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Sent: 31 March 2017 15:08
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Submission on National Planning Framework - Ireland 2040 - Clare & Ennis 2040.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Sir , Madam

Please accept this submission , apologies about the quality of structure of submission but got caught by time.

Introduction

Key spatial, sectoral, infrastructural, service and institutional decisions need to be made in terms of

- a) Location and quantity of accommodation for a population increase of 1 Million people
- b) Location and type of jobs for an additional ½ Million workers
- c) Providing for almost three times as many people 65+ (from current 12% of total pop to 22%)
- d) Enhancing and creating communities to meet the social, cultural, political and economic requirements of the macro and micro changes that challenge existing and emerging communities.

A. National Planning Framework - Ireland 2040 - population growth & Job growth.

1. Clare Current.

Clare pop 120,000 60% urban 40% rural
46500 jobs (was 50,000 in 2006) in Clare ;
33,000 of those held by Clare people

2. Current Distribution population & Jobs. Importance of new jobs created in Clare.

33,000 jobs in Clare held by Clare residents
- 10,000 in Ennis/Newmarket 50% of which held by those rural & partic west/north Clare
Jobs created in Ennis & Shannon contribute very positively to sustain population in West/North Clare (locals live & commute) unlike those created in Limerick (locals in West/North Clare migrate either to Ennis or Limerick and commute to jobs in Limerick.

3. National 2040 expected growth Targets

- 1 million pop growth
- 500,000 job growth
- 500,000 houses built
- 2 person per housing unit occupancy
- 1 million people aged over 65

4. Clare with 2.5% current population to achieve re-balance growth v Dublin needs set target for 5% of all growth figures . Needed to keep Ennis as Munsters largest town & Irelands 11th largest town or city.

- Clare population to grow by 50,000
- Clare jobs to grow by 25,000
- Clare housing to grow by 25,000

5. Balanced distribution 2040 Clare growth.

- mid Clare (motorway) 60% of growth ;
population + 30,000 ; Housing + 15,000 ;
Jobs + 15,000
- West/North Clare 20%of growth
population + 10,000 ; Housing + 5,000 ;
Jobs + 5,000
- East Clare 20%of growth
population + 10,000 ; Housing + 5,000 ;
Jobs + 5,000

B. Education

Need 3/4/5 th level Campus in Ennis to retain 18-25 year age in Mid & West/North Clare.
Use of Internet provision of higher level education in villages in Clare.

C. Infrastructure Provision.

2. What Infrastructural Capital Projects should be highlighted -

-Ennis has reasonable waste water treatment plant (WWTP) capacity in the north of town at Clonroad but the WWTP south of the town at Clareabbey is operating in excess of its capacity/limit. Raw sewage flows in Fergus at Clarecastle south of the town. Both Clareabbey WWTP & Clarecastle WWS need to be upgraded to allow for increase in population and for industrial development in the future.

- The size of reservoir at Drumcliffe needs to be doubled in size

- Water augmentation (backup) scheme from CastleLake to Ballybeg reservoir needed.

- Ennis Traffic study needs to be commissioned

- roundabout & portion of Northern inner relief road into Information Age park (IAP) Gort Road Ennis.

urgently needed to be built to open up 25acres of serviced land at IAP (5,000 jobs?) on Gort Road Ennis in ownership of Shannon Group.

- additional junction/ interchange off M18 at Quin Road to take HGVs out of town whilst servicing more directly the busy Rail & bus stations, Clare Mart Complex & Quin Road business park .

3. Ennis does not have a 220 kv sub-station which is hugely disadvantageous in terms of infrastructure and will be required for expansion of industry.

4. Ennis is the largest town in Munster with a population of 26,000, we need to be

targeting a population of 50,000 by 2040 and looking for a separate elected assembly.

5. Provision of a campus for 3rd/4th/5th level education

6. Railway line needs an investment of €10m at Ballycar to remove flooding risk that closed the main rail line for 120 days in 2016.

7. Railway station needs investment of €1 million for disability lifts to service both platforms.

8. Relocation of flood barrage at Clarecastle to South of Roche site to address climate change , back-up of Ennis Floods and allow development of Marina in Clarecastle port to service cruise ships etc

D. The abolition of Ennis Town Council needs to be overturned to ensure the development and promotion of the Capital town of Clare. It needs to be rate , roads & planning authority in order to manage its growth in a sustainable manner.

E . Proposal of Polycentric relationship between Ennis , Shannon & Limerick

See map below by 2040 do we need for the sustainability of Clare's future to see a target to achieve dark blue and light blue area in mid west ?

Experience shows that the counties (nearly 10 of them) wrapped around Dublin are all coming out of recession strongly and seem to have been better able to weathered the recession during the collapse than the west , Midwest , etc.

Proposal of Polycentric relationship between Ennis , Shannon & Limerick

Grow population & jobs across the 30 mile area that Cllr Michael Begley spoke about ; North South from Ennis to far side Limerick City & East west from Annacoty/Castletroy to Shannon . It could possibly be a box shaped "Thomond Centre " of Ennis , Shannon & Limerick .

Provide infrastructure and spatial planning policies in the National Planning Framework in order by 2040 to achieve high marks across the three crucial criteria ;

A. Urban settlement.

B. Accessibility.

C. Territorial Cooperation.

Polycentric Territorial Structures and Territorial Cooperation - Espon



October 2016 - Polycentricity is a concept that encourages regions and cities, working with neighbouring territories, to explore common strengths and reveal potential complementarities, which brings added value that cannot be achieved by the individual regions and cities in isolation. Importantly, a polycentric approach allows for joining existing assets in order to increase their competitive power, efficiency of using limited resources by avoiding duplicating roles and functions and bringing more benefits for local inhabitants using the combined resource potential. Rather than attempting to change the existing settlement patterns some of which cannot be altered (like continuous urbanisation), the Policy Brief suggests that policy-makers at different scales should strive for increasing flows and interactions among places in order to boost their competitiveness and bring more benefits to their inhabitants through combining existing assets and resources. Making Europe more polycentric requires taking strategic advantage of existing regional diversity and further strengthening territorial cooperation and governance in order to target investments and reduce regional disparities.

The Policy Brief builds on existing evidence produced by ESPON highlighting the polycentric development potential in Europe and it is guided by questions on:

- *why* polycentric territorial cooperation matters?
- *where* polycentric structures can be found in Europe and where there are potentials for more polycentric development through territorial cooperation?
- *how* policy-makers at different territorial scales should engage in and support territorial cooperation arrangements to further enhance polycentric settlement structures in the EU?

Based on these questions the Policy Brief attempts to provide considerations on a potential EU Territorial Reference Framework which could support relevant policy processes, such as the update of the EU Territorial Agenda post 2020.

Johnny Flynn