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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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These are the issues I would like considered in the 2040 plan, for the Kilkenny city, county and the south east areas.

1) Construct a second-level school to serve the eastern environs of Kilkenny City, as this side of the city has no secondary school at all and a growing youth population. Primary schools are so full children are being forced to travel to surrounding towns to school, these children will be feeding into secondary school in just a few years, these secondary schools are already under immense pressure and in danger of serious over crowding.

2) Housing is a priority, to this end embark on a State led home construction/buying project that will meet demand into the future and will support sustainable social communities. Again the number of children in Kilkenny is growing, these children will need homes of their own in a few years, it is near impossible to find a place to live in Kilkenny, and there is a large homeless population, both in hostels and b&bs, and people living in very overcrowded homes of family and friends.

3) Retain and expand the current rural post office network.

4) Retain and expand sustainable bus and rail services at local, regional and national level. Every country in Europe is trying to reduce car reliance, and increase public transport and smart travel options, the loss of these services is against these principles

5) Develop Waterford Airport as an international hub. This would be a boost for the entire south east.

6) Develop a fully accredited and functioning University of the South East with fully accredited and functioning FT campuses in Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford. This could be linked with point 1, and a serious effort made for high tech/science industry related courses, which I believe will be the future for Ireland.

7) Develop and expand fully equipped and functioning hospitals, disability, elderly and mental health services in Waterford and Kilkenny.

8) Develop State purpose built clustered accommodation for those living with Alzheimer's and Autism.

9) State investment in sustainable local job development other than tourism is critical to Kilkenny going forward. Kilkenny is strong in the arts, heritage and creative fields we need investment, facilitation and encouragement education and support in these areas with the intention of producing sustainable, high concept jobs.

10) Kilkenny has an excellent reputation for agricultural production. We need to exploit this by focusing on education and training and State support for the development of sustainable, high value products at micro industry/community level.

11) Regarding the boundary issue between Waterford and Kilkenny, I believe there are other ways for Waterford to expand, this would be a huge blow to Kilkenny both Financially and culturally, to loses such a large area.

Liz O'Brien

