

From: Cllr Kathleen Shanagher [mailto:cllrkshanagher@roscommoncoco.ie]
Sent: 03 November 2017 11:49
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: National Planning Framework SUBMISSION

I would like the following to be incorporated into the National Planning Framework please.

1. Athlone should be identified as a Strategic Development Zone providing employment and other key infrastructure which would attract investment to the Midlands and towns such as Roscommon playing significantly greater roles as driving the economic growth of their respective rural hinterlands.
 2. Development of Rural towns such as Roscommon, Boyle, Castlerea have many advantages when it comes to attracting investment and job creation. Property prices are lower, cost of living is not as high, wider choice of schools, in general there is a better quality of life
 3. Addressing the challenges for town centre renewal can help to create vibrant town and village centres to support communities. Post Offices in villages play an important role as a meeting place for people. Instead of closing them down, these could be used as hubs with internet access for the local people and tourists to the area.
 4. Athlone IT should be upgraded to 'Technological University' Status as a central issue for long-term regional development. The designation 'Technological University' opens up the prospect of many more good students staying in the region longer as graduates instead of moving to Dublin for study and then for work and career.
 5. More emphasis needs to be placed on Further Education and Apprenticeships as there are major skills shortages in key areas of the economy.
 6. The Midlands area needs to be identified as region for tourism. It needs investment which in time will create employment and boost the economy.
 7. Transport links to the Western regions require significant improvement. Investment is needed to upgrade the N61 road which is a national secondary road in County Roscommon, linking Athlone, Roscommon, Tulsk, and Boyle. It also connects the N6, N63, N60, N5, and N4 national primary and national secondary roads, as well as seven regional roads.
 8. Broadband must be delivered to all areas particularly rural areas to attract investment and increase the population which in turn will keep the schools and shops open creating a vibrant community.
 9. There should be no change to the Roscommon /Westmeath border, Monksland to remain in County Roscommon!
 10. The needs of an ageing population need to be addressed as we are living longer. Most people prefer to live in their own home with home help provided. Retirement villages or communes should also make up part of future planning. These need to be close to town centres beside primary care centres, doctors, pharmacies, post offices, shops, libraries.
- Regards,

Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher.

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