



Brian Leddin TD

Green Party/Comhaontas Glas

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Email: brian.leddin@oireachtas.ie

Tel: 061 609 387

Limerick, 12th September 2024

Dear Minister,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on the “Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework”.

As the State’s overarching planning framework, which will both guide and constrain all regional and spatial economic strategies, county and city development plans and local area plans, the finalised First Revision to the National Planning Framework will have a profound influence on the growth and development of Ireland in the coming decades.

The First Revision is an opportunity to set a strategic vision for a more balanced distribution of economic activity and population growth in the State and should set a course towards the closing of the gap between the capital and the regional cities by supporting fast growth of Limerick-Shannon, Cork, Galway and Waterford.

This kind of growth of the regional cities can only be achieved by investing in high capacity metropolitan rail systems and a “transit oriented development” approach to land development. It is crucial that the First Revision strongly supports both of the above in the narrative and in the population growth targets for the metropolitan areas.

As it is currently drafted the First Revision does not do so. Unfortunately, the influence of the framework, unless significantly amended, will be to promote continued bloat of the capital and limited opportunity for the regional cities. In doing so it does not serve the State well.

I ask that the First Revision to the National Planning Framework be amended to strongly support metropolitan railway systems and “transit oriented development” in each of the regional metropolitan areas, and that the population targets be revised to align with this ambition, on the basis that this is the least cost, most sustainable and fastest way of growing Limerick-Shannon, Cork, Galway and Waterford.

In particular, with respect to the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area, I ask that the First Revision to the National Planning Framework more strongly support the immediate planning and development of a rail connection between Shannon and Limerick City and the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS).

In respect of the above, the draft makes reference to “transport” rather than “transit” oriented development. Whether either word is used the document should be much more clear that it (i.e. TOD) relates to rail oriented development.

In addition to the above, I suggest that the commitment to ‘compact growth’ in the draft does not appear to be genuine, considering that it supports 60% of new housing development outside the existing footprint of built-up areas. I ask that this inconsistency be reviewed such that true compact growth is supported by the First Revision to the National Planning Framework and is ultimately the outcome of it.
I look forward to reading the finalised document.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Leddin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Brian Leddin TD
Limerick City