The Network of Public Infrastructure Professionals

“Twin Tracks: Strategic Alignment of the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan – Challenges and Solutions”

nio@per.gov.ie
Panel Discussion chaired by Dr Martina Kirchberger

- Graham Doyle, Secretary General, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

- Anne Marie O’Connor, Deputy Regulator, Office of the Planning Regulator

- Dr Frank Crowley, Lecturer, School of Economics, UCC
National Planning Framework  Overview

Graham Doyle
Secretary General
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
The OPR’s purpose is to oversee the continuous enhancement of Ireland’s planning process and its outcomes by driving the co-ordination of planning policy implementation across national, regional and local levels, building a stronger knowledge base and ensuring regular reviews of the performance of planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.
Statutory Plans

Assessment of city/county and local area plans made by local authorities for fit with national and regional policy and legislative requirements

Local authority Reviews

Reviews and examinations of local authority and Bord Pleanála systems and procedures in the delivery of planning services to the public

Training & Research

Building knowledge and information base in planning through training for local authority members and staff, public information, research
Hierarchy of Plans

- National Development Plan
- Regional Economic and Social Strategies
- County/ City Development Plans & Local Area Plans

OPR
The OPR is operating at a time when the planning process will play a central role in how our cities, towns and villages develop. This is because over the next six years the OPR will evaluate close to 200 draft plans from around the country to measure how well they align with existing planning policy and regulatory requirements with view to ensuring that the plan provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned.”
NPF Targets

Regional Development

Compact Growth
Observations - Regional Development

Planning policy mechanisms
- Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans (MASP) RSES – good vision / policy framework
- Metropolitan Area Transport Strategies (MATS) NTA - Shift towards active travel and public transport

Funding - NDP
- Needs to provide a clear signal
- Focus on realistic alternatives to Dublin & transformational projects – Cork Docklands
- Roads v Sustainable Transport – address the current imbalance – Bus Connects; Cork LRT
- Invest in creating places people want to be – public realm projects (URDF)

Implementation
- Governance/ structures for delivery – ‘One Voice’ – Missing?
- Targets & Timelines – Limerick 2030
- Human capital - Knowledge, Skills and Time
- ‘Hearts and Minds’
Observations - Compact Growth

Planning policy mechanisms
- County/ City Development Plans & Local Area Plans
- Departmental Planning Guidelines & Guidance

Funding - NDP
- Support for active land management by local authorities - site assembly, infrastructure provision etc
  - Not just social housing – need for balance
- Public transport, cycling, walking - focusing on mobility not just greenways!
- Quality of life projects - 15-minute city/ 10 minute town; physical and social amenities

Implementation
- Greenfield v Brownfield development costs
- ‘Getting down and dirty’ - Commitment to under-utilised brownfield land
- Targets & Monitoring – are targets focussed enough? Can we measure successes? Repercussions?
- Development Management tools - SHD
Thank You
Strategic Alignment of NPF and NDP: Challenges and Solutions

InfraNet
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Dr Frank Crowley
Lecturer and Economist
Co-Director Spatial and Regional Economics Research Centre, Department of Economics, CUBS, UCC

Twitter: @frankgcrowley @SRERC_UCC
Ireland 2040 is a plan to disrupt 'business as usual'.

The NPF growth target for Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford is two-and-a-half times the long-term historical growth rate (since 1966) of these centres combined.

We are trying to achieve something that has never been accomplished in the State’s history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Growth 1966–2016 per annum</th>
<th>NPF 2016–2040 (mid-estimate) per annum</th>
<th>Target/historical</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>37,557</td>
<td>43,542</td>
<td>1.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second-tier cities (4)</td>
<td>3,936</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>2.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern and Midland region</td>
<td>21,832</td>
<td>21,458</td>
<td>0.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern region</td>
<td>10,982</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>1.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern and Western region</td>
<td>4,744</td>
<td>7,083</td>
<td>1.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: McCafferty (2019)
Dublin City Region drove much of the recovery after 2008.

Share of Dublin jobs is increasing since 2012.

Geography of jobs supported by Human capital:
- 43% of the nation's honours degree graduates
- 5/8 of the countries Universities
- and 59% of all the employment in the creative industries are located in the capital.

Future Resilience - Technological change will make places very vulnerable to decline.

Source: Crowley and Doran (2019)
Economic Geography Patterns

Brexit will hit the peripheries hard

Source: Brady (2019), IBEC

Occupations that favour remote working and social distancing are in the cities

Source: Crowley and Doran (2020)
What in Project 2040 is actually going to lead to convergence?

What type of interventions?
What will the provincial cities look like in 2040?
What will Dublin look like in 2040?
Conclusions

• The objective of achieving a greater ‘balance of growth’ (convergence) through Ireland 2040 is very unlikely IMO. Almost all the ‘present’ and ‘future’ drivers of prosperity are pro-capital growth and even the interventions in ‘Ireland 2040’ NDP are pro-capital growth.

• The case for convergence is still strong:
  – If the capital has high diseconomies (congestion and housing costs)
  – Enables sorting and optimal balance for people and firms between agglomeration economies and costs
  – Harness sectoral localised economies
  – Bigger return on public investment
  – Avoids a geography of discontent (Ireland has so far escaped patterns emerging elsewhere)

• For convergence, Second tier cities need:
  – Greater autonomy
  – Key focus on building human capital infrastructure
  – Much more of the ‘Ireland2040’ pie, relative to the Capital
  – Smarter Interventions delivering an innovative and distinct alternative to Capital living. No more mini-Dublins!