

**From:** Martin Heydon <[REDACTED]>  
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**To:** RSES  
**Subject:** Submission on Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**SUBMISSION ON**

**DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

**Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly**

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly must take into account the current strengths and opportunities for the key areas in its remit and ensure that the overall areas has the best chance of economic development and growth as well as providing sustainable and supported living areas for its residents.

***As I set out in my previous submission in February 2018, my key priorities in relation to RSES are:***

- Encouraging economic development in our large towns and urban centres;
- Transport infrastructure, including enhanced rail links to main population and work centres such as Dublin;
- Improved communications critically fibre broadband and mobile phone coverage, to allow remote working where practical;
- Planning guidelines and housing development to ensure sustainable rural communities;
- Services to towns and villages outside the larger urban centres;
- Managing these priorities in an environmentally friendly way.

In that context the following points are relevant in relation to the Draft document.

- As a framework for future investment, RSES should recognise the need for key infrastructure in large towns in the area specifically the need for a second bridge over the River Liffey in Newbridge and the long awaited ring road for Athy;
- My previous submission of 16 February 2018 highlighted the need for expanded rail services to the region from Dublin. The proposal to upgrade the number of tracks to Kildare town to four lines under the Kildare Route Project should be a priority along with increasing capacity from Athy and Monasterevin;
- Appropriate economic development needs to be planned for Kildare to give our citizens the option of not having to commute out of the County in large numbers for work;
- An integrated approach is required to ensure serviced sites are planned for towns and villages around Kildare and the region in line with objective 19 of the National planning Framework;
- The RSES needs to build in climate change resistance. It should support the development of green technology business in the region like the development of a new sugar/bioethanol industry for Ireland with a factory based in Co. Kildare;
- The important culture and heritage values of the Curragh Plains should also be recognised as part of this plan. The Curragh is home to two of our most important industries in Co. Kildare being the Horse racing and breeding industries as well as our defence forces based on the Curragh camp which can both continue to provide strong employment in many rural and regional areas.

In conclusion there needs to be recognition of the infrastructural investment that has already taken place in Kildare and the potential for continued economic development and sustainable development into the future.

[REDACTED]

*Martin Heydon TD*

*23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019*

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