

From: Hogan, Elenora <Elenora.Hogan@limerick.ie>
Sent: 09 November 2017 23:51
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: National Planning Framework 2040

I would like to make some comments regarding the Draft National Planning Framework.

At the outset I would like to say that I am disappointed to see the Mid West Region as an entity being removed from the plan. This region has represented and promoted Limerick, Clare, Tipperary and Kerry for many years and promoted industrial and commercial development in these Counties.

When discussing the issue of regional development I would have thought that a counterpoint to the development of Dublin would be the consideration of a City such as Limerick which has connectivity to Cork and Galway within 90 minutes each way and access to Shannon Foynes Port which should be seen as a major National Strategic Development. Shannon International Airport also has a role to play in regional development.

There is currently a significant amount of commercial development in Limerick with the Gardens International site on Henry Street due for completion in the second quarter of 2018. The Opera Centre Development is a 550,000sq.ft centre for business interests at one of the entrances to the City's core. Overall these two sites have the capacity to create more than 5,000 jobs over the next 5 years the biggest single Irish commercial property developments undertaken outside Dublin.

The ambition of Limerick 2030 DAC is to see Limerick as a City with a population of 150,000 people by 2030 while the National Plan sees it as a City of 140,000 by 2040. The development of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road is considered critical to facilitate the development of the City and the Region providing as it does improved access to the IDA National Technology Park, the University of Limerick and Shannon International Airport. It will also increase access to the businesses and industries in the Limerick and Shannon area thus enhancing the attractiveness of the region from a research, innovation and development perspective.

Shannon Airport must be recognized as one of 3 strategic international airports of significant national importance. The National Aviation Policy should be aligned to recognize an approach to regional development. The airport could become an international centre for Aviation leasing, maintenance and training. Continuing the development of this sector in Shannon would achieve significant economic growth and investment for both the Region and the Country.

The Great Atlantic Way has been a major tourism success for the West Coast of Ireland, and Shannon International Airport and Shannon Foynes Port have an important role to play in the further development of this product. Limerick City and the Mid West Region can drive this success further and act as a distributor to the many towns throughout the regions counties with population of less than 10,000. They too have a role to play in enhancing a natural counterpoint to the ongoing over development of the Eastern Region, and Dublin in particular.

Yours sincerely

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