



## **SUBMISSION TO**

# **DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

### **Introduction**

Having reviewed the Draft National Planning Framework (DNFP), South East Chambers welcome the opportunity to highlight the following strategic actions for inclusion in the ongoing consultation process.

South East Chambers is an amalgamation of Waterford Chamber, Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber, Kilkenny Chamber, Wexford Chamber, Gorey Chamber, New Ross Chamber, Enniscorthy Chamber and County Carlow Chamber, collectively representing the business community across the South East Region.

South East Chambers fully endorse the submission made by the five Local Authorities and would suggest the following be given the utmost priority during the consultation process.

### **Strategic Actions**

- It is of strategic importance for the South East Waterford City Region that the runway at Waterford Airport is extended to facilitate larger passenger jets than is currently permitted at Waterford Airport.
- Rosslare & Belview Ports must be allowed reach their full potential, in line with Government policy.
- The N24 Waterford to Limerick route must be developed to motorway standard.
- The N25 Rosslare to Cork route needs to be improved.
- The N80 linking the N11 across to Carlow (M9), Portlaoise (M7) and Tullamore (M6) requires development to full National Primary Route standard.

- The intra regional road connections between urban centres also require development to National Route standard.
- Recognition of the potential to upgrade, and thus improve, mainline passenger services to/from Dublin and Limerick by investing in rail alignment and replacement. Freight services could be improved for off-peak times (overnight); with emphasis on serving seaports in Rosslare, New Ross and Belview. Analysis and action is required to develop commuter transactions between Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford and Clonmel.
- The recommendations of the Waterford Planning & Land Use Strategy for the Greater Waterford Area have to be implemented to allow for increased growth.
- Ongoing reviews of the Waterford Planning & Land Use Strategy in line with future increases to the 80,000 population allowed for by the document in relation to the study area by 2040.
- The development of interconnecting greenways and blueways throughout the region via a Regional Greenways Office needs to be secured.
- County Towns must be given due recognition by ensuring the investment programme and business plan of Irish Water are aligned to the growth projections for the SEWCR.
- There is an urgent need to increase the aeration capacity at the Waterford Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Considering the projected growth of the greater Waterford City area, it is essential there is sufficient water capacity.
- An optic fibre network with high-speed broadband and improved telecoms services throughout the region is a must.
- A Technological University for the South East on a multi campus basis must be established without delay and as a priority.
- Funding for the Technological University for the South East must be equal to that of other universities e.g. the availability of funding through the EIB.
- Waterford University Hospital must be developed to a regional health service of excellence. To achieve that the investment programmes of the HSE must match the growth projections of the SEWCR.
- Centres of excellence must be developed in line with the region's traditional and growing strengths.

## **Conclusion**

The South East Region is on course to develop and grow significantly in the coming years and must be given every opportunity to reach its full potential.

As a result, South East Chambers recommends the region be given due consideration during the consultation process of the National Planning Framework