

National Planning Framework



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National Planning

- Consideration should be given to flexible approaches (“variable geometry”) to certain spatial planning where spatial focus can vary depending on the context. The traditional National-Regional-Local spatial scale does not allow for modern Ireland and for specific spatial development planning, functional boundaries should be considered to enable (if not enforce) strategic collaboration across areas.

National- Regional - Local

- Co-ordination across Government Departments is essential to Programme for Government Delivery. The Planning Framework should look at the relationship of Government Departments and their delivery mechanisms at a regional/local level, consideration should therefore be given to:
 - Coterminal regional boundaries for all Government Department to explore a regional approach to more effective delivery of their programmes where relevant
 - Coterminal boundaries at a local level for all state agencies/initiatives (currently in Waterford, localised agencies from Department of Health, Education, to name but a few- all have varying boundaries which makes strategic working at a local level difficult)
 - All local authorities should have a dedicated information and intelligence unit that collects and maps local, regional data and feeds into national data mechanisms. This happens on an ad-hoc basis in some authorities and the benefit of having a team comprising of data analysts, researcher and GIS officer to compile and prove key information would greatly inform decision making at a local level.
 - All Local Authorities having as part of their development plans, a settlement hierarchy that outlines where key service delivery infrastructure should be prioritised. This would enable other agencies to work with local authorities to deliver flexible approaches to service delivery in rural areas,/municipal districts and explore the notion of new ways of delivering services to communities (service delivery hubs)
 - County Development Plans to have associated action plans for each settlement with these localised plans undertaken by local authorities in conjunction with relevant partners so that priority actions and developments are identified with potential resource sources. This would enable strategic use of National funding mechanisms such as Town & Village renewal scheme, REDZ etc.