



County Meath Chamber

Advancing business together

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SUBMISSION TO DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY

County Meath Chamber supports the submission of Meath County Council to the RSES. The Chamber would submit the following points for inclusion in the strategy.

Spatial & Economic Strategy

Meath Chamber supports the objectives to manage future growth with the following key elements:

Navan town to become a self-sustaining regional driver ensuring that the services capacity is delivered in tandem with or in advance of growth. The services to include appropriate distributor road network, rail infrastructure, and secure and adequate electricity provision.

Support delivery of the infrastructure at Farganstown Navan to release strategic residential and employment lands for development.

Identify the next generation strategic development lands to follow on from Farganstown.

Identify the need and provision of an outer transport corridor from M1 to Naas. Such development will further enhance the potential of the new port at Mornington as well to other towns in Meath.

Support the implementation of the Public Realm Plan 'Navan 2030' to make the town a more attractive place to live, shop, visit, and do business.

Support development of a new regional hospital in Navan to serve the north east of the country.

Support the extension of the Boyne Greenway to include Navan and Trim to promote sustainable transport choices and as a recreation asset for residents of and visitors to the county, subject to the outcome of the planning process and environmental assessments.

Develop Drogheda and Navan to become self-sustaining regional drivers linked by an environmentally friendly, employment generating greenway as an attraction in the region.

Key Towns to act as economic drivers and provide for strategic employment locations to improve their economic base by increasing the ratio of jobs to workers and thus move away from the commuter town syndrome.

Metropolitan Plan

The object of the plan is to ensure a supply of strategic development areas for the sustainable growth and continued success and competitiveness of the region.

To ensure the continued supply of serviced development lands throughout the metropolitan area consideration must be given to including further areas of South and East Meath in an extended metropolitan area.

Serviced residential, industrial and commercial lands bordering the Metropolitan area should be given priority for development.

Investment Framework

Major transport infrastructure investments, identified in the Project Ireland 2040 - National Development Plan have an important role in enabling the sustainable and balanced development of the Region, over the period of the RSES.

Provision of the extension of the Dunboyne/M3 Parkway rail line to Navan. The railway has the potential to create a corridor for economic growth as provided for in the Maynooth/Dunboyne line (DART expansion) laid out in the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.

Energy

A secure and resilient supply of energy is critical to a well-functioning region, being relied upon for heating, cooling, and to fuel transport, power industry, and generate electricity. With projected increases in population and economic growth, the demand for energy is set to increase in the coming years.

Increased connectivity with other grids is also needed and projects such as the North South interconnector are of great importance for the Region.

Gaeltacht Areas

There are two Gaeltacht districts within the Region, both in rural County Meath – Ráth Cairn and Baile Ghib.

Create sustainable communities with employment opportunities in these Gaeltacht areas with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta. Use employment opportunities as an incentive for people to engage with traditional Irish language and culture.

Broadband

Support and facilitate delivery of the National Broadband Plan. Facilitate enhanced international fibre communications links, including full interconnection between the fibre networks in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Climate Acton Strategy.

The Chamber supports the regional policy objective to accelerate climate action and the transition to a low carbon circular economy, ensuring a clean and healthy environment, promoting sustainable transport and strategic green infrastructure.

