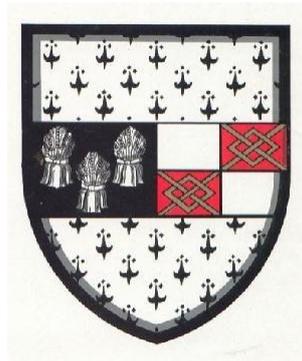


Submission by  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
To Proposed Material Amendments to  
The Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy  
For the Southern Region



Date: 10th Oct 2019

Kilkenny County Council welcomes the publication of the Material Amendments to the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Assembly area. The Council wishes to acknowledge elements of its submission to the Draft which have been taken on board in the preparation of the Material amendments.

The Council welcomes that the Key towns are now split between into two categories with six of the Key Towns identified as having a very significant population scale functioning as self-sustaining regional drivers. Kilkenny city is identified as one of these.

It is noted that suggested profile of Kilkenny city provided in the Council's submission to the draft is not included as a material amendment. It is submitted that the suggested profile can be included as non-material amendment in the final RSES document.

In relation to Material Amendment 15 the following noted:

Not all attributes for Kilkenny City as suggested in the Council's submission to the draft document have been taken on board. The following attributes were omitted. These are repeated directly from the Council's submission.<sup>1</sup>

- Growing Regional Centre for Higher Education and Research with ~~St. Kieran's College (part of Maynooth University)~~, **the potential** development of the Multi-Campus Technological University of the South-East (TUSE).

Item d) under RPO 18 of the proposed amendments should align with the attributes in this section.

- **The City is a 'Hero site' within the FailteIreland's branding of Ireland's Ancient East.** The 'Medieval Mile' package which brings together Public Realm improvements linking Kilkenny Castle to St Canice's Cathedral and other significant attractions in between, such as ~~tourist Parade to Irishtown.~~ **the Medieval Mile Museum, the new Butler Gallery, the Smithwick's Experience and Rothe House.**
- Track Record in Urban Regeneration and compact growth in the City including development of ~~Master Plan for the Abbey Quarter – the former Smithwick's Brewery site.~~
- **Quality of life in Kilkenny City is renowned as evidenced in its population growth which has exceeds the national average over the period 2006 – 2016.**

Reference to the completion of the northern extension of the ring road from the N77 Castlecomer road across the river Nore to the R693 Freshford Rd, has been omitted from the proposed amendments. This is a vital piece of infrastructure for the City and the Council request it is included as part of the Infrastructural Requirements for Kilkenny City on p59 of the final document.

It is noted that a New RPO C (in Section 3.8): Inter-Urban Networks as Regional Drivers of Collaboration and Growth is introduced which refers to the:  
*Waterford-Kilkenny-Carlow-Dublin M9/Rail Network/Axis*

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<sup>1</sup> The full text of the attribute is taken from the draft document with additions shown in red and proposed deletions with strike through

In the Council's submission to the draft RSES a strong argument was advanced for a Waterford-Dublin M9 Economic Corridor.

The reference to a *Waterford-Kilkenny-Carlow-Dublin M9/Rail Network/Axis* is disappointing in the context of the original arguments advanced for an economic corridor.

The Council again requests that having regard to the tier 2 port at Belview, Waterford City as one of the 5 cities and capital of the South East Planning Area and to provide capacity and alternative locations/choices for the greater Dublin area and to further promote economic growth it remains the view of Kilkenny County Council that a further economic corridor should be established along the Waterford-Kilkenny – Carlow – Dublin M9 urban route. Kilkenny county Council again requests the designation of a Waterford – Dublin Economic Corridor.