

Submission to the National Planning Framework on behalf of Cllr. Séamie Morris M C C Tipperary County Council 10/11/17

I am making this new submission as an Independent councillor and I have added some new parts to my submission to include the request that the National Planning framework take into consideration the fact that the Draft plan was very disappointing in terms of supporting a balanced spatial strategy and also it literally ignored the potential for growth in North Tipperary. I have included a section also about supporting the G A A s request for Full All Weather Pitches and also have included the need to heed the European Directives which are in place to protect Lough Derg which will finally put to bed the ridiculous Irish Water proposal to take 300 million litres of Water a day from the lake. I have also added that we need to protect our Postal network which serves the country so well and also a section on breaking up the Pillar Banking system which continues to act recklessly .

Social economic and demographic development has been over concentrated in the Dublin Region for decades with the Dublin region now accounting for 49% of the Irish Economy. This overgrowth of Dublin has been done to the detriment of the growth of the Mid West. The last National Planning framework failed in its objective of reversing this trend in favour of a balanced regional development. The National Planning framework must provide an effective counterbalance to the overgrowth of the Dublin region.

The Postal service provides a daily service to Tipperary through its Postal service and Post Office network . This is under increasing threat due to the de population of Rural Ireland. Tipperary is a particularly rural county and because of this providing daily postal services throughout the county is putting a severe financial strain on An Post . I would suggest that in order to protect Rural postal services there should be real movement in providing adequate state subvention to An Post to continue with their Universal Social Obligation to provide daily postal services .

I would also suggest that we have to break up the power of the pillar banking system which has twice bankrupted this country and has required several bailouts from the Citizens of this country and yet they continue to force people out of their homes and overcharge people time and time again .Its time now to create a new community banking system using either the An Post or the Credit Union network . Community banking have been outstanding successes in New Zealand and Germany and provide a counter balance to the Pillar baking system who have acted so recklessly in the past .

Cities play a vital role in creating growth and jobs. I recognise the vital role that the city of Limerick has in the counterbalance to the overgrowth of the Dublin Region and we are calling for increased state investment in transport, broadband, water services , health and education infrastructure in the Mid-West region , putting an infrastructure fund in place to drive the economic impact in the region. This funding should target many infrastructure projects across the Mid-West region which should unlock further investments from local councils in the Mid-West region and also infrastructure funding from the European Investment Bank in a joint coordinated partnership.

I want also to support the G A A submission particularly the provision of full length all weather grass pitches in each county as the Irish climate does not allow for year -long outdoor activity but the provision of such facilities would go a long way to mitigating the impact of the Irish weather. This would also provide much needed all year green space to ensure equality of opportunity. I would suggest that the recently purchased Nenagh Eire Og land which is undeveloped at the moment be the county site for the All Weather Grass pitch due to its closeness to a major Motorway, its central

location and its shovel ready state. There is also the possibility of a 50,000 start-up funding which is in place in Tipperary County Council for a full all Weather pitch in Nenagh .

I suggest that the Foynes/Shannon port could be one of the Regional Assets used to drive regional growth as it could unlock huge economic benefits for the region. The Shannon estuary is one of the most valuable natural resources for Ireland. The estuary adjoins the counties of Limerick, Clare and Kerry however its economic impact extends far beyond this area including Tipperary . It has a depth in excess of 18 metres making it Irelands premier deep-water resource, capable of handling vessels of up to 200,000 deadweight tonnes and is connected to all major international shipping lanes.

I also recognise that Lough Derg and the Shannon are massively important for the future economic viability of the Mid-West and under no circumstances should any major infrastructural projects like Irish Waters proposal to extract 300 million litres of water a day from Parteen for the purposes of treatment and transfer to the Eastern and Midlands region be considered as it will only reinforce the unbalanced regional development of the Country. It also has the potential to destroy forever, huge amounts of Agricultural lands and effect the economic development of the farming community along the corridor. Lough Derg is protected by many European Directives as already reinforced by the Draft National Planning Framework and I am sure that the National Planning Framework will adhere to its protection of what are European enforced directives.

I strongly believe that North Tipperary has a huge role in the Economic future of the Mid West region . I believe that the zone of influence should extend to Nenagh as it is an important support growth centre and we believe that Nenagh can support new business clusters within the region and support economic development in own own right. Nenagh has an abundance of industrial units , up to 1000 housing planning permissions , a strong educated workforce , strong educational facilities , very strong sporting facilities including an indoor athletics area, F A I Regional status soccer facility with Full All Weather pitch , strong G A A and Rugby clubs a growing Gymnastics club and a wide range of other sports . Nenagh can provide the perfect work life destination for workers and their families who will add to the workforce in a strong counterbalanced Mid West region with Limerick at the centre of this growing region because of the ease of access through road and rail but the services must be retained and enhanced as it is not operating to its potential .

I suggest that the National Planning Framework should pilot the Scottish City deals model in the Mid-West region , which would put an infrastructure fund in place to drive the economic impact on the region. The Gateway fund under the national planning framework failed but the City Deals project in Scotland as it has worked there in terms of structure incentives , financial arrangements and governance . It would bring a partnership approach of the State, Local Councils , Chamber of Commerce and the E I B .

Yours sincerely Cllr. Séamie Morris 10/11/17