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Sent: 07 February 2017 11:08
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040 - A Big Idea for a Big Future - A new Capital for Ireland

Dublin has been one of Ireland's main areas of development for 1000 years. It is a city with a global appeal and a cosmopolitan vibrancy.

Dublin has achieved a critical mass as a global city for Tech, Finance, Aircraft leasing etc.

Dublin's status as the capital is now incidental to its success and thus its time as capital has passed.

The global industries that are now drawn to Dublin naturally drive up the cost of living to an extent where it is hard to justify to taxpayers why the mechanisms of Government should be based in such an expensive city. The proximity of big business interests to the elected and un-elected government in the same city does not promote the ideals of transparency and accountability that we wish to portray and practice in the new millennium.

The construction of a new capital would be an ambitious and effective way to address the cleaving apart of Ireland into Rural Ireland vs Dublin that is well underway today in 2017.

The Midlands have suffered from depopulation for many years due to their proximity to Dublin and other coastal cities. This presents an ideal opportunity to create a new capital along the lines of Australia's Canberra or Washington DC.

A planned government city would demonstrate the commitment of The State to the whole of the country of Ireland. The symbolism of the geography should not be underestimated.

A high speed rail link to Shannon or Knock Airport would provide the required connectivity while possibly saving on future expansion at Dublin Airport by relieving pressure from it.

The State could rent out or sell property in Dublin City centre to pay for the move and given the prime locations it holds it could possibly even be done in a revenue neutral way.

A government investment bond could be raised from the general public to finance the new city with returns paid to them from the income generated from The State's Dublin properties.

It would provide for the efficient and cost effective governance of the country with a location in the centre of the island a powerful symbol for the inclusiveness of the Irish State - Something not obvious and possibly not true with power centred in Dublin.

The long term effect of having a planned government city in the heart of Ireland would be to re-balance the country away from Dublin to a place which is geographically efficient and politically neutral given the lack of any major population centre there at present.

This is big thinking but after nearly 100 years of Governing the country from the remains of the British empire isn't it time for Ireland to grow up and think big?

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