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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence



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Ireland 2040 Our Plan



NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework

1. Context
2. Inputs
3. Vision and Strategy
4. Implementation

Developing National Planning Policy has been “Interesting”!!

From this (NSS Launch 2002)



To this (Decentralisation 2003)

Eight Government departments to move from Dublin



To this (Min Hogan “Scrap the NSS”)



Hogan to abolish spatial strategy

To this (Launch of Ireland 2040 Consultation Feb 2017)



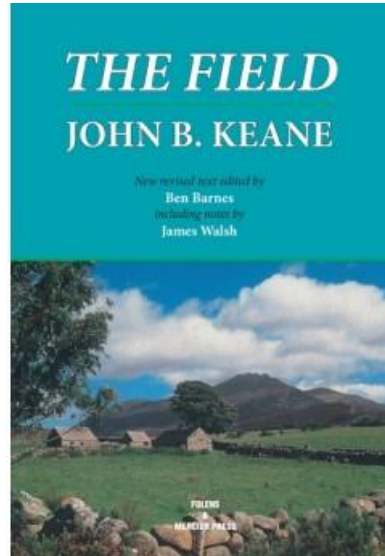
Planning

“20th Century solution to 19th Century problems



Ireland's 19th Century Problems

Still with us, at least culturally?



“It's my field. It's my child. I nursed it. I nourished it. I saw to its every want. I dug the rocks out of it with my bare hands and I made a living thing of it...”

The Field, John B. Keane, 1965

By 2010, land zoned for a population approaching 10 million people

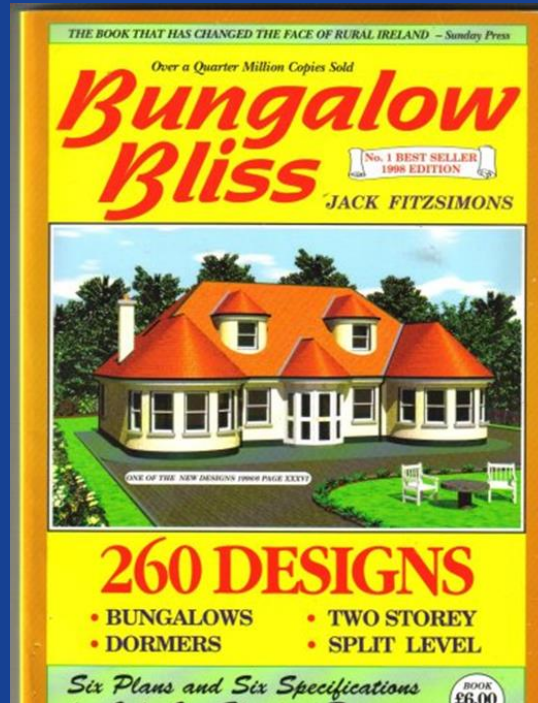


‘NPF will decimate rural communities’ warns Mayor of Limerick

Limerick Leader, 25 April 2018

'Planning' in Ireland means:

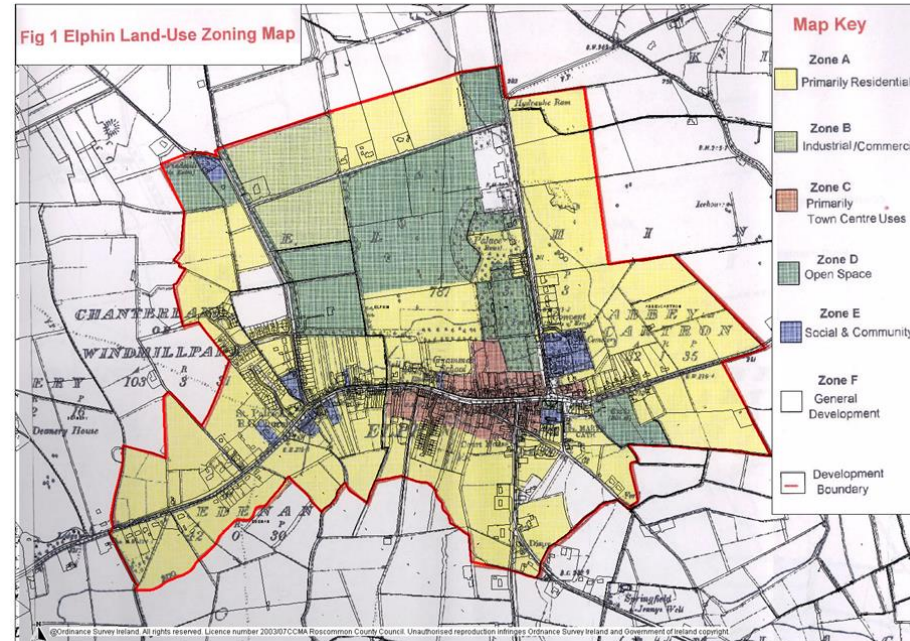
For some, Dispersed Rural Housing

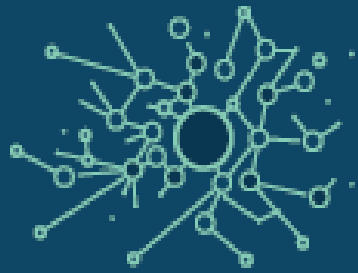


'Planning' in Ireland means:

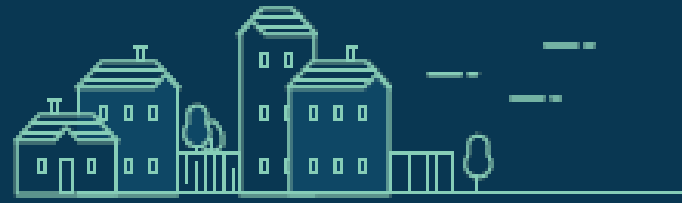
For others, Land Zoning

- Random example: 100ha zoned residential 2004
- 2,000 homes +5,000 people?
- Population in 2006: **590**
Population in 2016: **565**
- Replicated many times over...





Continuation of sprawling growth around but mainly outside our cities and larger towns;

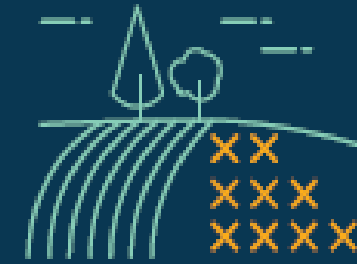


Stagnation of inner city and older suburban areas, with missed opportunities for the utilisation of existing infrastructure and services;

Regional cities like Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford growing but not at the pace or scale required to function as realistic alternatives to Dublin;



An ongoing shift in population and jobs towards the east and to the counties around Dublin in particular;



A degraded environment with, the loss of farmland and habitat to predominantly greenfield development and increased risk of groundwater pollution;



Greater distance between where people live and where people work, notwithstanding changes in technology, as many businesses are increasingly drawn to create the employment opportunities of the future in close proximity in urban areas;



Social disadvantage and inequality perpetuated by geographic location;



Demands for new investment in services and infrastructure in rapidly growing areas;



Further decline of rural areas and towns remote from large urban centres of population;



Haphazard approaches to planning for infrastructure and climate action, reacting to trends rather than preparing for a low/no carbon future.

Ireland 2040 – Overall Context

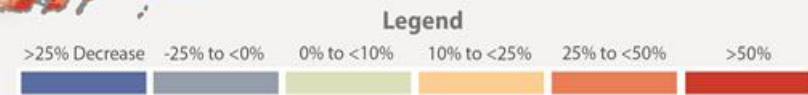
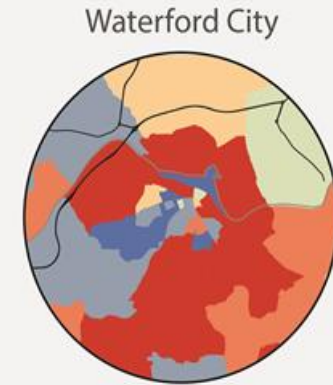
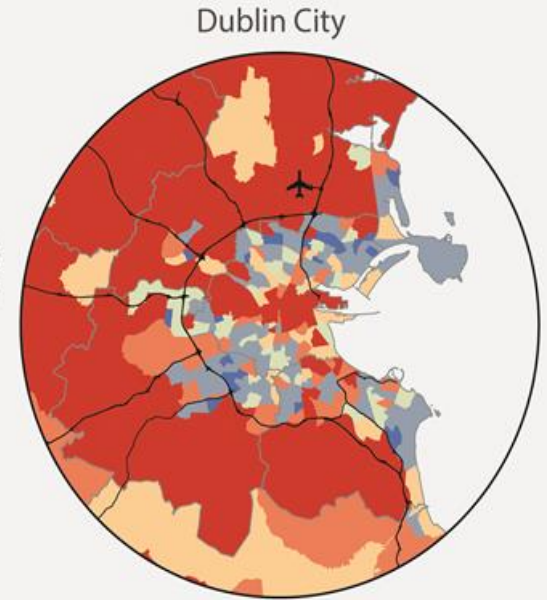
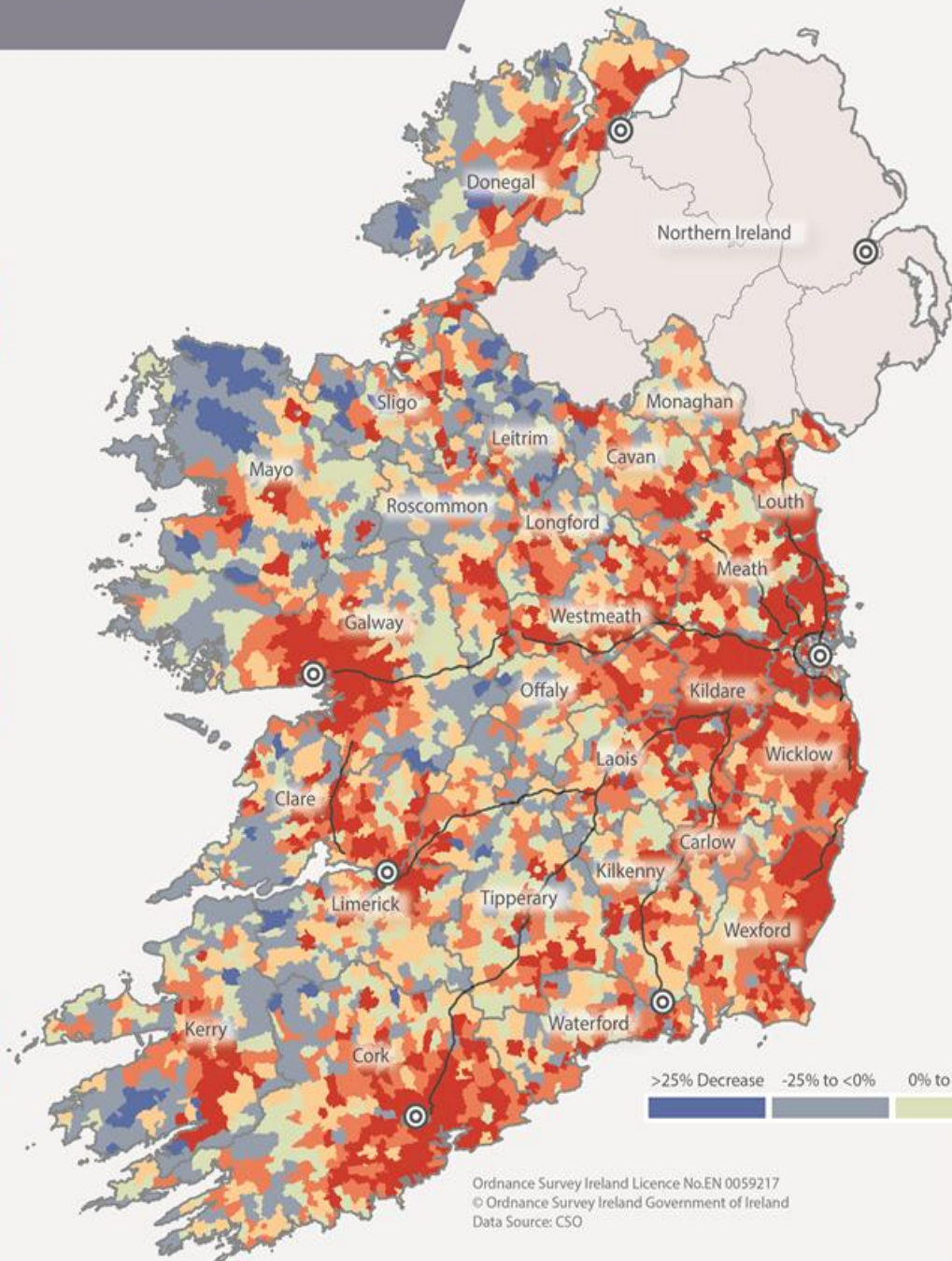
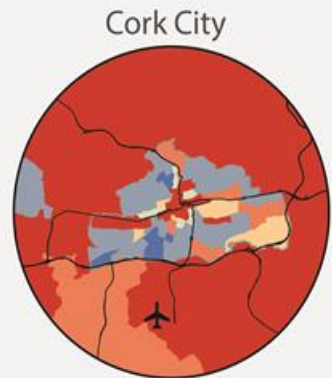
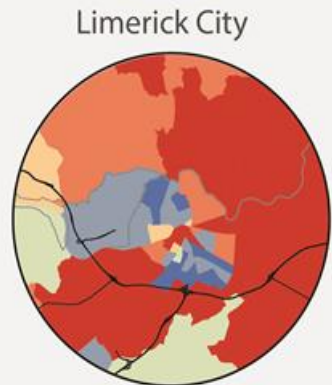
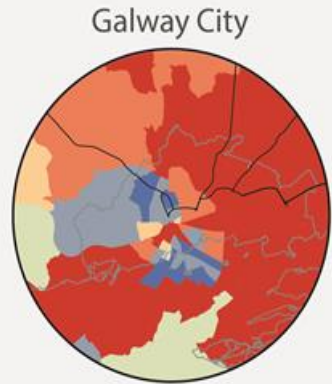
- Agreed need to set out a long term strategy for the future
- ‘Scattergun’ approach of the past didn’t work and more importantly will damage our country in the longer run
- Need to balance the long term interests of the Country as a whole
- We must do things differently - in this context, we need big ideas, ambition

Inputs

- Resources – Dedicated, Multi-expertise team
- Statistics – establishing baseline data and forecasting models (Consultant)
- Consultation & Communication (not to be underestimated – can be the most time consuming element)
- Environmental component (Consultant) – iterative process
- Regional Component – devolution of strategic high level framework to regional and local level plans

Population Change (%), 1991 to 2016

By Electoral Division (ED)



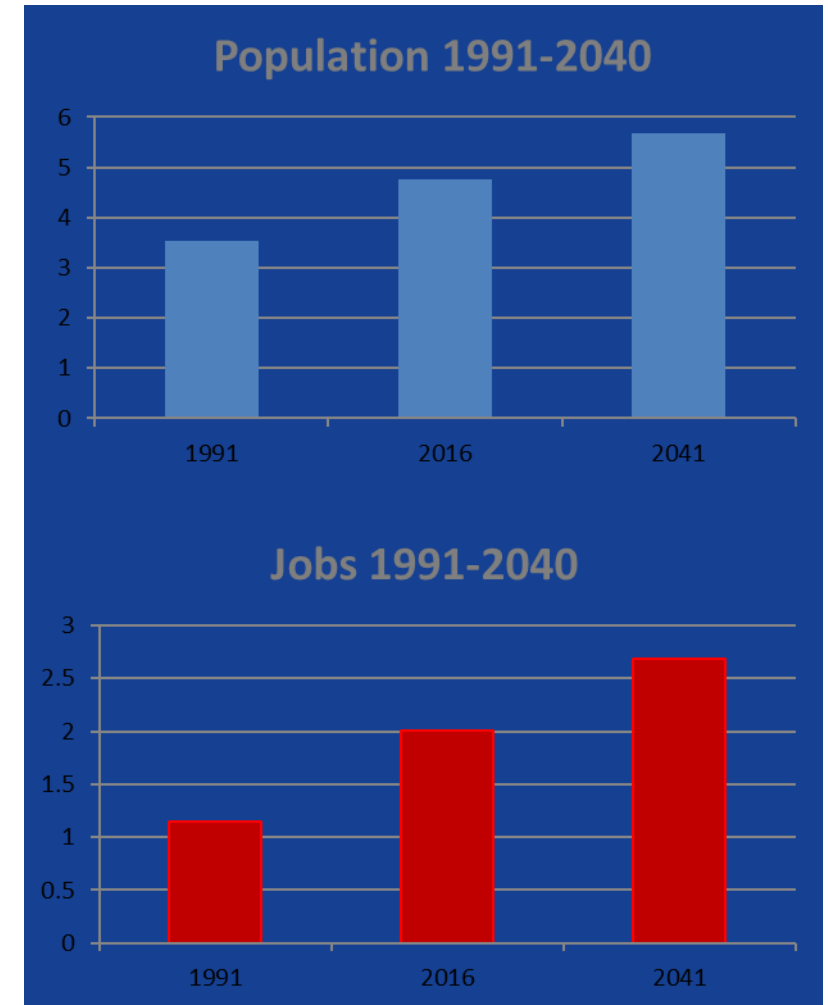
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Data Source: CSO



Inputs – Demographic/Econometric Modelling

- Examines trends and makes projections - 'business as usual'
- Regionally distributed, baseline

	2016	2040
Population	4.76	5.63 (million)
Jobs	2.02	2.68 (million)
Homes	2.00	2.55 (million)



National Growth Drivers to 2040

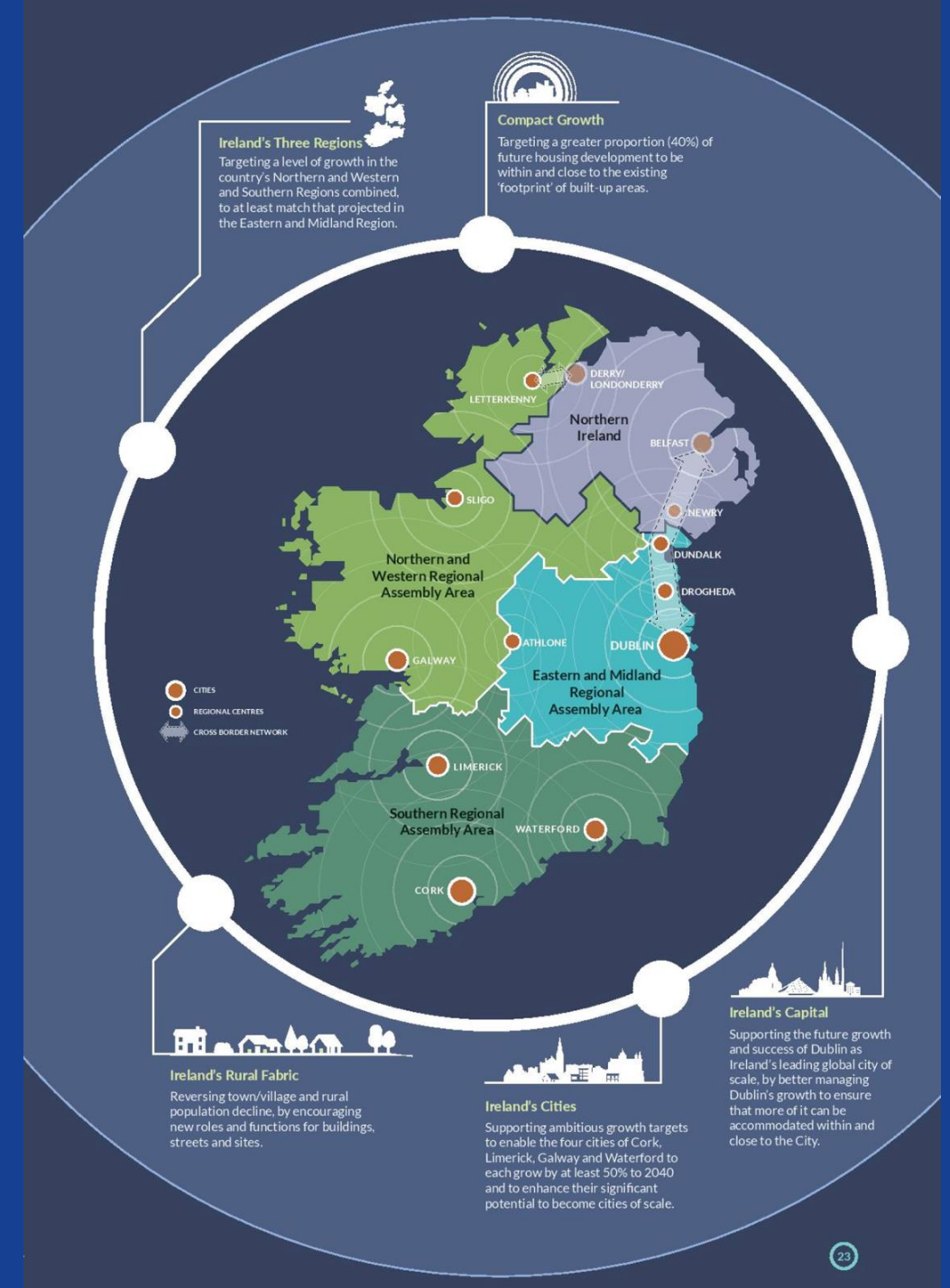
- Almost 1 million additional people
- 660,000 additional jobs
- 550,000 extra homes
- High but falling birth rate, ageing population, modest sustained net in-migration

Critical Influences

- Business as Usual' v Alternatives
- Regional & Local Ambition
- The locational choice of firms and individuals – talent & enterprise

NPF 'Core' Strategy

- '50:50' growth target between (a) Eastern & Midlands and (b) Southern and Northern and Western Regions
- At least 50% growth target for 5 cities; 5 regional/cross-border 'leads'
- 50% brownfield/infill development target for cities, 30% elsewhere, 40% overall
- Package of measures for investment in/planning for rural regeneration
- Planning and investment working together = Strategy



10 Strategic Outcomes



Our Capital

- Supporting Dublin as Ireland's key international/global city of scale and principal economic driver – up to 25% population and jobs growth
- Better manage Metropolitan Dublin's future growth to ensure that it happens within and close to the City
- Need to unlock major opportunities for strategic renewal and enhancement of major run-down/underutilised parts of our capital city
- Better urban design, greater density, enhanced public spaces, urban greenways, improving livability, quality of life
- Address infrastructural bottlenecks, especially transport and water services

Ireland's Cities

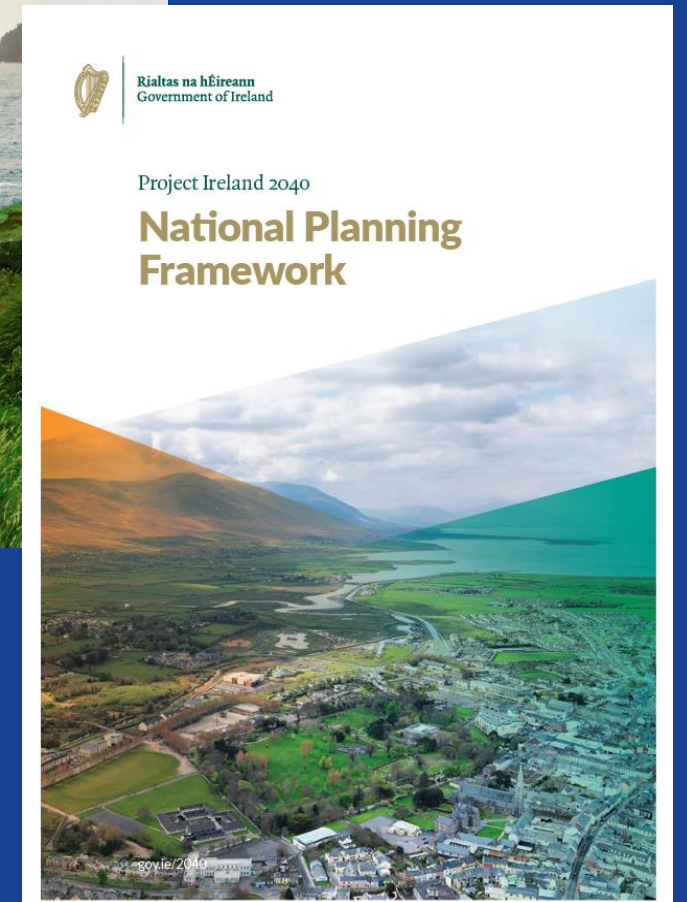
- Enabling all four (Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford) to grow population and jobs by 50-60%, and become cities of greater scale
- Realising ambitious growth targets through a focused package of investment to improve the collective 'offer' - infrastructure, livability and choice in terms of housing, employment and amenities
- Tackle re-use of major city centre sites, key regeneration areas
- Ensure public bodies work together to develop key sites and ensure city centres and urban areas can grow
- Supported by Metropolitan area strategic plans (all five cities)

Regions – Rural Fabric

- Aims to reverse rural population decline, especially in small towns and support the sustainable growth of rural communities
- Through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs), targeting a shift in the level of growth towards the North-Western and Southern Regions to at least match that of the East and Midlands Region
- Enabling the RSES process to identify key centres in a regional context to provide accessible centres of scale to complement the cities, especially in the N&W
- Incrementally improving access (e.g. journey time per km) to the N&W region from Dublin/the East and the western seaboard cities/ settlements and also between the four cities other than Dublin
- Supporting new economic opportunities, based on natural and resource assets as well as those related to quality of life

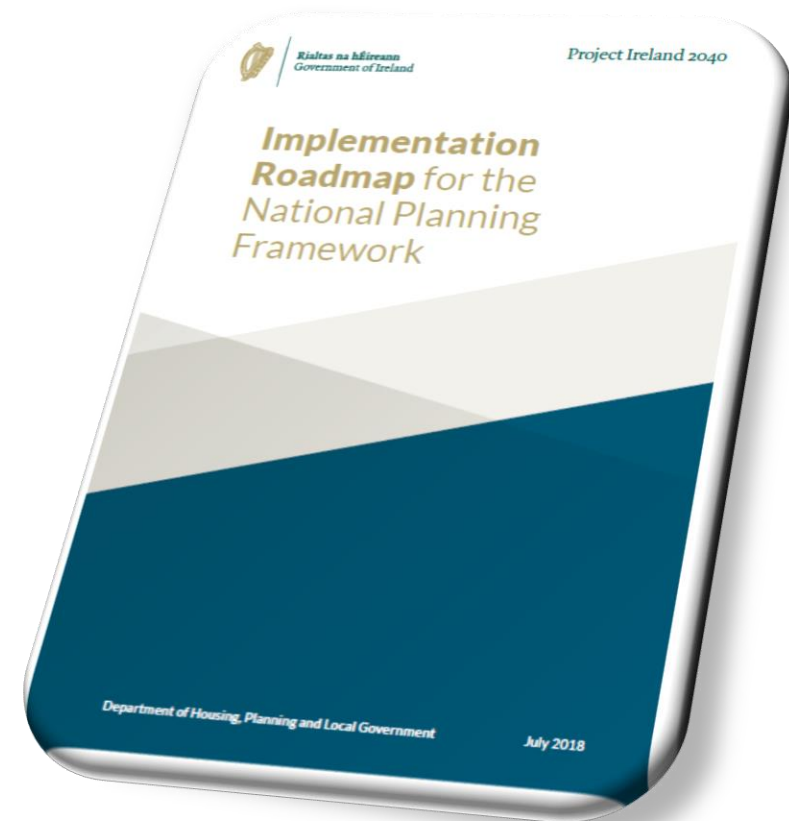
Implementation - Project Ireland 2040

- National Planning Framework and National Development Plan
- Aligned, Long-Term Frameworks
- Aim is sustainable growth and to change development pattern over time



Implementation - Project Ireland 2040

- Ireland 2040 **Project Board**: Steering and integration across Government, RSESs on-going agenda item
- **Programme Management**: Projects Tracker for monitoring, reporting and review



Institutional and Financial Backing

- New Regional Tier of Planning – ‘Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy’s
- New Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans for the 5 Cities
- Oversight of Regional and Local Plans – New Office of the Planning Regulator (‘OPR’)
- Additional legislative provision for NPF as part of same legislation
- Alignment with €116 Billion ten-year National Development Plan to 2027, across all Departments and Agencies
- New funds, including €3 Billion Rural and Urban Funds
- New Land Development Agency (LDA)

NPF Critical Success

1. Timing
2. Vision – recognising the need to reform
3. Leadership – political & Institutional ‘buy in’
4. Collaboration
5. Ministerial support



The four Cs of 21st century skills

Communication
Critical thinking
Creativity
Collaboration



Illustration by Lucy Vigrass

What's happened and Where to Next?

- Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2018 (passed in July 2018) Gives additional statutory footing to NPF
- Three Regional Spatial Economic Strategy's are at Draft Stage – will be going for public consultation in the next couple of weeks
- Five Metropolitan Area Plans for the Cities (Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Galway) are incorporated into the Metro Plans
- Have put a pause on Local Development Plans in order for them to align with the NPF and corresponding RSEs
- Office of the Planning Regulator has been given statutory backing in the 2018 Act – posts are currently being advertised (expect January 2019 to be up and running)
- Calls for submissions on the €2 billion Urban Regeneration Fund (Department has received 160 submissions)
- Land Development Agency has been established (September 2018)

Reflections

- Policy Development takes time
- Focus and space to get on with it
- Build the evidence base to challenge the status quo – ESRI, AIRO
- Ability to work with the political system over sustained period
- Matching the task with the team
- Power of communication
- Preparedness to adapt
- Commitment to deliver



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Laura Courtney, Planning Adviser

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// Thank you

Laura Courtney

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Ireland.

This presentation will be made available at: www.espon.eu/xxx