

1.8 PRESCRIBED BODIES

EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Submission No: dRSES19/205

Summary of Issues

The submission welcomes the Draft RSES and supports the following shared regional ambitions:

Strengthened international and inter-regional connectivity

Protect and enhance our shared assets of airports, ports, rail infrastructure, strategic road network, TEN-T corridors and focus on developing strategic economic corridor approaches.

Eastern Economic Corridor

Support the RSES ambition to extend the Dublin -Belfast Economic Corridor to Rosslare Europort. The Eastern Corridor, shared between both regions, is a complement to the AEC.

Dublin-Cork Rail

Support inter-city rail network which is also on the TEN-T Core Network and support feasibility studies for high speed rail connectivity.

Cross Boundary Planning

Support joint local authority and cross boundary planning initiatives such as the Carlow/Graiguecullen Joint Urban Area Plan.

Strengthen Economic Interaction

Recognise and development economic connectivity, between shared HEI and R& D resources, smart city and smart town networks for smarter regions. Shared priorities for enhanced digital connectivity.

Greenway and Blueway Corridors

Develop the potential of share greenway and blueway networks across the regions. An example is the Barrow Blueway.

Climate Change

Shared goals for accelerated action on addressing climate change, with collaboration through the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Offices which includes the Southern Region. Opportunities also exist to collaborate on renewable energy zones and development of regional landscape strategies.

Monitoring

On-going collaboration between the two regions will be encouraged and facilitated to assist the monitoring and implementation stages of both RSES in the regions.

Response

The acknowledged shared regional attributes and opportunities for shared initiatives is welcomed for strengthened co-ordination between the regions. The recommendations support the RSES and will further strengthen the narrative and the effectiveness of RPO's. The recommendations of the submission can be reflected in editing of the draft RSES.

Refer to the responses outlined in the Directors Report for each Chapter which address the issues raised above and issues detailed in the submission.

Recommendation

Strengthen the narrative in the sections referenced in the Director's Response by amending text and inserting new text in RSES chapters as per the recommendations made in the Directors Response

NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Submission No: dRSES19/41

Summary of Issues

The submission welcomes the Draft RSES and supports the following shared regional ambitions:

City and Metropolitan Area Collaboration

The NWRA welcome the settlement strategy places emphasis upon the consolidation of urban centres of scale, including Waterford, Cork and Limerick which together with Galway City shall complement the role of Dublin. Members acknowledged the need for both the RSES for the NWRA and SRA to emphasise the need for intra-regional connectivity as a key issue for each region. It is acknowledged both RSESs should include an objective to strengthened collaboration and partnerships between the metropolitan areas of Cork, Limerick-Shannon and Waterford with Galway and the Regional Centres of Sligo and Letterkenny to achieve regional parity with Dublin.

The Atlantic Economic Corridor

The Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) is acknowledged as an economic growth enabler which is a shared opportunity to be harnessed for the benefit of both regions. The economic reach of the AEC needs to be strengthened through enhanced connectivity (digital and transport) to enable the corridor.

Interactions with Galway Metropolitan Area

The influence of the Galway City Region is extensive. It is noted that Limerick-Shannon MASP Policy Objective 8 seeks to deliver effective planning and investment into the Galway-Ennis-Shannon-Limerick (GESL) Economic Network. It is noted that the excellent public transport connections along the GESL and strengthened interaction with the Shannon Estuary, North Kerry and Kerry Knowledge Triangle are included in this objective. The NWRA is supportive of this collaborative approach and is mindful of it being reflected within the RSES for the N&W region.

Other Opportunities for Cross Regional Collaboration

Members also noted commonality of RPO's and regional enablers across both RSESs that would benefit from close collaboration at implementation stage, including, but not limited to:

- Regional Freight Strategy.
- Shared Marine and Blue Economy potential as key enablers, with both regions possessing extensive
- Coastlines, ports, and fisheries.
- Cross regional greenways and blueways.
- Cross regional renewable energy and green technology initiatives
- Shared tourism corridors, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, identified as key enablers
- Both strategies place an emphasis on optimisation of digital infrastructure and pursue Smart Regions.

Monitoring

On-going collaboration between the two regions will be encouraged and facilitated to assist the monitoring and implementation stages of both RSES in the regions.

Response

The acknowledged shared regional attributes and opportunities for shared initiatives is welcomed for strengthened co-ordination between the regions. The recommendations support the RSES and will further strengthen the narrative and the effectiveness of RPO's. The recommendations of the submission can be reflected in editing of the draft RSES.

Refer to the responses outlined in the Directors Report for each Chapter which address the issues raised above and issues detailed in the submission.

Recommendation

Strengthen the narrative in the sections referenced in the Director's Response by amending text and inserting new text in RSES chapters as per the recommendations made in the Directors Response

1.7.6 Limerick City and County Council

Summary of Issues

6. Chapter 5: Environment

With respect to RPO 104 "Circular Economy" (pg. 119) it is considered that the promotion of incineration as a method of waste management is at odds with this approach. In this regard, a ban on incineration within the Southern Region is required.

Response

6. Chapter 5: Environment

The Director notes the request for a ban on incineration within the Southern Region from the Elected Members of Limerick City. It is considered that such decisions are a matter for national government and not the Regional Assembly.

1.7.10 Clare County Council

Summary of Issues

5. Infrastructure

Clare County Council elected members have indicated their opposition to the use of Natural Gas sourced through fracking. It is requested that this sentiment be included in the text of the plan.

Response

5. Infrastructure

The Director notes that the Clare County Council Elected Members have indicated their opposition to the use of Natural Gas sourced through fracking. It is considered that such decisions are a matter for national government and not the Regional Assembly.

CHAPTER 3. PEOPLE AND PLACES

3.4 CITIES – METROPOLITAN AREAS

Summary of Issues

Issue (ii) MASP Boundaries

A number of submissions state the Regional Assembly should review the Waterford MASP Boundary to provide a realistic functional boundary to the city

Response

Issue (ii) MASP Boundaries

Add sentence to state that 'Additional narrative on the towns within the catchment area around Waterford can be included in the Waterford MASP'.

3.5 KEY TOWNS

Summary of Issues

INSERT Issue (ii) A Cross boundary Issues

A number of submissions suggest cross boundary issues are addressed by requirement for Joint Urban Area Plans

Response

Cross Boundary issue addressed under Issue (ii)

Issue (ix) Specific Recommendations for Key Towns

Add in Kilkenny: True role of Kilkenny not recognised as significant regional driver

CHAPTER 5. ENVIRONMENT

19 – 100 (Limerick City and County Council – Executive submission), 19 /99 (Limerick City and County Council – Members submission), 19 /103 (Limerick Mayor – Elected Members Submission), 19/154 (Clare County Council), 19/21 (Elected Members of Tipperary County Council), 19/54, 19/102, 19 /66, 19/113, 19/175, 19/169, 19/115, 19/120 (DoCHG), 19/66, 19/88, 19/119, 19/101 (EPA), 19/138, 19/126, 19/123, 19/110, 19/186, 19/07, 19/37, 19/25, 19/158, 19/28, 19/29, 19/108, 19/77, 19/147, 19/114, 19/82, 19/162 (Waterford City and County Council), 19/50, 19/71, 19/73, 19/116 (Wexford County Council), 19/117, 19/84, 19/58, 19/85, 19/86, 19/19, 19/98, 19/163, 19/188, 19/196, 19/197, 19/198, 19/17, 19/09, 19/133, 19/55, 19/02, 19/18, 19/61 (Cork County Council), 19/67 (Cork City Council), 19/124 (Kerry County Council), 19/40, 19/135, 19/140, 19/197, 19/166, 19/171, 19/178, 19/105, 19/139, 19/156, 19/168, 19/195, 19/81, 19/68, 19/127, 19/151, 19/01, 19/20, 19/89, 19/45, 19/63, 19/193, 19/142, 19/140, 19/204, 19/32, 19/148, 19/150, 19/156, 19/157,

5.1 Resource Efficiency & Transition To A Low Carbon Economy

Summary of Issues

With respect to RPO 104 “Circular Economy” (pg. 119) it is considered that the promotion of incineration as a method of waste management is at odds with this approach. In this regard, a ban on incineration within the Southern Region is required.

Clare County Council elected members have indicated their opposition to the use of Natural Gas sourced through fracking. It is requested that this sentiment be included in the text of the plan.

Response

The Director notes the request for a ban on incineration within the Southern Region from the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council and the that the Clare County Council Elected Members

have indicated their opposition to the use of Natural Gas sourced through fracking. It is considered that such decisions are addressed by national policy 'A Resource Opportunity' and are a matter for national government and not the Regional Assembly.

However, an additional point to address concerns about incineration / waste to energy systems is to focus on the Circular Economy. Developing the Circular Economy– recycling, re-use, composting, etc,.. – is key to minimising waste so as to avoid need for incineration

Existing RPO 105 is important in the drive against waste and need for incineration – supporting EU Action Plan 'Closing the Loop'.

NOTE: Delete section **5.4 Creating A Clean Environment for A Healthy Society**

CHAPTER 6. CONNECTIVITY

6.6 TRANSPORT INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Response

(Xiii) Priorities for the Waterford Metropolitan Area

Add to end of parag.:

Strengthened content to include development of an integrated Transport Hub at North Quays including relocation of the railway station, additional bridge crossings to the east of planned pedestrian/public transport bridge and development of Park and Ride locations for Waterford.

CHAPTER 7. QUALITY OF LIFE

7.6 CHILDCARE, EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

Summary of issues

Additional issue for inclusion:

RPO 176 should be amended to reference development of TUSE campus at Wexford. Add.

RPO should specify that all TUSE campuses provide land for associated industry

Response

(V) Childcare, Education & Lifelong Learning

Add to end of parag.:

The section and RPO 176 can be reviewed and strengthened to reference TUSE campus at Wexford and that all TUSE campuses consider provision of land for associated industry/enterprise

7.15 REGIONAL RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Summary of issues

Additional issue for inclusion:

Investment in passive and active sporting and recreational facilities and high quality public open space.

Response

(iv) Regional Recreational and Sporting Facilities (7.2.5)

Add to end of parag.:

Strengthening parag to include Investment in passive and active sporting and recreational facilities and high quality public open space.

AMEND:

(i): Natural Amenities (7.3.1)

Replace last parag. with:

Protection for the network of Natura 2000(European) sites can be strengthened to state that Development Plans shall include an objective for protection of European sites. This change would be most appropriate at RPO 1 – Environmental Assessment.

Recommendation

Amend and strengthen text in the following RPOs as recommended in the Director's Response:

Additional RPO Reference:

RPO 194 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Built heritage assets.

RPO 1 – Environmental Assessment (Could be considered a Material Amendment)

CHAPTER 9 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

19/140

9.4 MONITORING AND REPORTING

Recommendation

Strengthen the narrative in the sections referenced in the Directors Response by amending text and inserting new text/objective in the RSES chapters as per the recommendations made in the Directors Response including:

WATERFORD MASP

4.1 SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Summary of Submissions

Additional issue for inclusion:

Reference additional bridge links to build north-south connectivity

Response

Add to end of parag.:

Additional content and objectives to reference the planned Integrated Transport ub, additional bridge links to build north-south connectivity and park and ride

APPENDIX 2

SEA/AA/SFRA

Submission Number(s)

19/45, 19/63, 19/100 (Limerick City and County Council – Executive submission), 19/101, 19/196

Response

19/100 (Limerick City and County Council – Executive submission)

This submission seeks a number of clarifications with respect to the Flood Risk Appraisal Report and Environmental Report.

19/101

The Environmental protection Agency (EPA) has provided and number of clarifications and useful links to updated reports for air, greenhouse gas emissions, land cover and recent EPA reports.

19/196

This submission states that the SEA Environmental Report itself does meet the requirements of the Directive in its formulation of baseline data, objectives, targets and monitoring and should be rejected in its present form.

19/45

This submission is critical of the planning, environmental & technical assessments and authorisation of windfarms in Ireland. It also comments on the policy in the RSES relating to the safeguarding of

strategic energy corridors. Any amendments arising from the comments made in this submission will be considered and outlined in the SEA Statement, the Addendum to the Environmental Report and in the NIR.

19/63

This submission is critical of a number of RPOs relating to energy corridors, renewable energy, electricity infrastructure, data centres and noise management plans. It makes a number of recommendations to amend these policies. Specific comments are also made relating to inaccuracies on the SEA Environmental Report and NIS. These comments will be considered and any changes will be outlined in the SEA Statement, the Addendum to the Environmental Report and in the NIR. Any amendments to the RPOs arising from the comments made by this submission will be screened for likely significant effects on the environment.