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To: RSES
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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear committee members

I have read through the strategy with great interest and it looks like you have thought of many items to bring the region forward for the next number of years. As a resident of Newbridge however I find it very hard to fathom that Newbridge is not included as a key town. I believe that not to do so is a key mistake and one that you will come to regret if the strategy to sustain Newbridge is not set out now.

There are a few areas where it is painfully obvious that Naas is set out as a key town for no reason I can see other than someone must have put forward a strong case. That case is false though and I have three areas (there are more) where I can point out why.

The first is the Selection of preferred scenario and the mention is Spatial strategy. Newbridge is ignored here, where I would see it is important to ensure that the services capacity is delivered in tandem with or in advance of growth is vital in Newbridge. I would see Newbridge advancing quicker than Longford, Wicklow and Naas given the interpretation of a key town is that it is a large economically active service and/or county towns that provide employment for their surrounding areas and with

high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as growth drivers to complement the Regional Growth Centres

Can you please tell me what high quality transport links that Naas has?

The train is the most efficient and effective quality transport we have in this country and there is no service in Naas. I do not see how this sort of sentence makes sense in a town that is not linked by rail and then again it goes on to mention that the key town is one that has high quality public Transport and growth capacity at Transport nodes. What transport nodes can grow out of Naas? There's barely one entrance into Naas, the one that is there is log jammed and not fit for purpose and no direct train. Whereas Newbridge has a number of main veins running into it, again including the train.

Can you please review the strategy as your definition of key town either needs revision or newbridge needs to be brought into the equation.

Yours

Tony Buckley