

National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040

A submission from the Atlantic Way

The development gap between the West and Dublin continues to widen every day. We need new approaches and urgent actions.



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The ATLANTIC WAY is a voluntary group of business professionals who wish to bring about a region of excellence - a region of international scale and significance.

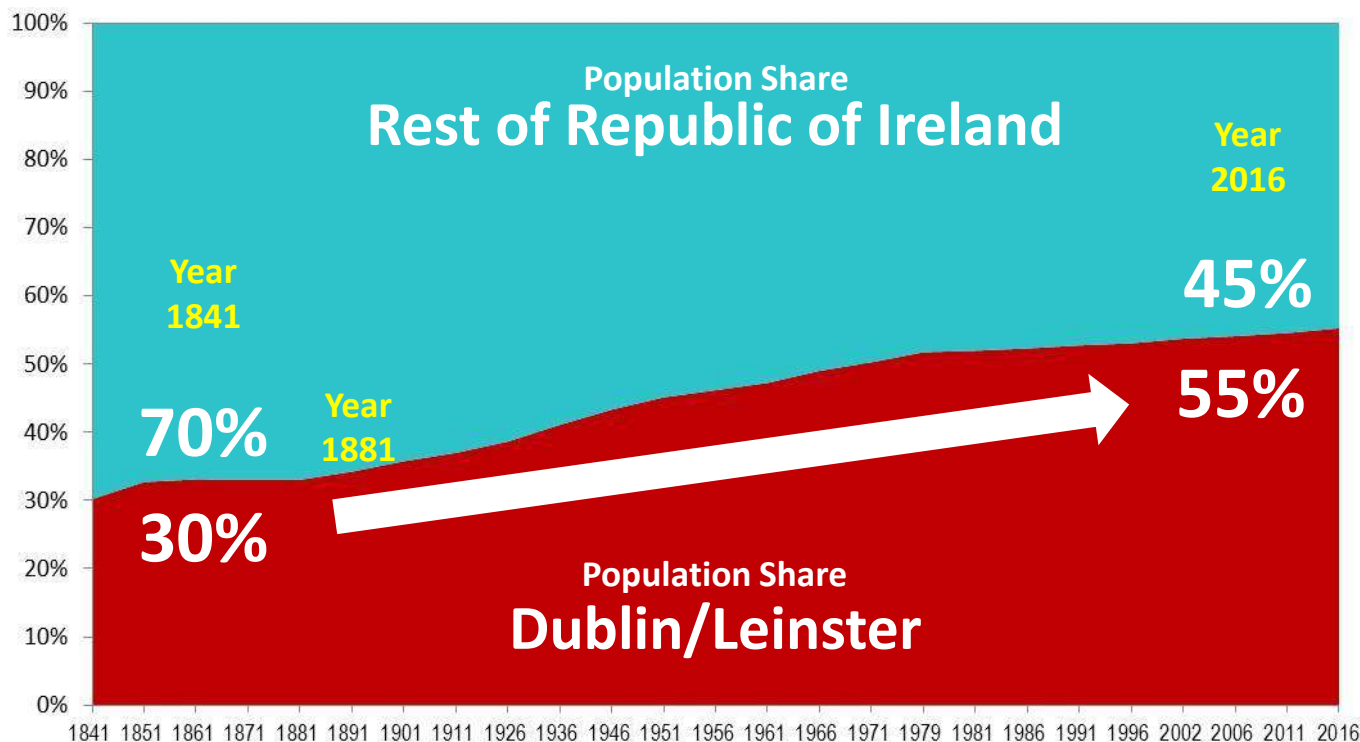
Note: The Atlantic Way is not to be confused with the Wild Atlantic Way (the Atlantic Way initiative was established in 2005 and pre-dates the Wild Atlantic Way)

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The Irish Census 2016 confirms a 135 year uninterrupted trend... the population share shift to Dublin/Leinster - and to the detriment of Ireland and the West.



COMMENT: Every single census for the last 135 years (since 1881) has seen a population share shift from the Rest of Ireland to Dublin/Leinster. Dublin/Leinster now accounts for 55% of the population of the Republic of Ireland. To put the extent of the imbalance into perspective, the greater London area only accounts for 16% of England's population. These figures are a stark indictment of the failed policies of successive Governments to understand, tackle and implement a real regional development strategy.

The Big Issue

We have a massively imbalanced Economy

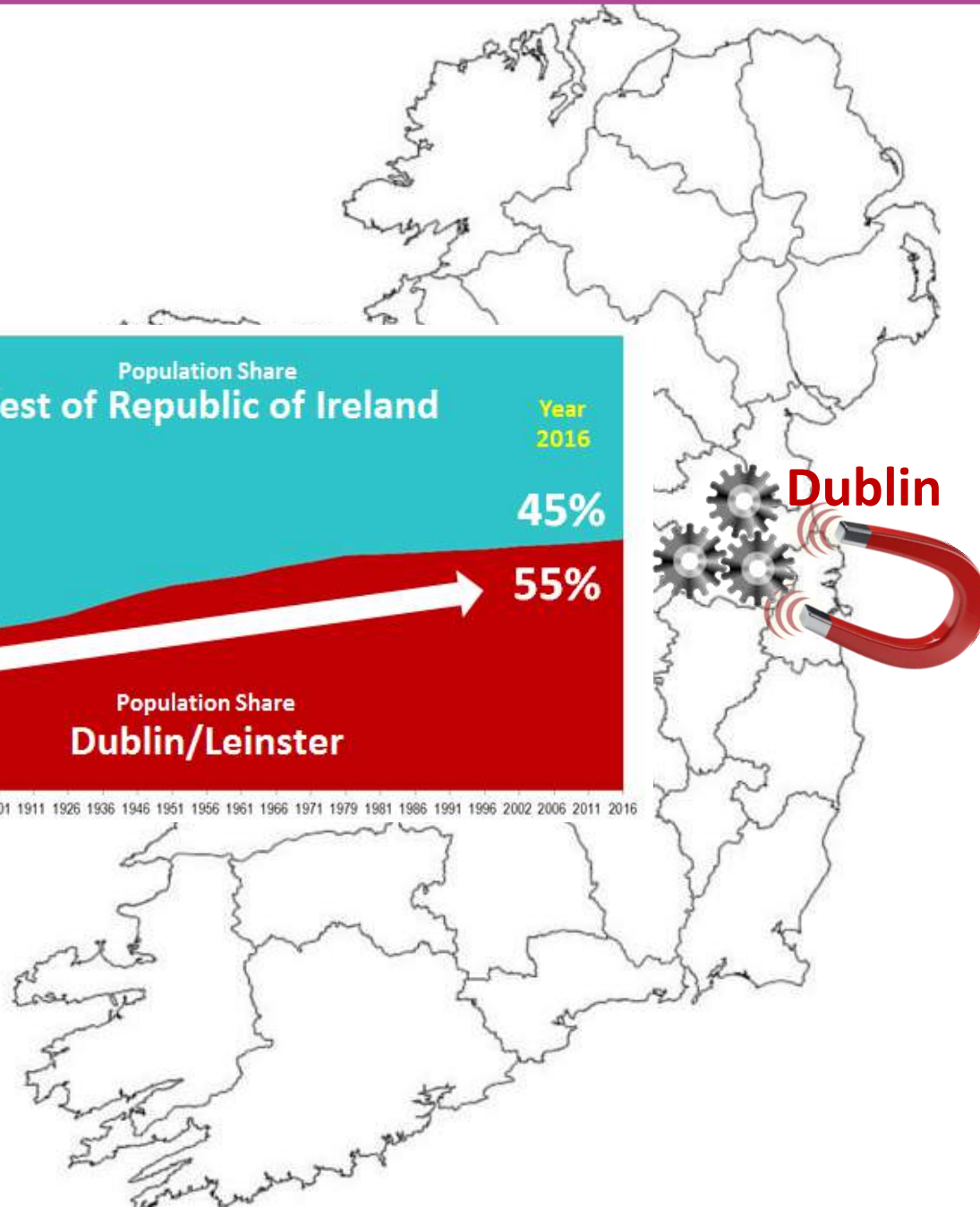
There is a widening Greater Dublin & West Gap

There is No Regional Growth Strategy

There is No Growth Absorption Strategy

There is No Clear Vision

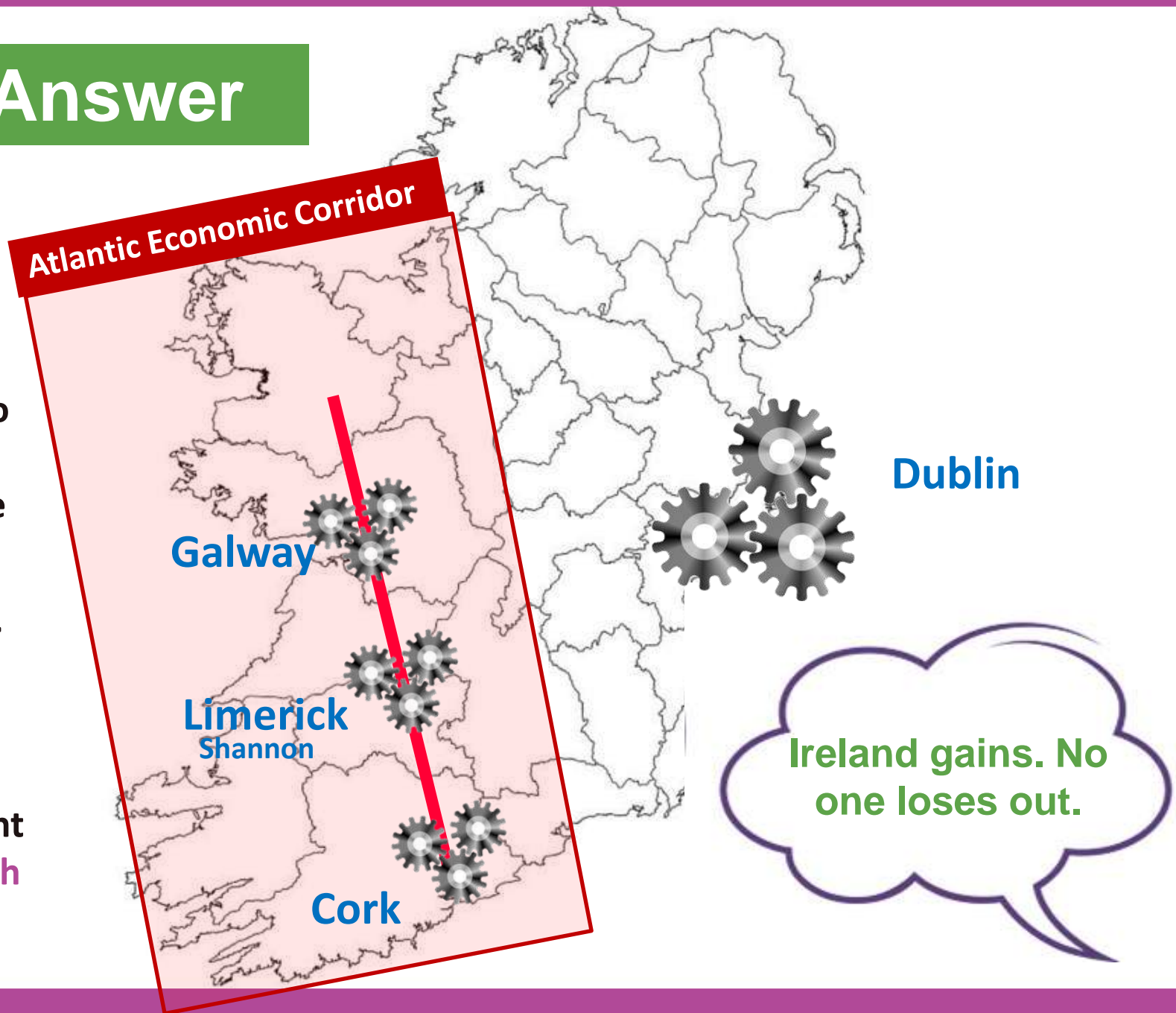
...and there is Turbulence Ahead
(Brexit; America First; Some challenges within European)



The Answer

Create an Atlantic Economic Corridor, from Cork to Sligo, as a Counterpole to Dublin

Have a clear vision and a **REAL** Regional Development Strategy **with Targets**



Dublin

Galway

Limerick
Shannon

Cork

Ireland gains. No one loses out.

Ten '3-city zone' ideas to make a difference

A 3-City Atlantic Economic Zone

Connect the 3 Cities of Cork, Limerick/Shannon and Galway and have a special focus on their development as drivers of growth, impacting a wider zone (Cork to Sligo), and creating a counterpole to Dublin.

Clusters & Centres of Excellence

Build sectoral clusters and centres of excellence in future growth areas, including ICT, life sciences, bio-medical, logistics, aviation, engineering, energy, green technologies, agri-foods and international services.

Grow Indigenous Business

Place a special focus on growing and supporting indigenous business, particularly HPSUs - and companies with good export potential.

Marine & Energy Programmes

Ireland's Atlantic Coast and territorial shelf offer enormous natural marine and energy opportunities. Utilise our resources.

Special Focus on Food

There is great potential in the Atlantic Economic Zone for Irish foods - particularly foods with health, wellness and sustainability attributes.

Year-Round Tourism

The Wild Atlantic Way is a very strong tourism platform to build upon. In addition, there should be a focus on city breaks, seasonality initiatives and sports and health tourism.

A World Innovation Centre

Innovation is the key to Ireland's economic progress. We should create a World Innovation - a centre that taps into, harnesses, supports and nurtures Ireland's talent base, helping entrepreneurs to create sustainable, innovate products.

Improving Connectivity

Improving infrastructural connections between the 3 cities, and driving development, will help create and sustain air routes for passenger and cargo traffic. Our sea ports have potential for major trade and marine projects.

Marketing the Zone

The 3-City 'Atlantic Economic Zone' should be marketed, particularly for foreign direct investment, and as an excellent location to start and grow indigenous globally-trading businesses.

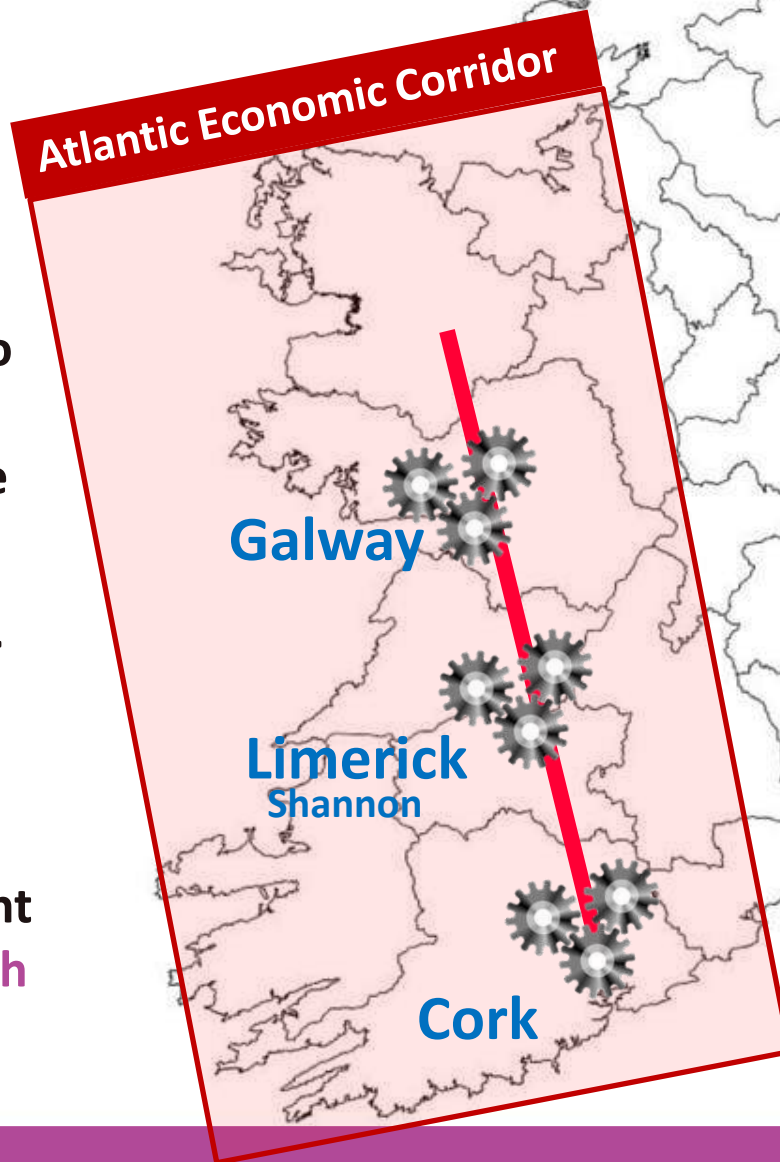
Empower the Regions

There is evidence that empowered regions around the world perform better. Ireland should decentralise more decision making to the Atlantic Way Economic Zone.

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A Model!

The Atlantic Way as an Economic Corridor: The Fáilte Ireland 'Wild Atlantic Way' project is a wonderful tourism initiative and shows what's possible with imagination, resources, support, AND **effective marketing**. It is an initiative that was encouraged and supported by the Atlantic Way Business Group (which pre-dates the Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Initiative).

An Atlantic Economic Corridor, should have a different geography, creating and linking sectoral clusters in cities, towns and villages from Cork to Sligo – with the 3 Cities of Cork, Limerick/Shannon and Galway as key drivers. It would be a powerful initiative, with the potential to accelerate regional growth and be a counterpole to Dublin.

The Atlantic Way – Big Ideas



Mirror the Wild Atlantic Way with an Atlantic Way Economic Corridor

Tourism Corridor



Being Delivered

Economic Corridor



This could change everything

An Atlantic Economic Corridor would align and build on the strengths of the Region and fully utilize its assets.



Empower the Region

Empowered Regions around the world typically perform better. They are better positioned to envision their future, and to understand and build upon their strengths; to be innovative and create competitive advantage; and to involve businesses and communities in driving for a better and sustainable future. An Atlantic Economic Zone, with greater Regional decision making and empowerment, will be a transformational project.

<p>South Tyrol Italy</p> 	<p>Piedmont Triad North Carolina</p>  <p>PIEDMONT TRIAD PARTNERSHIP</p>	<p>The Cantons Switzerland</p> 	<p>Jacksonville Florida</p> 
<p>The Regions New Zealand</p>  <p>New Zealand</p>	<p>Atlanta Georgia</p> 	<p>Noord-Brabant The Netherlands</p> 	<p>Tampere Finland</p> 