

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am delighted at the Government's efforts with this NPF 2040 vision and plan.

As a qualified town planner (albeit working in the UK) and having lived in Cork for approximately twenty five years, I believe the proposed NPF will be instrumental to a sustainable development of Ireland for the period up to 2040.

However, for the NPF to be instrumental, it needs to do a number of things outlined below:

- It needs to evaluate the mistakes of the previous National Spatial Strategy. It was well intentioned but ultimately did not live up to its vision. Plan and planning are two separate things and a plan is no good without the planning. Having planning mechanisms, with continuous open source feedback and learning will be crucial to Ireland's ongoing development, particularly in the pursuit of proper planning and sustainable development.
- It needs to forensically examine regional cities, other than capital cities, across Europe, to evaluate best practice and replicate it where possible. The cities of Cork, Limerick, Galway needs its infrastructure and green belt policies tightened up (the one-off housing, with planning applications approved on the basis of neighbouring family relatives owning the land is detrimental to the green belt policy/Ireland)
- Data is the current currency of the 21st century and it would strengthen the NPF credentials if data is applied to equip Ireland as a country fit for purpose in today's world and for future generations and achieving a balanced economy across the Island.

Wishing the NPF drivers and the people and newcomers of Ireland success,

Eoin Burns

M.Plan, B.Sc (Hons.), B.Eng, MCIOB