



**Unique Reference Number:** DHLGH-C1-222

**Status:** Approved

**Submission:**

Observation regarding the First Revision to the National Planning Framework

**UID:** 662

**Author:**

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán / Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

**Consultation:**

Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework

**Date Created:** 12.09.2024 - 16:33

---

## Observations:

### 1. The Vision

**Chapter:** 1. The  
Vision

12/09/2024

**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán / Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media**

#### **Observation regarding the First Revision to the National Planning Framework**

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media welcomes the proposed revision of the National Planning Framework, and makes the following observations:

From a tourism perspective, the objectives set out in the Planning Framework (particularly the overarching aim of ensuring balanced regional development), align well with the Department's ambitions for the tourism sector. In this regard, work is at an advanced stage in the finalisation of a new Tourism Policy Framework which will provide the foundations for the sustainable growth of the tourism sector in the period to 2030.

The Minister further welcomes the objective to pursue the further development of sport, welcoming the plans for the co-location of infrastructure facilities such as schools and sports facilities, and the promotion of school sporting facilities for community use. The Minister agrees that ongoing investment in sports facilities will be needed to ensure alignment with future needs. The Minister also welcomes proposals to make walking and cycling more attractive, as these align with targets for increasing the levels of sports participation and physical activity among the population.

The Minister is of the view that it may be worth considering the inclusion of a dedicated National Policy Objective in Chapter 6 "People, Homes and Communities" (perhaps under section 6.1 "Quality of Life and Place") in respect of investment in sporting and cultural facilities.

In addition, while Sport and Culture are referred to in NPO 64, this is a catch-all that reflects the Minister’s Department’s current configuration rather than the importance of the sectors it serves and is placed in the International/North-South Chapter 8, “Working with Our Neighbours”. The Minister recommends that a greater focus on these sectors individually would be useful in the context of the development of future investment proposals.

The Minister also wishes to note the importance of arts and culture in placemaking and community building and the contribution they make to the liveability and attractiveness of urban and rural locations. Arts and culture can also be catalysts in regeneration. The Minister welcomes the acknowledgement of these important roles as set out in a number of the objectives of the revised National Planning Framework.

The importance of maintaining and protecting the Gaeltacht as a distinct linguistic and cultural entity – and taking into account fully the unique socio-linguistic context of the Gaeltacht regions – remains a central objective. The Minister, therefore, welcomes the continued recognition of the importance of the Language Planning Process – in the Gaeltacht itself, in Gaeltacht Service Towns and among Irish Language Networks – as a key initiative in supporting the continued use of Irish as a vibrant community language in the Gaeltacht regions and beyond.

While recognising the central concept of compact growth, it should be noted that the traditional pattern of dispersed settlement has been a vital factor in the intergenerational transmission of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht. The Minister is of the considered view that this should be recognised in the Framework and that this settlement pattern should continue to play a role in the future development of the Gaeltacht as a distinct linguistic entity.

---

**Documents Attached:** No  
**Boundaries Captured on** No  
**Map:**