

**From:** [REDACTED]  
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I would appreciate if the following could be incorporated into the plan:

1. Athlone be identified as a Strategic Development Zone that would provide employment, higher educational facilities and other key infrastructure that would attract investment to the region as well as acting as a counter balance to Dublin.
2. Transport links to the Western region requires significant investment, particularly the N5 to allow the region to continue to develop into the future. The N61 between Athlone and the N5 must be upgraded to a high standard single carriageway as it provides a key link to Athlone.
3. Investment in strategic tourism projects is required to attract additional tourists to the region which would create significant additional employment going forward.
4. Communication infrastructure such as broadband must be delivered to allow the economy to develop, particularly in rural areas.
5. Development of the rural economy to allow people to work and live in the regions must form a central part of this plan.

Regards  
Cllr. John Naughten