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

Draft Minute of the Third Meeting of Planning Advisory Forum
Version 1

First Revision to the National Planning Framework

Date: 24th October 2023

Location: Main Conference Room, Custom House.

Time: 11.OOam

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); Michelle Breslin (Planning Adviser); Paul Hession (AP); and Colette McCarthy (HEO)

Dr. Seán Ó l Riordáin (Facilitator)

Planning Advisory Forum Attendees: Cllr. Nick Killian (Association of Irish Local Government) - online; Matthew McAleese (County and City Management Association); Frank Flanagan (Northern and Western Regional Assemble; Clare Bannon (Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly) David Kelly (Southern Regional Assembly); Paul Caprani (An Bord Pleanála); Mary McMahon (Irish Planning Institute); Niall Byrne (Royal Town Planning Institute); Mark McKernan (Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland); Charlotte Sheridan (Royal Institute of Architects Ireland; Katie Kent (Enterprise Ireland); Dearbhla Lawson (Land Development Agency); Aideen Sweeney (Irish Business and Employers Confederation); Conor O'Connell (Construction Industry Federation); Eleanor Treanor (Investment Development Agency); Des Cox (Eirgrid); Michael MacAree (National Transport Authority); Cliona Ryan (Transport Infrastructure Ireland); Olwyn James (Uisce Éireann); Andy Fanning (Environmental Protection Agency); Phoebe Duvall (An Taisce); Ian Doyle (Heritage Council); Gina Kelly (Climate Change Advisory Council); Dr Dáithí Downey; Ciarán McCaffrey (Higher Education Authority); Marty Robinson (Inter Trade Ireland); Caroline Creamer (International Centre for Local and Regional Development); Louise Lennon (Irish Rural Link); Noelle Sweeney (Housing Agency); John Spain (Property Industry Ireland); Jane Doyle (Irish Institutional Property); Cllr.

Damien Ryan (Local Authorities Members Association), Tommy Cooke (ICMSA); Greg Hanna & Brendan Allen (ESB Networks); Dr. Emer Coveney (Age Friendly Ireland); and John McGeady (Social Justice Ireland).

Apologies: Niall Cussen (Office of the Planning Regulator); Professor Mark Scott (Regional Studies Association); Alistair Beggs (Department for Infrastructure NI); Paddy Kavanagh (Irish Congress of Trade Unions); Colin Bray (Tailte Éireann); Laura Brien (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority); Dr. Kieran Feighan (Institute of Engineers Ireland); Attracta Uí Bhroin (The Irish Environmental Network); Kerrie Sheehan (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland); Tim Cullinan (Irish Farmers Association); Shane Conneely (Chambers Ireland); Ciaran O'Connor (OPW); Sustainable Water Network (SWAN) and Ailbhe McLoughlin (Community and Voluntary Pillar).

Agenda Item	Summary
Welcome and Opening Remarks	Minister O'Donnell opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.
Revised Terms of Reference (v2)	The group were asked for any further comments or observations on the Terms of Reference. The revised Terms of Reference as circulated were agreed by those in attendance bar two objections, which were noted.
Minute of the First and Second Meetings of the PAF (6th July and 4th October)	The revised minutes of the Inception meeting of 6 th July and the second PAF meeting held on 4th October were agreed by those in attendance bar two objections which were noted.
Departmental Overview o Regional Ambition o Investment and Prioritisation o Digitalisation	A presentation was made by the Department specifically on the topic of Regional Ambition. An update was provided in relation to OECD research commissioned by the Department on balanced regional attractiveness in Ireland. Once the OECD completes its work, an update will be provided to the Forum. A synopsis of Digitalisation was provided in a presentation by the Department, which set out the main areas of interaction with land use planning. A presentation was given in relation to Investment and Prioritisation by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. Allocations on capital funding were noted.

Discussion	Observations and contributions were made and discussed relating to the following: The relationship between the NPF and Local Authorities specifically engagement with Local Authorities and town teams in place;

	The challenge in attracting people to return to live in towns and cities and the associated decay of towns and Inner City; Residential Zoned Land Tax; Infrastructure and the requirement to accelerate grid development to accommodate the electrification of transport; Regional Development including the specific status of the Northern and Western Region as an area in decline and related infrastructure needs; Regional development targets and the need to align enterprise and employment targets; Raising awareness of MASPs and their role; and Town Centre First. Further observations and contributions were made relating to the following: social equality (in relation to digitalisation, specifically those who can work from home and those who can't); Skills shortage; Prioritisation and sequencing of infrastructure; Ageing population (loneliness and the associated need for community infrastructure to enable socialisation); and Rural Ireland and Rural planning (Rural Housing Guidelines). The discussion also focussed on Costing of the NPF understanding the link between growth and infrastructure, Updates to the National Development Plan; The National Broadband Plan and its benefits; Monitoring regarding infrastructure which comprises of water and energy (Identifying barriers); Environment and environmental capacity (assessment of climate targets); The health of small rural towns and the requirement to accelerate the revitalisation of buildings Urban versus Rural (needs to be distinguished; and Migration (incentives for younger people). Regarding the updated research being undertaken by the ESRI, the Forum was advised that the data will inform the revised strategy which will be placed on display for public consultation. The ESRI was also publish their research, once it is peer-reviewed in QI 2024.

AOB and Closing Remarks	The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21 st November 2023 in the Custom House, Dublin 1 from llam to Ipm. Minister O' Donnell advised the two topics will be population trends, climate and environment.

Actions Arising

1. Members are to be furnished with the link for the Public Spending Code Supplementary Guidance - Measuring & Valuing Changes in Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Economic Appraisals and copies of the meetings presentations.