

'Ireland 2040' – The National Planning Framework – Public Consultation Document	25th October 2017
PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR DECISION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Outcomes
Leader and Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish key relationships with Government agencies and potential strategic partners in Northern Ireland and external to it which helps us to deliver our vision for this Council area.
Lead Officer	Principal Planning Officer/Local Development Plan Manager
Cost:	N/A

1.0 Background

1.1 The Irish Government published its final draft National Planning Framework “Ireland 2040” on 26th September 2017 for public consultation.

1.2 The framework aims to guide national, regional and local planning opportunities throughout the country. The Plan focuses on growing Ireland’s regions – its cities, towns, villages and rural fabric – as well as building more accessible urban centres of scale. It also seeks to provide better outcomes for communities and the environment, “through more effective and coordinated planning, investment and delivery”.

1.3 The framework will specifically address;-

- The role of Cities and Towns;
- The potential of Regions;
- Rural Development;
- Providing a better quality of life for people and communities;
- Provision of homes to meet future needs;
- Coastal and marine areas;
- Co-ordination of place making with neighbours;
- The role of planning in responding to climate change; and
- The context for future infrastructural investment.

1.4 The Map attached (at Appendix 1) shows that Donegal County Council (DCC) lies within the Northern & Western Regional Assembly, as identified in the draft Plan.

- 1.5 DCC is one of this Borough's four adjoining councils; having a common water body (Lough Foyle) and a ferry crossing (Magilligan to Greencastle). As such, Council's Planning Section has been liaising with DCC throughout our Local Development Plan process. A response to the Draft County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 issued on 1st September 2017, on behalf of Council, as was agreed at the June 2017 Planning Committee (see response attached at Appendix 2).
- 1.6 The cross-boundary implications of this draft Plan on our Borough need to be considered.
- 1.7 The consultation period ends at noon on Friday 3rd November 2017.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members agree to the Head of Planning issuing a response to the final draft "Ireland 2040" consultation document on behalf of Council.

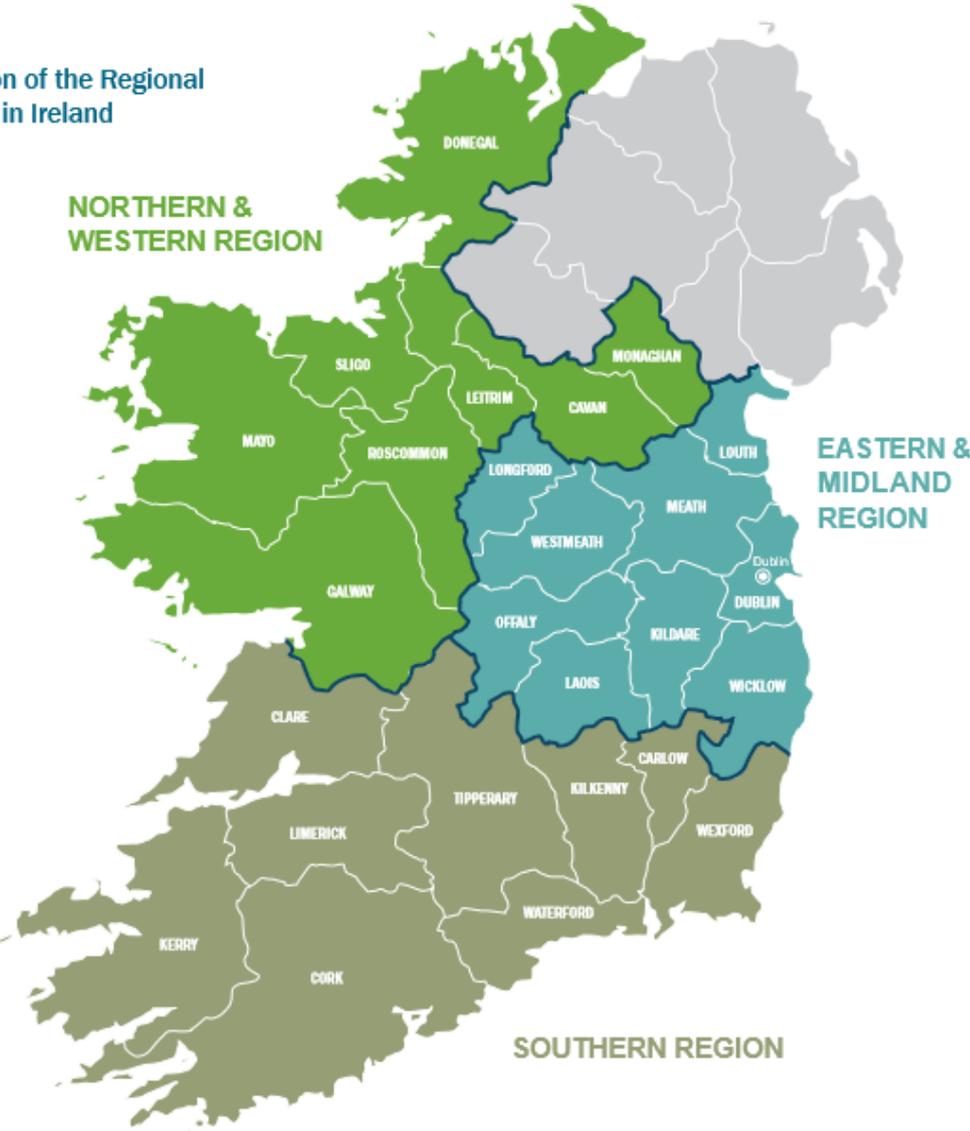
Appendices:

Appendix 1: Map – Regional Assemblies in Ireland.

Appendix 2: Council's response to the Draft County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024.

Appendix 1

Map 2.1 | Configuration of the Regional Assemblies in Ireland





Planning Section
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

Central Planning Unit
Donegal County Council
County House
Lifford
County Donegal

Date: 1st September 2017

Tel: 048 7034 7244

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Council Consultation on the Draft County Development Plan 2018-2024; Environmental Report (SEA); and Natura Impact Report (Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment).

Thank you for your correspondence dated 15th May 2017 and 13th July 2017 in relation to the above consultation. I can advise that the item was listed for decision at the Council's Planning Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 28th June 2016, at which it was agreed that Planning Section would respond on behalf of Council.

I wish to make the following comments:

Draft County Development Plan 2018-2024 (Part A & Part B):

The references to Northern Ireland and issues affecting the Causeway Coast and Glen's area are noted, particularly in relation to the following:

Chapter 5: Infrastructure.

Transportation Policies – Seaports and Ferry Services: which makes reference to the Greencastle to Magilligan Ferry. Map 5.11 and Policy T-P-21 are also noted. Also, Plan objectives and policies in relation to this topic are noted.

Water and Environmental Services: makes reference to the Water Framework Directives and River Basin Management Plan. Also, Plan objectives and policies in relation to this topic are noted.

Chapter 7: The Natural and Built Heritage.

Plan objectives and policies in relation to this topic are noted.

Chapter 8: Natural Resource Development.

The views across to Co. Donegal (from within CC&G Borough) Map 8.2.1 are highlighted. Also, Plan objectives and policies in relation to this topic.

Chapter 9: Tourism.

Greencastle to Magilligan Ferry: reference is made throughout the Plan. The "Wild Atlantic Way" section acknowledges the cross-border linkage to the CC&G Borough. Also, Plan objectives and policies in relation to this topic are noted.

Chapter 10: The Marine Resource and Coastal Management.

The Greencastle to Magilligan Ferry: again, reference is made throughout the Plan. Also, Plan objectives and policies in relation to this topic are noted.

Summary

Council generally agrees with the objectives and policies contained within Part A (Strategic Contents) and Part B (Objectives and Policies of the Plan) of the CDP 2018-2024.

Environmental Report (SEA):

I note the content of the Environmental Report and in particular the details contained within the following tables:

Table 5.4: Protected Ecological Sites in Northern Ireland;

Table 6.1: Scoping of SEA topics;

Table 6.2: Summary of Main Environmental Pressures on the County;

Table 8.2: Environmental Protection Objectives, Indicators and Targets; and

Table 10.1: Incorporating Environmental issues into the Plan.

Summary

Council is in general agreement with the contents of the Environmental Report. For further information I attach a number of maps showing the environmental designations within the CC&G Borough (see Appendix 1).

Natura Impact Report (Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment):

The report acknowledges Northern Ireland and lists a number of strategic documents to be taken into account. In addition to these I wish to highlight two additional documents: namely, the UK Marine Policy Statement and the Northern Ireland Marine Plan (once published).

Table 3 is noted, particularly those policies and objectives of the Draft CDP which have been added or amended to ensure adequate mitigation of any potential impacts on the Natura 2000 network.

It is also noted that the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) listed on pages 71-74 of the table at Appendix 1 of this document (SACs within 15km of the County) lie within the CC&G Borough.

Summary

The report conclusion is welcomed: *"No Significant Effects following the completion of stage 2 of the process. Any potential impact on the Natura 2000 network has been mitigated against through amendments of existing policies and objectives, and the addition of a number of additional policies as identified above. As a result, there is no requirement to proceed to stage 3 of the AA Process."*

Council is therefore in general agreement with the contents of this Natura Impact Report.

Overall

Council generally agrees with the content of the Draft County Development Plan 2018-2024; the Environmental Report; and Natura Impact Report, subject to the comments specified above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Sharon Mulhern
Development Plan Manager

Encs