An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Inception meeting of Planning Advisory Forum

First Revision to the National Planning Framework

Date: 6th July 2023

Location: Main Conference Room, Custom House.

Time: 2.30pm

Department Attendees: Minister Kieran O'Donnell; Paul Hogan (Acting A/Sec); Claragh Mulhern (Acting Principal Adviser); Alma Walsh (Senior Planning Adviser); Colin Fulcher (Planning Adviser); Laura Courtney (Planning Adviser); Paul Hession (AP); and Colette McCarthy (HEO)

Planning Advisory Forum Attendees: Attracta Uí Bhroin (The Irish Environmental Network); Paul Caprani (An Bord Pleanála); Denis Kelly (Northern and Western Regional Assembly); David Kelly (Southern Regional Assembly); Conor O'Connell (Construction Industry Federation); Shane Conneely (Chambers Ireland); AnnMarie Farrelly (CCMA); Anne Marie O'Connor (Office of the Planning Regulator); Mark McKernan (Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland); Dr. Kieran Feighan (Institute of Engineers Ireland); Dearbhla Lawson (Land Development Agency); Aidan Sweeney (IBEC); Tim Cullinan (Irish Farmers Association); Ailbhe McLoughlin (Community and Voluntary Pillar); Greg Hanna & Louise Cushen (ESB Networks); Tommy Cooke (ICMSA); Jane Doyle (Irish Institutional Property); Aislinn Nic Dhomhnaill (Housing Agency); Phoebe Duvall (An Taisce); Tara Spain (Transport Infrastructure Ireland); Katie Kent (Enterprise Ireland); Clare Bannon (EMRA); John Spain (Property Industry Ireland; Tommy Fanning (IDA Ireland); Colin Bray (Tailte Éireann); George Hussey (Climate Change Advisory Council); Olwyn James (Uisce Éireann); John O'Shaughnessy (Uisce Éireann); Marie O'Connor (EPA); Owen Shinkwin (National Transport Authority); Mary McMahon (Irish Planning Institute).

Apologies: Niall Cussen (Office of the Planning Regulator); , Paul Dunne (CEO, LGMA); Dr. Cathal Fitzgerald (NESC); Professor Mark Scott (Regional Studies Association); Royal Town

Planning Institute; Intertrade Ireland; Cllr. Michael Anglim (Local Authorities Members Association); Charlotte Sheridan (RIAI); Virginia Teehan (Heritage Council); Ciarán McCaffrey (HEA); Alistair Beggs (Department for Infrastructure NI); Tara Farrell (Irish Rural Link); Ciaran O'Connor (OPW); Sustainable Water Network (SWAN); International Centre for Local and Regional Development.

Agenda Item	Summary	Action
Welcome and Opening Remarks	• Minister O'Donnell opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.	
The National Planning Framework – Context	• An overview was given of the National Planning Framework (NPF) as part of the overall planning agenda.	
Role and Purpose of the PAF	• A briefing was provided on the role and purpose of the Planning Advisory Forum (PAF) with specific reference to the Terms of Reference circulated to the Members.	
Roadmap for the Revision	• An overview of the Roadmap of the NPF was provided outlining the anticipated project outputs and the associated timeline.	
Drivers for the Revision	• A presentation was made on the main drivers for the first revision which included: - Climate Transition; - Changing and Diverse Demographics; - Regional Development; - Digitalisation; and - Investment and Prioritisation.	
Initial Observations from Members of the Forum	• A discussion took place regarding the Terms of Reference with regard to widening the Membership to ensure greater diversity and clarifying the role of the Forum. • Observations and contributions were made relating to the following:	

	- the revision process including timelines and public consultation processes including those for environmental assessment; - implementation and associated timing of the revised NPF at regional and local level; - the demand for housing, the changing demographic profile and emerging trends in relation to migration; - the timelines related to the delivery of strategic infrastructure; - the requirement for greater and longer arc for transition; • Minister O'Donnell agreed to examine the issues raised relating to the Terms of Reference and revert before the next Planning Advisory Forum meeting.	
Closing Remarks	• A brief synopsis was given about what is required of the Planning Advisory Forum. Minister O'Donnell thanked the Forum Members for attending and committed to examining the issues raised. • The next meeting is scheduled for mid September – Members will be notified closer to the date.	Members are to revert regarding their comments on the Terms of Reference by 21st July Prior to the next meeting, the Expert Group report will be published and made publically available.