sir/Madam,

I wish to make some comments in relation to the content of the above document as an Irish Citizen and as a parent :-

1. The Gateway Towns in the Southern Region should comprise of all urban areas in excess of 20,000 population ie Cork, Limerick, Waterford City and the area of South Kilkenny adjacent to Waterford City, Kilkenny City ,Carlow, Clonmel, Tralee and Wexford Town. This would provide for a more balanced development of the region.
2. Grants for developments in the regions should be considerably higher than in the Dublin Area in order to attract more industry and commercial enterprises to the regions.
3. The Regional Assemblies should be the driving force for the development of the regional spatial and economic strategies and the local authorities responsible for implementing same at local level.
4. The 3 tiers in the Planning Hierarchy sets out how the process will work and there is no need for alterations of county boundaries which are controversial and involve issues of county and cultural identity. The recent recommendation of the boundary review committee regarding an extension of Waterford into South Kilkenny is unhelpful and unnecessary. The structure as suggested in the National Planning Framework (Chapter 7 Issues and Choices) eliminates any need for a boundary change. Furthermore the people of Kilkenny City and County, our elected representatives at national and local level are totally opposed to any extension of the Waterford City boundary in to South Kilkenny.

The plan will only be successful if there is trust and co-operation between all local authorities in the region and forget about matters such as county boundary extensions. The plan also needs to extend the number of gateway towns as indicated so that there is balanced development in the region and nobody feels ignored and forgotten. I hope you will take these comments into consideration as part of your deliberations.

Yours Sincerely,

James Gibbons
James Gibbons,



13/3/17.