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Development Plan Submissions,
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20th August 2020

**RE: Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 Pre-Draft Consultation
SRA File Ref: 20/003**

A Chara,

The Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) welcomes the publication of the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 Pre-Draft consultation Issues Paper document "Our City-Our Future" and the opportunity to consult with the Council under Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The SRA makes this observation in accordance with Section 27 A of the Act which obliges the Regional Assembly to make submissions or observations regarding a number of matters including:

- Policies and objectives in relation to national and regional population targets.
- Distribution of residential development and related employment with a view to:
 - Promoting consistency as far as possible between housing, settlement and economic objectives of the Draft Plan, Core Strategy and RSES.
 - Assisting in the drafting of the Core Strategy of the Draft Development Plan.
- Objectives of providing physical, economic or social infrastructure in a manner that promotes regional development through maximising the potential of the Region.
- Planning for the best use of land having regard to location, scale and density of new development to benefit from investment of public funds in transport infrastructure and public transport services.
- Collaboration between the planning authority and the Regional Assembly in respect of integrated planning for transport and land use and the promotion of sustainable transport strategies in urban and rural areas.
- Promotion of measures to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and address the necessity of adaptation to Climate Change.

Engagement with the Cork City Council is also important in relation to Section 22 (A) (3) of the Act which requires that public bodies (including local authorities) consult with the regional assemblies, as appropriate, when preparing its own plans to ensure that they are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional objectives set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). Continued collaboration throughout plan development is welcomed.

Both the RSES and Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) were made on the 31st January 2020.

1.0 Overall Observation

The Issues Paper “Our City- Our Future” is comprehensive in framing key themes for the next Development Plan. The SRA commend the positive consultation initiatives including the webinar presentations to learn from international experiences on planning for sustainable cities as part of the consultation process. .

Through national, regional and metropolitan level policy support, the Cork Metropolitan Area is positioned for transformation to be:

- A primary driver of economic growth and population growth in the State.
- A principle complimentary location to Dublin with a strong international role.
- A compact City Region with transformed local, regional, national and international connectivity
- A transformed modern attractive European City focusing growth on the delivery of sustainable transport patterns.

The Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 (CCDP 2022-2028) is pivotal in achieving the step change required by national and regional policy for Cork City to fulfil its potential.

Achieving the rate of growth targeted requires significant change and will present major challenges which must be met through the Development Plan. While the level of change to long-term patterns of development will require several RSES and Development Plan cycles this Development Plan is critical in setting the direction of change, embedding the pathway for transition to compact growth and delivering on targets and strategic infrastructure.

Cork City is a unique as it is the only Local Authority whose functional area is wholly located within a MASP boundary. The SRA’s pursuit of implementing RPO 226 Implementation Mechanisms for the Strategy and MASPs will therefore share common outputs as the City Council’s intended monitoring and implementation of the CCDP 2022-2028.

2.0 Consistency with the RSES Settlement Hierarchy- Role of Cities and Metropolitan Areas

Under Section 10 (1 A) of the Act, the development plan shall include a core strategy which shows that its development objectives are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Planning Framework, the RSES and with specific planning policy requirements specified in guidelines under subsection (1) of section 28. The following key areas are identified for attention.

Chapter 2 sets out the Strategic Vision and Strategy for the RSES. Section 2.2 The Strategy and the associated Strategy Statements and Key Enablers are particularly relevant including in the context of securing funding sources for the delivery of the Development Plan. The Strategy Statements, Regional Policy Objectives (RPO’s) and MASP Objectives are aligned to the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF.

Chapter 3 references the settlement strategy and I refer in particular to Section 3.2 (Sustainable Place Framework) and Section 3.3 – A Tailored approach and the settlement typology set out in Table 3.2 including:

1. Cork MASP – Section 3.4,
2. Key Towns – Section 3.5
3. Towns and Villages – Section 3.6
4. Rural Areas – Section 3.7, and
5. Networks – Section 3.8.

The settlement strategy builds on cities and their associated metropolitan areas as engines of growth and seeks, in parallel to re-position the regions network of Key Towns, towns, villages and rural areas in an economically resilient and smart way to spread regional jobs led growth beyond the cities and metropolitan area.

Under the RSES, our Region's cities and metropolitan areas of Cork, Limerick-Shannon and Waterford are placed at the top of settlement hierarchy. The rate of growth is ambitious with targets to grow Cork by 50-60% to 2040.

Our Region's cities are also positioned as the key economic drivers for the Region under the RSES economic strategy. The RSES promotes a coordinated, co-operative and collaborative inter-regional partnership approach between our cities and metropolitan areas to provide an effective counterbalance to Dublin.

The CCDP 2022-2028 needs to strongly reflect the driving role of Cork City and metropolitan area at the top of the settlement and economic hierarchy of the RSES and support it with policies and actions.

The strategic context of the CCDP 2022-2028 will need to demonstrate a strong awareness of the role of the city and metropolitan area to drive growth across the region. The importance of strengthened digital and transport connectivity between each of the State's cities and metropolitan areas and between Cork City and the Metropolitan Area with the Region's Key Towns, other settlements and rural areas needs to be supported.

Section 8.0 of the Issues Paper, "A Connected City", has identified the importance of connectivity to the development of the city and region, supporting the Cork Metropolitan Transport Strategy (CMATS), the strategic inter-regional road connections, inter-city rail links, digital connectivity and international connectivity through the Port of Cork and Cork Airport, which are important to the success of the regional economy.

Adding to this support, the CCDP 2022-2028 should also demonstrate how improved connectivity will strengthen the driving role of Cork City to deliver under RSES RPO 2 Planning for Diverse Areas, RPO 6 Collaboration Between Metropolitan Areas and Cork MASP Objective 4 Cork Metropolitan Area Regional Interactions.

3.0 Achieving Compact Growth Targets

To achieve the National Strategic Outcome: Compact Growth, the RSES states that regeneration and development of brownfield and infill sites to achieve higher density populations needs to be a priority for Local Authority plans. Targeted initiatives and actions are sought.

Planning for Compact Growth is complex. The RSES states lower tiered plans may consider active land management initiatives. RPO 34 seeks initiatives that enable regeneration of brownfield lands over greenfield lands across all tiers of settlements. RPO 35 seeks the identification of priorities for rejuvenation and for Development Plans to set out a transitional minimum requirement of 50% growth of all new homes within the existing built up footprints of cities (30% in settlements other than cities) aligned with an evidence based on availability and deliverability of lands.

The planned growth rate for Cork City and Suburbs of 50-60% to 2040 requires an additional 125,000 people by 2040 to resulting in a total population of at least 335,000 within the City. The requirement to 2031 is for an additional 75,000 people, which is less than two development plan cycles to achieve.

The challenge for the Development Plan is to achieve a significant scale of development, retain their essential character and ensure quality of life. Compact urban settlements, efficient public transport networks and the provision of essential physical and social infrastructure is required. A pathway for the coordinated delivery of infrastructure led growth will need to be a key component of the CCDP

2022-2028 and it is acknowledged that the delivery of infrastructure is a key component of achieving targets.

The **City Capacity Study** initiative to identify parcels of lands that have development potential is welcome. This study builds upon the strategic housing and regeneration locations identified in Section 7.0 of the Cork MASP (City Centre, docklands, light rail corridor, growth nodes on the suburban rail line, metropolitan towns). Section 7.0 of Cork MASP is also clear that in addition, achieving the targets and compact growth will require consideration for new locations and initiatives by the Local Authority. Additional sites will become available and the Cork MASP provides a flexible framework seeking such opportunities to be identified through Core Strategies.

Specifically, Cork MASP Policy Objective 1 allows flexibility in planning policy, infrastructure and priority identification that will arise in meeting targets at the Core Strategy stage and as a result of the boundary extension, framed by the principles and objectives set out in the Cork MASP.

The distribution of growth, as required through Cork MASP Policy Objective 1, follows the prioritisation of:

- the city centre as the primary location at the heart of the metropolitan area and region reinforced by;
- the continued regeneration, consolidation and infrastructure led growth of the city centre, Cork City Docklands, Tivoli and suburban areas;
- active land management initiatives to enable future infrastructure led expansion of the city and suburbs (to be assessed by Core Strategy initiatives); and
- the regeneration, consolidation and infrastructure led growth of metropolitan towns and other strategic employment locations in a sustainable manner.

The distribution of growth to achieve these targets is underpinned by RSES and Cork MASP requirements for land use and transport planning integration and specifically, adherence to the land use outcomes and priorities of CMATS. The role of higher population densities to support healthier walkable neighbourhoods and viable public transport networks will be key to the successful distribution of growth in order to attract people to live, work, invest in the State's fastest growing city.

The Core Strategy of the CCDP 2022-2028 must therefore firmly adhere to land use and transport planning integration, the principles of regeneration and consolidation and high-quality, high density outcomes in achieving growth in the city.

Addressing the above principles, the CCDP 2022-2028 will need to integrate the following when considering the outcomes from the study for the Core Strategy:

- Align with the spatial priorities under Cork MASP Policy Objective 1 with future residential growth areas progressing the delivery of sustainable regeneration and consolidation of existing settlements as a priority.
- Deliver on the Guiding Principles for the Cork Metropolitan Area (Section 3.2 of the Cork MASP) which seek a living city and suburbs, a metropolitan economic engine, compact sustainable growth, integrated land-use and transport, accelerated housing delivery, higher employment density in the right locations, better alignment of infrastructure and services to growth, social regeneration, identify new strategic development and regeneration areas and provide for metropolitan scaled amenities.
- Deliver on the National Enablers for the Cork Metropolitan Area (Section 4.0 of the Cork MASP) which includes strategic residential and mixed-use locations such as the city centre, City Docks and Tivoli, delivery of higher density housing and employment uses aligned with public transport nodes and corridors, deliver regeneration to the inner city and suburbs and deliver key infrastructure.

- Align the distribution of growth with principles for the integration of land-use and transport planning and deliver on CMATS land use priorities and strategy outcomes (RSES Chapter 6 RPOs 151, 152 and Cork MASP Objectives 7 and 8). Residential development will be carried out sequentially, whereby lands which are, or will be, most accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, including infill and brownfield sites, are prioritised.
- Identify the role of sustainable high density, high-quality mixed-use design responses (including an appropriate design response to the need for taller buildings in the right locations) in accommodating growth to support the viability of high capacity public transport and reduce trip distances. Higher densities will be required to locations at existing and planned public transport stations and nodes, especially in support of suburban and light rail and high frequency bus corridors. In compliance with RSES Chapter 6 RPO 165 Higher Densities, the provision for improved permeability to support walking and cycling interaction with public transport should also be a key consideration for sites under the City Capacity Study. Integral to the achievement of higher densities is the achievement of quality development incorporating including the creation of communities with access to open space and amenities.

Consideration of vacant and underused existing building stock, refurbishment initiatives and retrofitting initiatives for energy efficiency should also be a key consideration to yield capacity for growth.

The Issues Paper states the next step in the City Capacity Study will be to complete the assessment of infrastructural and other constraints to gain a more comprehensive understanding of both the viability and potential time constraints in delivering future development on these sites. This is needed to comply with the identification of Tier 1 and Tier 2 serviced and serviceable zoned lands as required under NPO 72 a-72 c of the NPF (and Appendix 3 of the NPF). The Local Authority will need to make a reasonable estimate of the full cost of delivery of the specified services and prepare a report detailing the estimated cost at draft and final plan stages.

The initiatives demonstrated in the Issues Paper are a positive example of pro-active approaches to meet NPF/RSES/Cork MASP objectives, especially alignment with RPO 10 Compact Growth for Metropolitan Areas. This objective will further support policies and actions under the CCDP 2022-2028 to:

- Prioritise housing and employment development in locations within and contiguous to existing city footprints where it can be served by public transport, walking and cycling.
- Identify strategic initiatives to achieve compact growth and regeneration.
- Consideration of Active Land Management Units with a remit to focus on the metropolitan areas and delivery of projects to achieve compact growth.
- Demonstrate partnerships with the Land Development Agency
- Support for the role of the Local Authority as a development agency to kick start regeneration.
- Deliver site briefs for strategic sites.
- Active initiatives to deliver renewal under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015
- Active initiatives to tackle derelict sites and under use of vacant property assets.
- Active initiatives for enhancing the public realm.
- Creation of data bases and systems for reporting progress and action across regeneration, development and infrastructure delivery.

In addition, Appendix 3 of the RSES sets out goals shared across each of our Region's cities and metropolitan areas. Goal 6 "Pioneering Locations Networked Internationally and Regionally" and Goal 7, "Evolve Innovative Approaches and Strategic Priorities" provide an important support to the City Council and will encourage:

- Multi-agency collaborations to identify, succeed and implement key enabler projects within the metropolitan area and to succeed in competitive bid funding processes through the NPF through Urban Regeneration, Climate Action and Disruptive Technologies funding.
- Demonstrate Cork's role in learning from and contributing to international good practice in urban planning and urban living, through partnership in initiatives such as Interreg Europe Blue Green City, the EU Urban Development Network, the Academy of Urbanism (hosted in 2018) and other collaborative projects from across the City Council. Learning from these partnerships can assist policies and innovation in actions under the new Development Plan. The webinars on learning from international experience held as part of the pre-draft consultation process are a positive example of complying with this goal.
- Flexibility to identify new strategic priorities (additional to those identified in the Cork MASP) that emerge and demonstrate achievement of NPF/RSES/Cork MASP objectives, assist in achieving compact growth, promote effective land use and transport planning alignment, promote multi-stakeholder collaboration, demonstrates good practice, deliver projects under NPF funding initiatives inter alia. The City Capacity Study is a positive example of complying with this goal.

4.0 Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning

The SRA welcome the integration of transport planning across the themes presented in the Issues Paper, not only for a connected city, but also its role for liveability, a strong economy and climate action.

RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport sets out important principles to guide development in the Region and need to be reflected in the CCDP 2022-2028. The principles seek:

- For urban generated development, the development of lands, within or contiguous with the existing urban areas will be prioritised over development in less accessible locations.
- Residential development will be carried out sequentially, whereby lands which are, or will be, most accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, including infill and brownfield sites, are prioritised.
- Larger scale, trip intensive developments, such as offices and retail, will be focused into central locations highly accessible by sustainable transport modes.
- New employment and residential development will be consolidated and intensified in a manner which renders it serviceable by public transport.

Delivering CMATS is identified in the Issues Paper as a high priority. This is supported by the SRA is required through RPOs in Chapter 6 Connectivity and supported under Section 6.3.6.3 Transport Priorities for the Cork Metropolitan Area. The Cork MASP (Section 6.0) states the distribution of growth must be infrastructure led, phased and provided at an appropriate higher density at strategic nodal points on the transport network to underpin the viability and successful implementation of CMATS. The distribution of growth must be based on integrated land use and transport. A better balance in the distribution of activity, living close to work and achieving compact growth will encourage more sustainable and active modes of travel. These principles are signaled in the Issues Paper and require strong policy responses in the CCDP 202-2028.

5.0 The Importance of Placemaking

The RSES places a significant emphasis on placemaking to ensure we plan for attractive places to live, work and learn. Growth must be in tandem with enhancing the identity and character of unique places. This is an essential component for both the spatial and economic strands of the RSES to succeed as experience shows, in a competitive market, jobs will follow where skilled workforce chose to live. The attributes that contribute to high quality places are identified and supported in the RSES through Section 3.9 Placemaking and RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework.

The Council support a **‘Liveable City Neighbourhoods’** concept as the primary ingredient in achieving a more sustainable and resilient Cork City. This is strongly supported by the SRA and aligns with the emphasis on the RSES and Cork MASP on the development of quality places.

A living city and suburbs offering a mosaic of quarters and a vibrant social and cultural experience on par with other European Cities is supported by the Cork MASP. Further support for the Liveable City Neighbourhoods concept in the RSES and Cork MASP is provided under Appendix 1.

The SRA agree with the Issues Paper identification that liveability is cross cutting, requiring actions under planning, economic, environment, transport and social and community themes.

Support for the CCDP 2022-2028 to drive progress forward under a Metropolitan Open Space, Recreation and Greenbelt Strategy, UNESCO Learning City and a Learning Region, WHO Healthy City and the city as a “healthy heart” to the metropolitan area and Region and initiatives for greater social inclusion (under the Cork City Local Economic Community Plan, Social Enterprise Strategy and Migrant Integration Strategy) are all supported by objectives in the Cork MASP.

6.0 Homes and Successful Neighbourhoods

The SRA welcome the distinction and discussion around the characteristics of different neighbourhoods in the city centre and suburbs in addition to character analysis of the urban towns and city hinterland. The Issues Paper identifies different socio-economic characteristics across these areas, which will assist appropriate policy responses in the provision of housing and infrastructure.

A notable trend is the recent nineteen per cent increase in population living in Cork City Centre, being four times the growth rate for the overall city. This positive trend needs to be fostered and supported with initiatives to further improve placemaking qualities in the city centre to retain and further grow city centre population and to replicate this success for urban living in other neighbourhoods.

The SRA welcome the Issues Paper’s inclusion of progress in housing delivery across recent completions, Strategic Housing Developments, social housing, social housing regeneration, affordable housing, civic, community and educational facilities.

Focusing progress in housing delivery needs to reflect the priority to locations as identified under Section 3.0 above for achieving compact growth targets. The role of higher density , mixed typology , mixed tenure and the role for increased height in the right locations (opportunities for brownfield regeneration in close proximity to public transport nodes for example) needs to be considered. In addition to new build, a concentrated effort is also warranted to reduce vacancy, re-use buildings, refurbishment and retrofitting.

Appropriate responses to housing need will be informed by developing a Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) for a long-term strategic views of housing needs across all tenures and typologies in the city.

The initiative for Cork City Council and Cork County Council to prepare a Joint Housing Strategy building upon the HNDA to inform the respective Development Plans is welcomed. This strategy also needs to reflect the prioritisation of locations as identified under Section 3.0 above for achieving compact growth targets and address the important contribution of reducing vacancy and refurbishment.

The Issues Paper states the Development Plan aims to ensure that the right civic and community infrastructure is provided to support successful neighbourhoods. This is welcomed as the RSES supports the creation of socially sustainable communities and an inclusive built environment.

In addition to auditing community and recreational infrastructure needs, smart aging initiatives, access for all and support for volunteering and active citizenship are important themes to reflect in Development Plan policy. Retrofitting high quality infrastructure and services to communities who experienced past high rates of growth, but without corresponding physical and social infrastructure to a high standard, is a priority, especially in the Cork Metropolitan Area (very relevant for the City's four urban towns).

The RSES places a strong emphasis on education, skills development and life-long learning, with recognition of a Learning Region status. This designation builds on the success of Cork and Limerick (expanding to Waterford) as UNESCO Learning Cities and the potential to expand such initiatives to urban and rural centres across our region. Through access to learning for all, enterprise growth, social inclusion and job opportunities for all and quality of life is enhanced. Development Plan policies in support of a Learning Region are encouraged.

7.0 10-Minute City Neighbourhoods

The RSES supports a 10-Minute City/ Town as a concept whereby a range of community facilities and services are accessible in short walking and cycling timeframes from homes or are accessible by high quality public transport services by connecting people to larger scaled settlements delivering these services. Our urban communities will need sufficiently high densities to realise the potential of a 10-Minute Town and placemaking benefits. Again, the achievement of higher densities of development needs to be allied to an improvement in the quality of development including access to facilities and open space.

A strong emphasis on such initiatives in the CCDP 2022-2028, applying the concept to neighbourhoods and character areas throughout the structure of the city will be supported by RSES (RPO 176 "10-Minute City and Town Concepts is a support). There are opportunities for neighbourhoods in Cork City to be leaders of good practice in the concept as it advances the liveable neighbourhood concept.

The SRA are a partner region in the EU Interreg Europe MATCH-UP project which aims to achieve significant improvements of modal interchange to foster low-carbon urban mobility. An outcome from the project is to set a framework of good practice to implement 10 Minute City/Town concepts successfully in the Region.

8.0 Strong and Resilient Economy

The SRA welcome the emphasis placed on the role of Cork as a national and regional economic driver. Many important sectors and specialisms for Cork are identified for support. The SRA support these sectors and welcome the emphasis placed on the strong economic baseline for Cork as a successful location for enterprise and innovation, the importance of both FDI and also SME sectors and the need for greater resilience as a result of COVID-19 and other future economic potential shocks. The emphasis on skills, education and talent and support for our Region's training and higher education centres is welcomed.

Supporting the delivery of actions under the SW Regional Enterprise Plan, SW Regional Skills Forum and Cork City and County Local Economic Community Plan is also important.

The five principles that underline the RSES economic strategy (refer to Section 4.2 of the RSES) should be reflected in the economic policies of the CCDP 2022-2028. These are:

- Smart Specialisation: Bringing together key stakeholders with real local knowledge in a geographic area to identify the competitive advantages and develop new economic opportunities.
- Clustering: Putting in place a favourable and connected regional business ecosystem in which new players can emerge and support new value chains and emerging new industries.
- Placemaking: A significant emphasis on making attractive places to live, learn and work to attract talent.

- Knowledge Diffusion: A Learning Region, developing skills, talent, research and development, education assets and access to life-long learning. Leveraging the asset of Cork’s Learning City Initiative and Cork’s role in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.
- Capacity Building: The capacity to bid for funding and to respond to emerging challenges to secure greater economic resilience is supported.

As the RSES marries spatial and economics planning there is a strong emphasis on creating attractive places to attract skills and talent. The emphasis on placemaking for enterprise growth in the Issues Paper is supported and should be further developed (RPO 61 Health-Place Audit for Placemaking is a support).

Section 8.0 of the Cork MASP identifies key enterprise strengths and existing location assets which function as strategic employment locations and economic drivers. Supporting these locations with improved infrastructure, notably public transport through CMATS, to intensify employment uses in the right locations is important.

Both Issues Paper Sections 7.0 “A Diverse Economy” and Section 8.0 “A Connected City” identify strengthened connectivity as an enabler for economic growth. This is supported (strategic road, public transport (emphasis on our rail networks) and digital), especially the connectivity between metropolitan areas, Key Towns, Tier 1 and Tier 2 Ports, the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) and for efficient freight (TEN-T Network).

The specific focus on the changing character of the retail sector in the Issues Paper is welcomed. Offering a unique retail experience, using smart technology to identify shopping behaviour and preferences, public realm improvements, more mixed uses and city/town centre health checks are supported by the RSES to ensure retail vibrancy and the attractiveness of our urban centres.

In addition, Cork MASP Objective 16 is important for reaffirming the hierarchy of retail locations in the metropolitan area with the city centre at the heart of that hierarchy as a Tier 1 retail location. The need for a Metropolitan Cork Joint Retail Strategy between Cork City and Cork County Councils is identified. A commitment to undertaking this new joint strategy is needed through the CCDP 2022-2028, similar to how both Local Authorities are undertaking a joint housing strategy.

The opportunities for Cork City under the marine economy and the National Marine Planning Framework warrant support. As a maritime city with waterfront urban quarters, close interaction with the business of the Port of Cork (even post full relocation to Ringaskiddy), maritime heritage, tourism, transport, recreation and natural environment all associated with the marine, the interactions between the city and marine sectors are important to address.

A Cork Harbour Planning Framework Initiative to be prepared through the coordination of the Local Authorities in the harbour and key stakeholders is a requirement under RSES objective 79 and Cork MASP Objective 3 .

9.0 Smart Cities Driving a Smart Region.

The role of Cork City as a Smart City merits strong support in the new Development Plan. Policies should support the role of Cork City in the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, initiatives under the Cork Smart Gateway, initiatives under the Digital Cities Challenge Programme and initiatives under the City Council’s Digital Strategy.

10.0 Green Infrastructure

The SRA welcome the emphasis on Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) and Nature Based Solutions (NBS) . The new Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Strategy for the city as positive initiatives. The CCDP 2022-2028 needs to support the findings of these strategies to address the needs and improvements identified.

The need to deliver on Cork MASP Policy Objective 17, by preparing and implementing a Metropolitan Open Space, Recreation and Greenbelt Strategy should inform both these strategies. This objective supports a connected network of regional scaled parks in the city and metropolitan area, GBI interconnections, the implementation of greenway initiatives (specific support for Lee to Sea) and the development of a strategy for the greenbelt jointly with Cork County Council. A commitment to undertake this initiative is needed through the CCDP 2022-2028.

The SRA will welcome continued engagement with the Local Authority throughout the pre-draft stage to support these concepts through RSES implementation and learnings from the EU Interreg Europe Blue Green City project (The SRA are a partner region).

11.0 Climate Action

The SRA welcome the important emphasis placed on climate actions and the need to strengthen the resilience of strategic infrastructure in the city to the impacts of climate change. The SRA support implementation of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), , the Cork City Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and initiatives of the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs).

This aligns with RPO 88 which states the objective to ensure effective co-ordination of climate action with the CAROs and local authorities to implement the Climate Action Plan, National Mitigation Plan and the National Adaptation Framework in the development and implementation of long-term solutions and extensive adaptation measures.

Strong policy support and actions to deliver on compact settlements, sustainable higher densities, public transport, sustainable mobility and 10-minute city neighbourhoods contribute to climate actions and the transition to a lower carbon society and economy.

Integrating renewable energy, the circular economy, Smart City initiatives, sustainable design, retrofitting our buildings for energy efficiency and integrating GBI and NBS in design at the masterplan and project level are all further important supports for climate action. Refer to Appendix 1 for further supports.

Regarding resilience, the importance of flood risk management and delivery of the flood risk capital works should be addressed.

12.0 Environmental Assessments

The RSES is informed by extensive environmental assessments, contained in the SEA, SEA Statement, AA Determination, Natura Impact Report and Regional Flood Risk Assessment, which are available on the SRA Website. These assessments looked at environmental sensitivities for all parts of the Region and we would recommend that Cork City Council review these documents to inform the Council's own environmental assessments, including mitigation measures identified to address environmental sensitivities and constraints.

13.0 Other Comments

Appendix 1 further aligns the main themes presented by the Issues Paper with specific RSES RPOs to support the preparation of the Draft Development Plan. Support for initiatives under heritage, culture, community and environmental themes, in addition to further RPO's that support the points raised above, are included in Appendix 1.

Conclusion

The SRA welcomes the pre-draft public consultation and commend Cork City Council for the robust approach to analysis, evidence base building, consultation process and publication of the Issues Paper "Our City, Our Future".

This Development Plan comes at a critical stage in the development of the City and it needs to provide a robust pathway for transformative change to deliver a green, compact and vibrant city with sustainable transport connections to compact metropolitan towns. The Development Plan needs to deliver a connected, liveable city that is healthy, smart, creative and attractive for living, working and visiting. The SRA supports the role of Cork City and the Cork Metropolitan Areas as a primary driver for our region and in doing so, supports the initiatives of Cork City Council to fulfil the full potential of Cork to succeed as a European city of scale offering a high quality of life to all.

Recommendations are provided to assist and strengthen the approach under themes raised and to strengthen alignment between the regional and local tier in the draft plan. In providing our observations, the SRA have had due regard to Section 27A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The responses to the important themes raised by the Issues Paper through the next Development Plan will ensure a high quality of life is offered to attract people to live and work in a growing European city of scale.

Considerable challenges will be faced to retrofit existing infrastructure deficits and co-ordinate infrastructure led compact growth to meet national and regional policy and targets. The initiatives of the City Council, such as the City Capacity Study, Living City Neighbourhoods and underpinning the delivery of the CMATS through land use and transport planning integration signal positive progress to meet this challenge.

Further pro-active actions will be required. A dynamic monitoring and implementation structure for the CCDP 2022-2028 which co-ordinates across stakeholders and is action focused will be an important focus area.

The structures to be established by the SRA for the effective monitoring and implementation of the RSES and Cork MASP will assist with this and the SRA look forward to future positive engagement and co-ordination in this regard.

As the pre-draft process advances and details emerge for the Core Strategy and the distribution of growth targets within this development plan cycle of 2022-2028, especially through Housing Need Demand Assessment, the SRA will have further recommendations at the appropriate stages.

Further engagement with the SRA as a key stakeholder and Cork City Council in the development of the Draft Development Plan is encouraged. The RSES team are available for future consultation and clarities required regarding this submission and during the pre-draft preparation stages.

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David Kelly
Director Southern Regional Assembly

Appendix 1

Alignment of Key Themes in the Issues Paper with RSES Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs)

RSES People and Places Theme- Aligns with Issues Paper Themes of Creating a Liveable City, Structure of the City and Successful Neighbourhoods

- 1) A key message of the RSES under RPO 2 “Planning for Diverse Areas” is that the overall strategy builds on cities and their associated metropolitan areas as engines of growth and seeks, in parallel, to re-position the Region’s strong network of towns, villages and diverse rural areas in an economically resilient, imaginative and smart way.
- 2) RSES Section 3.4 focuses specifically on Cities and Metropolitan Areas and supports a collaborative intra-regional partnership approach (RPO 6).
- 3) RPO 10 Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas is a key support for the City Council’s initiatives on active land management to achieve NPF and RSES Targets.
- 4) Cork MASP Section 5.0 sets out regional targets for the metropolitan area which can be addressed through the Core Strategy.
- 5) RSES page 40 includes a summary of the Cork MASP under land use and transport, housing and regeneration, employment and enterprise, environment and social infrastructure themes and is supported by the Cork MASP diagram.
- 6) Quality placemaking is at the core of RSES. Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 places a strong emphasis on quality placemaking principles to attract population growth, regeneration of urban centres and enterprise growth. Refer to RSES Chapter 3 Section 3.9 Placemaking, which seeks higher densities taking account of the need for variability and flexibility of local circumstances and an evidence-based approach to achieving compact growth. Refer also to the following RPOs which will support the initiatives of the Council:
 - RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework
 - RPO 32 Rebuilding Ireland
 - RPO 33 Housing Need Demand Assessment
 - RPO 34 Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development
 - RPO 35 Support for Compact Growth
 - RPO 36 Land Development Agency
 - RPO 37 Active Land Management
 - RPO 38 Retrofitting Initiative Priorities.
 - RPO 61 Health Place Audit for Placemaking
- 7) The SRA promote 10-minute city neighbourhoods to support the City Council’s Liveable Neighbourhoods. This sustainable concept is positive for placemaking and is supported in RSES Section 3.9 Placemaking and specifically in Chapter 7, RPO 176 “10-minute City and Town Concepts”.
- 8) The role of Cork City and the Metropolitan Area and key priorities for the Cork MASP are supported under Cork MASP Policy Objective 1. Aligned with the structure of the city as set out in the Issues Paper, part (b) seeks: To promote the Cork Metropolitan Area as a cohesive metropolitan employment and property market where population and employment growth is integrated with: (i) the city centre as the primary location at the heart of the metropolitan area and region reinforced by (ii) the continued regeneration, consolidation and infrastructure led growth of the city centre, Cork City Docklands, Tivoli and suburban areas (iii) active land management initiatives to enable future infrastructure led expansion of the city and suburbs (to be assessed by Core Strategy initiatives) and (iv) the regeneration, consolidation and infrastructure led growth of metropolitan towns and other strategic employment locations in a sustainable manner.
- 9) With specific regard to the Urban Towns, Cork MASP Policy Objective 1 (e) seeks high quality of life attributes, mixed use zonings and investment towards retrofitting quality infrastructure (physical, social, recreational) for existing communities in addition to infrastructure for future growth.
- 10) Cork MASP Policy Objective 2 is a specific support for the role of the City:

- (a): To strengthen the consolidation and regeneration of Cork City Centre to drive its role as a vibrant living, retailing and working city, the economic, social and cultural heart of the Cork Metropolitan Area and Region.
- (b): Seek investment to achieve the infrastructure led brownfield regeneration of the Cork City Docklands and Tivoli as high quality, mixed use sustainable waterfront urban quarters, transformative projects which set national and international good practice standards in innovation, green and quality design, exemplary urbanism and place making. (c): Seek investment to achieve regeneration and consolidation in the city suburbs and high quality architectural and urban design responses to enhance the uses of this waterfront and all urban quarters.
- (d): To strengthen the attributes and opportunities for the city centre, including transformative initiatives such as the City Centre Strategy and other initiatives as identified by the City Development Plan (existing and future).
- (e): Seek investment for the enhancement and refurbishment of existing public buildings as a driver for private sector development e.g. English Market.
- (f): Seek to achieve High Quality Design to reflect a high-quality architectural building stock in all urban quarters.
- (g): Seek delivery of a network of large city parks and smaller green areas throughout the metropolitan area and inner-city areas.
- (h): Strengthen Social and Community Development
- (i): Support active regeneration initiatives that are on-going, especially driven through the Local Economic Community Plan, Local Community Development Committee and RAPID initiatives.
- (j): Seek investment towards initiatives that tackle high housing vacancy rates and seek conversion of vacant stock to active housing uses.
- (k): Support investment in strategic national innovation enabling assets within the city, specifically the expansion of Tyndall National Institute to the North Mall and the development of UCC's new Cork University Business School in the city centre.
- 11) Cork MASP Section 2.1 identifies key attributes, important initiatives and progress in Cork City as the heart of the metropolitan area and region.
- 12) Cork MASP Section 3.1 sets the vision for the Cork MASP as: *"To sustainably develop the potential and capacity of Metropolitan Cork, which has the State's second city of international scale, as a healthy, people centred, affordable, socially and economically inclusive, innovative and technologically smart international gateway offering a high-quality environment, a vibrant city at its heart, supported by a network of compact metropolitan towns, connected by sustainable transport networks, serviced by a high standard of physical and community infrastructure offering a high quality of life for all. A metropolitan area that inspires pride, encourages creativity and achievement with high standards of environmental sustainability"*.
- 13) Cork MASP Section 3.2 sets out guiding principles under a Sustainable Place Framework for the Cork MASP including: A Living City and Suburbs, a Metropolitan Engine, Compact Sustainable Growth, Integrated Transport and Land Use, Accelerated Housing Delivery, Employment Density in the Right Places, Better Alignment of Growth, Social Regeneration, Future Development Areas, Metropolitan Scale Amenities, Enabling Infrastructure, Co-Ordination and Active Land Management, Re-Intensify Employment.
- 14) Cork MASP under Section 4.0 sets out National Enablers and other enablers to support the Cork MASP (dockland regeneration, public transport networks, new housing areas, infill and regeneration, enterprise property solutions, third level institutions, strategic regional road and rail connectivity, water and waste water, energy, parks and recreation, protecting built and natural heritage, managing flood and climate change, digital and ICT infrastructure.
- 15) The importance of higher density land use and transport planning integration is a key theme in RSES Chapter 6 which should be reflected in the settlement and placemaking strategy. In particular, the following RPOs address the themes and direction of change needed:
- RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport;
 - RPO 152 Local Planning Objectives;
 - RPO 157 Local Transport Plans; and

- RPO 165 Higher Densities.
- 16) Cork MASP Section 7.1 -7.4 sets out high-level infrastructure priorities for strategic residential growth areas including the City Centre, Cork City Docks, Tivoli, City Suburban Areas, North West Regeneration, Mahon, Ballincollig, North Environs- Kilbarry-Blackpool, Blarney, Glanmire and other metropolitan settlements (Tower).
- 17) Cork MASP Policy Objective 18 Transformational Areas and Public Realm supports:
 - a) Seek investment in transformational area projects and public realm enhancements in metropolitan urban areas with a focus on city centre regeneration through such initiatives as the Cork City Centre Strategy 2014 and Grand Parade/South Main Street Transformational Area.
 - b) Support and seek investment in the sustainable remediation of Haulbowline Island and its transformation into a public recreational amenity.
 - c) Support the acquisition and development of the City Quays in Cork for a high-quality water front public realm for public use.
 - d) The cultural and economic significance of the Cork Event Centre is recognised, and delivery of the facility is supported.
 - e) Seek investment in the strategy and investment programme of the Crawford Art Gallery.
- 18) Infrastructure investment across the different tiers of settlements are addressed under:
 - RPOs 4 “Infrastructure Investment”;
 - RPO 7 “Delivery and Funding”;
 - RPO 8 “Investment to Deliver on the Vision for Metropolitan Areas”;
 - RPO 9 “Holistic Approach to Delivering Infrastructure”;
 - RPO 26 “Towns and Villages”.
 - RPO 227 “Investment and Funding”
 - Cork MASP Policy Objective 5 “Investment to Deliver Vision”
 - Cork MASP Policy Objective 6 “National Enablers”
- 19) For water and wastewater infrastructure to supply growth across the structure of the City Council area, see Chapter 8 RPOs:
 - RPO 208 “Irish Water and Water Supply”;
 - RPO 209 “Strategic Water Supply Projects”;
 - RPO 211 “Irish Water and Waste Water”;
 - RPO 212 “Strategic Wastewater Treatment Facilities”;
 - RPO 213 “Rural Wastewater Treatment Programmes”.

RSES Theme A Strong Economy: Innovative and Smart aligned with Issues Paper Theme A Diverse Economy

- 1) Supporting the role of Cork as a driver of regional economic growth, RSES Section 4.4 Our Region’s Economic Engines identifies the need to create cities of scale as economic drivers. RSES promotes a co-ordinated inter-regional partnership approach between all our cities and metropolitan areas. Connections between Cork and the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) are supportive in the narrative and RPO 41.
- 2) Section 4.2 sets out the economic principles of the RSES under Smart Specialisation, Clustering, Placemaking for Enterprise Development, Knowledge Diffusion and Capacity Building.
- 3) Support for Tourism is under RPO 53 Tourism and Cork MASP Policy Objective 15.
- 4) Support for Retail is under RPO 55 Retail and Cork MASP Policy Objective 16.
- 5) Section 4.7 sets out principles for placemaking for enterprise development, including RPO 61 Health Place Audit for Placemaking.
- 6) RPO 63 supports Skills and Talent in addition to Cork MASP Policy Objective 10 “Enterprise Support, Education and Access to Talent”;
- 7) Section 4.8 sets out principles and RPO for building resilience and capacity building.
- 8) Section 4.9.2 sets out principles and RPO to support the marine and blue economy. Refer also to Cork MASP Policy Objective 3 Cork Harbour.
- 9) Relating to the theme of a connected city for a resilient economy, RPOs in Chapter 6 Connectivity are an important support, including RPO 140 International Connectivity, RPO 141

Regional Freight Strategy, RPO 166 Investment in Strategic Inter-Regional Multi Modal Connectivity to Metropolitan Areas and Economic Corridors, RPO 167 National Road Projects, RPO 170 Rail, RPO 171 Bus and Cork MASP Policy Objective 4 Cork Metropolitan Area Regional Interactions.

- 10) Cork Airport is supported as a strategic driver for the Regional economy and is an important economic asset for Cork City. Support for strengthened international connectivity to Airports is provided in Chapter 6 RPOs 148-150 and Cork MASP Policy Objective 14 Cork Airport.
- 11) The Port of Cork is supported as a strategic driver for the Regional economy and is an important economic asset with close interactions with Cork City. The relocation of existing port activity from the docklands is a key enabler to the regeneration of the city. Support for the economic role of ports is provided through Chapter 6 RPOs 142 to 147 and Cork MASP Policy Objective 13.
- 12) The opportunities for the Southern Region under the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) are significant, with Cork playing a significant role for our Region to be a first mover under Marine Spatial Planning (RPO 78).
- 13) The opportunities for our Marine Sector which support Cork's maritime assets can be referenced at:
 - RSES Chapter 4 Section 4.9 Marine and Coastal Assets and Section 4.9.2 Growing the Blue Economy;
 - RPO's 77-86, noting regional support for leadership across marine innovation, seafood sector, renewable off shore energy, marine clusters in ICT and biotechnology and support for our coastal and island communities (including Fishing Local Area Group-FLAG-development strategies);
- 14) Reference RPO 79 in particular which supports a Strategic Integrated Framework Plan initiative for Cork Harbour
- 15) Strategic employment locations, which are drivers of economic growth for the Cork Metropolitan Area, are supported under Section 8 and Section 8.3 Distribution of Employment Growth of the Cork MASP.
- 16) In addition, support for role of the Cork Metropolitan Area as an economic engine of growth is provided through Cork MASP Policy Objective 12 "Infrastructure for Strategic Employment Locations".
- 17) The theme of digital infrastructure, Smart Cities and a Smart Region are also strongly supported in Chapter 6 as follows:
 - RPO 134 "Smart Cities and Smart Region";
 - RPO 135 "High Quality High Capacity International Digital Transmission";
 - RPO 136 "National Broadband Plan";
 - RPO 137 "Mobile Infrastructure";
 - RPO 138 "Digital Strategies"; and
 - Cork MASP Policy Objective 11 "Transition to Digital Future";

RSES Theme Connectivity- Aligns with Issues Paper Theme A Connected City

Welcome the cross references to the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS).

Both the RSES and Cork MASP integrate transport priorities for the Cork Metropolitan Area, seek the distribution of population and employment growth aligned with transport infrastructure planning and support the implementation of infrastructure projects under CMATS. Reference that support the CCDP 2022-2028 can be found as follows:

- RPO 164 "Metropolitan Area Transport Strategies";
- Chapter 6 Section 6.3.6.3 Transport Priorities for the Cork Metropolitan Area;

- Cork MASP Policy Objective 7 “Integrated Landuse and Transport Planning”; and
 - Cork MASP Policy Objective 8 “Key Transport Objectives-Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy”.
- 1) References to strategic connectivity between metropolitan areas, economic corridors and freight are set out above under a resilient economy.
 - 2) Strengthened emphasis on metropolitan and city greenways are supported by :
 - RPO 174 “Walking and Cycling”;
 - RPO 200 “Green Infrastructure and Recreation”;
 - RPO 201 “National Trails, Walking Routes, Greenways and Blueway Corridors”; and
 - Cork MASP Policy Objective 17 “Metropolitan open Space , Recreation and Greenbelt Strategy”.
 - 3) Support for effective land use and transport planning integration, shift to sustainable modes is provided under RSES Section 6.3.6 Transport Investment Priorities. RPOs in support of the themes raised include:
 - RPO 151 “Integration of Land Use and Transport”;
 - RPO 152 “Local Planning Objectives”;
 - RPO 157 “Local Transport Plans”;
 - RPO 160 “Smart and Sustainable Mobility”;
 - RPO 161 “Smart Mobility”;
 - RPO 162 “Multi-Modal Travel Integration”;
 - RPO 163 “Sustainable Mobility Targets”;
 - RPO 170 Rail;
 - RPO 171 Bus; and
 - RPO 174 Walking and Cycling

RSES Theme Climate Change Aligns with Issues Paper Theme Climate Change

- 1) The RSES is committed to implement regional policy consistent with the Climate Action Plan 2019. Important RPO’s in support of climate action and transition to a low carbon society and economy to reference include:
 - RPO 87 Low Carbon Energy Future;
 - RPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation Framework;
 - RPO 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change;
 - RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation;
 - RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport Sector;
 - RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the Agriculture Sector; and
 - RPOs 95-104 on Renewable Energy.
- 2) Supporting the initiatives of the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) is strongly recommended. This will align with RSES support to the role of CAROs under RSES Chapter 5 RPO 88 which states it is an objective to ensure effective co-ordination of climate action with the Climate Action Regional Offices and local authorities to implement the Climate Action Plan, National Mitigation Plan and the National Adaptation Framework in the development and implementation of long-term solutions and extensive adaptation measures.
- 3) The SRA recommend an emphasis on proposals for smart and innovative approaches to waste management and promotion of the Circular Economy (RPOs 107-108) and opportunities in Biomass (RPO 109).

RSES Theme Green Infrastructure Aligns with Issues Paper Theme Green Infrastructure, Open Space and Recreation

- 1) Strongly welcome and support the themes and direction of change signaled in the issues paper and in particular, welcome the reference to Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) and also Nature-Based Solutions (NBS).

- 2) The GBI theme aligns with Local Authority commitments to Climate Action and will feature in mitigation, resilience and adaptation strategies. GBI and water conservation hits on both mitigation and adaptation.
- 3) References supporting the theme to note include:
 - RPO 110 “Ecosystems Services”
 - RPO 117 “Flood Risk Management and Biodiversity”
 - RPO 122 “ Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)”
 - RPO 124 “Green Infrastructure”
 - RPO 125 “Green Infrastructure Corridors”
 - RPO 126 “Biodiversity”
 - Section 9.0 of the Cork MASP and Cork MASP Policy Objective 17 - Metropolitan Open Space, Recreation & Greenbelt Strategy

RSES Theme Biodiversity Aligns with Issues Paper Themes for Climate Change, Green Infrastructure and Environment

- 1) Reference RSES Chapter 5 Section 2.0 Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing Our Natural Capital, which supports ecosystems services which focuses on the way that the natural environment works as a system and the valuation of the natural environment to determine policy interventions to deliver net benefits to society. Payment for Ecosystems Services (PES) approaches are supported which brings economic thinking and a market mechanism into the provision of natural resources.
- 2) Reference RSES Chapter 5 good practices and RPOs in support of the River Basin Management Plans, Flood Risk Management and Biodiversity and support for initiatives by the Local Authority Waters Programme.
- 3) Reference the following specific RPOs which are supportive of Local Authority actions in implementing measures to identify, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of our Region:
 - RPO 126 Biodiversity
 - RPO 127 Invasive Species
 - RPO 128 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
 - RPO 129 Landscape

RSES Theme Energy Aligns with Issues Paper Theme for Climate Change

- 1) The RSES supports the Southern Region as a Carbon Neutral Energy Region. At a strategic level, the RSES supports international energy connectivity through projects such as the Eirgrid Celtic Interconnector.
- 2) Objectives in RSES Chapter 3 support smart technologies for energy efficiency in retrofitting initiatives (RPO 38 Retrofitting Initiative Priorities).
- 3) Objectives in RSES Chapter 4 support the low carbon economy and bio-economy and include RPO 57 “National Policy Statement on the Bio-Economy”, RPO 58 “Bio-Economy and Rural Areas” and RPO 56 “Low Carbon Economy”.
- 4) Objectives in RSES Chapter 8 support new energy infrastructure, delivery of networks, transition to new renewable energy technologies, the Integrated Single Electricity Market, renewable energy sources for data centres, indigenous renewable gas production, micro renewable generation local/community energy projects. Such objectives connect with climate action, regional decarbonisation and renewable energy objectives under Chapter 5 Environment.
- 5) References included in Chapter 5 Renewable Energy include:
 - RPO 95 “Sustainable Renewable Energy Generation”
 - RPO 96 “Integration of Renewable Energy Sources”
 - RPO 97 “Power Stations and Renewable Energy”
 - RPO 98 “Regional Renewable Energy Strategy”
 - RPO 99 “Renewable Wind Energy”
 - RPO 100 “Indigenous Renewable Energy Production and Grid Injection”
 - RPO 101 “International Hub for Energy Innovation”

- RPO 102 “Energy Research Funding”
 - RPO 103 “Interconnection Infrastructure”
 - RPO 104 “Energy Storage and Carbon Capture”
 - RPO 105 “Clean Electric Heat Technologies & District Heating”
 - RPO 106 “Future Proofing and Retrofitting”
- 6) Regarding resilience to the impacts of climate change and flooding, Chapter 5 RPOs 113-120 and in addition and Cork MASP Policy Objective 19 are relevant.

RSES Theme Community Aligns with Issues Paper Theme Successful Neighbourhoods

- 1) Retrofitting high quality infrastructure and services to communities who experienced past high rates of growth, but without corresponding physical and social infrastructure to a high standard, is a priority, especially in the Cork Metropolitan Area. It is a key issue identified in both the NPF and Cork MASP. Chapter 7 RPO 175 “Improving Regional Quality of Life Through Infrastructure Led Planning” seeks to tackle such legacies. Cork MASP Policy Objective 1 (e) specifically seeks support for communities in Metropolitan Towns through regeneration initiatives, investment to support retrofitting holistic infrastructures (physical, social, recreational, public transport, active travel networks including enhanced filtered mobility for pedestrians and cyclists inter alia) for vibrant metropolitan communities. Mixed use planning and infrastructure led growth is required for the future growth and regeneration of these settlements.
- 2) Refer to RSES Chapter 7 Quality of Life which addresses many issues raised for supporting our communities and for reference:
 - RPO 176 “10-Minute City and Town Concepts”;
 - RPO 177 “Childcare, Education and Health Services”;
 - RPO 178 “Universal Health Services”;
 - RPO 179 “Diverse and Socially Inclusive Society”;
 - RPO 180 “Volunteering and Active Citizenship”;
 - RPI 181 “Equal Access”;
 - RPO 182 “Ageing Population”; and
 - RPO 183 Digital Strategies.
- 3) The RSES places a strong emphasis on education, skills development and life-long learning, with recognition of a Learning Region status. RPOs for reference include:
 - RPO 184 (support for higher education institutes and the new Munster Technological University);
 - RPO 185 “New School Facilities”;
 - RPO 186 “Life Long Learning”
 - RPO 187 “Education and Training”
 - RPO 188 “Regional Skills Forum”
 - RPO 189 Further Education and Training
 - RPO 190 Lifelong Learning and Healthy City Initiatives
- 4) Support for culture and arts in our communities is central to our quality of life. The development plan should integrate strong support to the culture and creative sectors (RSES Chapter 7 Section 7.2.2 and RPOs 191-194).
- 5) Support for our Gaeltacht communities, both for their culture, service towns, linguistic heritage and economic vitality, should have strong policy support (RSES Chapter 7 Section 7.2.4 and RPOs 195-197).
- 6) Support for parks, sports and recreation are essential for quality place making and our well-being and need strong policy support (RSES Chapter 7 Section 7.2.6 and RPOs 198-201).
- 7) Refer to Cork MASP Policy Objective 21 “Healthy Cities, Healthy Environment and Health Infrastructure” and Cork MASP Policy Objective 22 “Social Inclusion” for health and social inclusion priorities in the metropolitan area, which includes support to actions under the Cork City LECP.

- 8) Reference RSES Section 7.1.1 Inclusive Communities and Places for further support on building resilient, sustainable communities and initiatives including implementation of LECP actions.

RSES Theme Heritage Aligns with Issues Paper Theme Built Heritage, Urban Design and Culture

- 1) The SRA support initiatives by the Heritage Council including Collaborative Town Centre Health Checks which have a positive role in assisting town and village renewal initiatives.
- 2) Refer to RSES Chapter 3 Section 3.9 Placemaking, Section 3.11 Regeneration and RPO 34 “Regeneration , Brownfield and Infill Development” which includes support for regenerating and repurposing existing building stock in both urban and rural settings. RPO 26 “Towns and Villages” and RPO 38 “Retrofitting Initiative Priorities” also supports retrofitting infrastructure for energy conservation and re-use of our built assets to help achieve compact growth. Such initiatives should be balanced with heritage protection.
- 3) Refer to RSES Chapter 7 and the following RPOs to protect and maintain our environmental and built heritage:
 - RPO 202 “Natural Heritage, Bio-Diversity and Built Heritage Assets”
 - RPO 203 “Revitalisation of Historic Cores”
 - RPO 204 “Better Public Access”
 - RPO 205 “Built Heritage”
 - RPO 206 “Architectural Heritage”
 - RPO 207 “Archaeological Investigation”.
- 4) Refer to RSES Chapter 7 and the following RPOs to promote culture:
 - RPO 191 Cultural and Creative Sectors
 - RPO 192 Cultural Policies and Objectives
 - RPO 193 Collaborative Regional Partnerships
 - RPO 194 Arts, Heritage and Culture.

