Appendix B: Public Bodies Request Form Templates

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Finance

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Detail on fiscal measures that reinforce the spatial strategy of the RSES which includes championing the Capital City of Dublin as a smart, climate resilient and global city region; enhancing the Dublin- Belfast Economic Corridor; securing Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as Regional Growth Centres, acting as regional economic drivers and supports for their wider catchment areas; and promoting a network of large economically active Key Towns[1] that provide employment and services to their surrounding areas. All of this is supported by Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Self-Sustaining Towns and a network of multifaceted Rural Places.

b) Detail relating to housing provision and sustainable urban development, including supporting infrastructure.

c) Supports for enhanced rural development including sustainable housing provision; mechanisms to enhance the rural economy; mechanisms to enable remote working; and progress of the National Broadband Plan.

d) Detail on measures that will enable sustainable public transport across the Region including; progress on delivering sustainable transport within the Dublin Metropolitan Area relating to the Dublin- Belfast Economic Corridor, rail enhancements (including DART, LUAS and Metrolink), park and ride facilities, bus services, and road improvements; progress on delivering sustainable transport throughout the remainder of the Region; Delivery of rail enhancements throughout the Region; rural transport options; cycling and pedestrian infrastructure; smart transport technologies and EV infrastructure.

e) Detail on investment in the National Road Network of the Region.

f) Detail relating to Enterprise, Skills and Innovation Capacity including; Investment aligned to the Region's economic centres including Dublin as a national economic driver, The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor (especially in light of BREXIT and the need to develop an all-island economy), Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as vital regional growth centres, and a number of Key Towns[2]; The development of a Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3); Investment in placemaking to promote economic development; supports for the enterprise supporting ecosystem (including sufficiently scaled landbanks with appropriate utility infrastructure, business incubation centres, community enterprise centres, accelerator development schemes, local enterprise offices, research and innovation centres with Higher Education Institutes, technology gateways, technology centres, research centres, and IDA business and technology parks); specific sectoral supports for sectors including Retail, Tourism, Marine, Low Carbon Economy and Agriculture, identified as labour-intensive economic activities

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[1] Swords, Maynooth, Bray, Navan, Naas, Wicklow, Longford, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portlaoise.
[2] Swords, Maynooth, Bray, Navan, Naas, Wicklow, Longford, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portlaoise.

which are of particular importance to the Region, given their sensitivity for job creation, maintenance and sustainability; Detail related to economic future proofing and anticipated economic structural change including the need for a just transition to manage the effects of a low carbon and digital transition, managing economic structural change in sectors including agriculture, and managing the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit (and in particular the impact this will have on the agriculture sector within the Midlands).

g) Detail relating to the Airports and Ports of the Region.

h) Detail relating to Culture, Heritage and Sports including cultural and heritage led regeneration, support for the Region's Gaeltacht and supports for the UNESCO candidate sites.

i) Detail relating to Climate Action including; the delivery of a targeted low carbon just transition for the peatlands of the wider Midlands; the transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, circular and environmentally sustainable economy; enabling the decarbonisation of energy production in the Region; investment in the Electricity Transmission and Distribution Network; detail on an energy efficient and climate resilient built environment; delivery of necessary Flood Relief and Coastal Defence Infrastructure; and providing a Strategic Network of connected Green Infrastructure**.**

j) Detail relating to the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure including The Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midland Region, the Vartry Water Supply Scheme, The Rural Water Programme, the active leakage control and water mains rehabilitation programme, the Greater Dublin Drainage Programme, Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plan Project, Athlone Main Drainage Project, and the Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme.

k) Detail relating to Education, Health and Childcare including; enhanced health care services and infrastructure in accordance with the RSES Settlement Strategy, whilst developing community healthcare networks to support local populations; Providing education and childcare services and infrastructure, that respond and cater for current and future populations including financial and legislative support for Athlone IT to achieve TU status, thus supporting Athlone's role as a Regional Growth Centre serving the wider Midland catchment.

l) Detail relating to measures aimed at future proofing and dealing with economic structural change, particularly resulting from Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, technological and digital advances, and climate change, including Just Transition.

2) Where relevant, please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) International Financial Services Strategy 2025, including its current status and implementation. In particular the horizontal priority of Regionalisation with respect to the Eastern and Midland Region, and actions relating to regional focus, the Grand Canal Innovation District, and Regional Skills Fora.

b) Any other policy initiatives/ developments that are relevant, including those by any agency under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Any relevant funding competition/ initiatives/ developments, including those by any agency under the aegis of your Department.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department (or agency under the aegis of your Department), over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[3].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[3] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form and/or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

    a) Detail on the progress of sustainable settlement patterns and enhancement of the settlement strategy identified in the RSES including; championing the Capital City of Dublin as a smart, climate resilient and global city region; securing Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as Regional Growth Centres, acting as regional economic drivers and providing support for their wider catchment areas; and promoting a network of large economically active Key Towns[4] that provide employment and services to their surrounding areas; supported by Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Self-Sustaining Towns and a network of multifaceted Rural Places.

    b) Detail on compact growth and urban regeneration including; measures to achieve compact urban development targets of at least 50% of all new homes within or contiguous to the built-up area of Dublin city and suburbs and a target of at least 30% for other urban areas.

    c) Detail on the provision of housing and supporting infrastructure, in line with the RSES Settlement Strategy, to enable the population growth identified as part of the RSES and NPF. In particular, this includes detail on the delivery of housing and enabling infrastructure on key sites that contribute to housing and compact growth targets in the Dublin Metropolitan Area. It is essential that at least 50 per cent of all new homes that are to be built within the Dublin Metropolitan Area are to be delivered within or contiguous to its existing built-up area, including the delivery of housing developments and enabling infrastructure on key sites in the Dublin Metropolitan Area, as outlined in Table 5.1 of the RSES. In addition, detail relating to rural housing supply such as the 'New Homes in Small Towns and Villages' initiative which would augment the delivery of actions by local authorities, Irish Water, communities and other stakeholders in the provision of services and serviced sites to create 'build your own home' opportunities within the existing footprint of rural settlements to provide new homes to meet housing demand.

    d) Detail on the provision of Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) supports to inform housing and land use zoning proposals.

    e) Detail on sustainable rural development including; strengthened rural networks, economies and communities; regeneration of rural areas and enhanced vibrancy in these areas; the management of urban generated growth in areas under strong urban influence; and the encouragement of sustainable growth in areas that have experienced decline or stagnation.

    f) Detail on placemaking and the enhancement of the quality of our built and natural environment, including to support active lifestyles such as walking and cycling, providing clean air and water for all and quality healthcare and services that support human health.

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[4] Swords, Maynooth, Bray, Navan, Naas, Wicklow, Longford, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portlaoise.

This also includes detail on Green Infrastructure, which offers opportunity to develop integrated strategies around economic development, urban and rural placemaking.

g) Detail relating to the heritage of the Region, including built, archaeological, natural and marine heritage. This includes its protection and enhancement through initiatives including heritage led regeneration.

h) Detail relating to the Department and the NPWS including; the implementation of the Habitats Directives in achieving an improvement in the conservation status of protected species and habitats in the Region and to ensure alignment between the core objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and local authority development plans; Support for the development of ecological networks and enhanced connectivity between protected sites whilst also addressing the need for management of alien invasive species and the conservation of native species; promotion of the development of all aspects of park management in the Wicklow National Park and the Slieve Bloom Mountains; Consideration of designating a National Park for the peatlands area in the Midlands; and promoting the development of improved visitor experiences, nature conservation and sustainable development activities within the Dublin Bay Biosphere in cooperation with the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Partnership.

i) Detail on landscape, including the development of a national landscape character assessment.

j) Detail on the sustainable management of water and wastewater resources including The Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midland Region, the Vartry Water Supply Scheme, The Rural Water Programme, the active leakage control and water mains rehabilitation programme, the Greater Dublin Drainage Programme, Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plan Project, Athlone Main Drainage Project, and the Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme.

k) Detail on the sustainable management of Marine Waters including the development of the National Marine Planning Framework, the protection of the marine environment and growth of the marine economy.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Irish Water including, the delivery of key infrastructure projects identified at Table 10.1 and 10.2 of the RSES, and progress on the 'serviced site initiative' for rural villages.

b) The Heritage Council.

c) The National Parks and Wildlife Service.

d) Waterways Ireland.

e) The Land Development Agency.

f) The Housing Agency.

g) The Office of the Planning Regulator.

h) An Bord Pleanála.

i) Any other agency that is relevant.

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Any policy initiative or development related to planning (including marine planning), heritage, urban and rural development, and regeneration for instance.

b) The Town Centre First Approach

c) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Urban Regeneration and Development Fund

b) Any other funding competitions/ initiatives/ developments relevant to your Department and agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department (and agencies under the aegis of your Department), over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[5].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
URDF				
Other				

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[5] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form and/or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

   a) Detail on ensuring spatial alignment of investment decisions and the spatial strategy of the RSES which includes championing the Capital City of Dublin as a smart, climate resilient and global city region; securing Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as Regional Growth Centres, acting as regional economic drivers and supports for their wider catchment areas; and promoting a network of large economically active Key Towns[6] that provide employment and services to their surrounding areas. All of this is supported by Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Self-Sustaining Towns and a network of multifaceted Rural Places.
   c) Detail relating to housing provision and sustainable urban development, including supporting infrastructure.
   d) Supports for enhanced rural development including; the delivery of 'serviced sites' in rural areas to enable sustainable housing provision; mechanisms to enhance the rural economy; mechanisms to enable remote working; and progress of the National Broadband Plan.
   e) Detail relating to sustainable public transport including; progress on delivering sustainable transport within the Dublin Metropolitan Area relating to the Dublin- Belfast Economic Corridor, rail enhancements (including DART, LUAS and Metrolink), park and ride facilities, bus services, and road improvements; progress on delivering sustainable transport as defined by Local Transport Plans for Regional Growth Centres and Key Towns; Delivery of rail enhancements throughout the Region (Table 8.2 of the RSES); rural transport options; cycling and pedestrian infrastructure; smart transport technologies and EV infrastructure.
   f) Detail on investment in the National Road Network of the Region as per Table 8.4 of the RSES.
   g) Detail relating to Enterprise, Skills and Innovation Capacity including; Investment aligned to the Region's economic centres including Dublin as a national economic driver, The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor (especially in light of BREXIT and the need to develop an all-island economy), Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as vital regional growth centres, and a number of Key Towns[7]; The development of a Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3); Investment in placemaking to promote economic development; supports for the enterprise supporting ecosystem (including sufficiently scaled landbanks with appropriate utility infrastructure, business incubation centres, community enterprise centres, accelerator development schemes, local enterprise offices, research and innovation centres with Higher Education Institutes, technology gateways, technology centres, research centres, and IDA business and technology parks); specific sectoral supports for sectors including Retail, Tourism, Marine,

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[6] Swords, Maynooth, Bray, Navan, Naas, Wicklow, Longford, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portlaoise.
[7] Swords, Maynooth, Bray, Navan, Naas, Wicklow, Longford, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portlaoise.

Low Carbon Economy and Agriculture, identified as labour-intensive economic activities which are of particular importance to the Region, given their sensitivity for job creation, maintenance and sustainability. This requirement has intensified owing to the COVID-19 economic crisis and Brexit; Detail related to economic future proofing and anticipated economic structural change including the need for a just transition to manage the effects of a low carbon and digital transition, managing economic structural change in sectors including agriculture, and managing the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit (and in particular the impact this will have on the agriculture sector within the Midlands).

h) Detail relating to the Airports and Ports of the Region.

i) Detail relating to Culture, Heritage and Sports including cultural and heritage led regeneration, support for the Region's Gaeltacht and supports for the UNESCO candidate sites.

j) Detail relating to Climate Action including; the delivery of a targeted low carbon just transition for the peatlands of the wider Midlands; the transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, circular and environmentally sustainable economy; enabling the decarbonisation of energy production in the Region; investment in the Electricity Transmission and Distribution Network; detail on an energy efficient and climate resilient built environment; delivery of necessary Flood Relief and Coastal Defence Infrastructure; and providing a Strategic Network of connected Green Infrastructure.

k) Detail relating to the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure including The Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midland Region, the Vartry Water Supply Scheme, The Rural Water Programme, the active leakage control and water mains rehabilitation programme, the Greater Dublin Drainage Programme, Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plan Project, Athlone Main Drainage Project, and the Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme.

l) Detail relating to Education, Health and Childcare including; enhanced health care services and infrastructure in accordance with the RSES Settlement Strategy, whilst developing community healthcare networks to support local populations; Providing education and childcare services and infrastructure, that respond and cater for current and future populations including ensuring full financial and legislative support for Athlone IT to achieve TU status, thus supporting Athlone's role as a Regional Growth Centre serving the wider Midland catchment.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) The Office of Public Works, particularly its role relating to Flood Risk Management within the Region and Built Heritage.

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) The National Development Plan.
b) The National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

c) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) EU funding that may be forthcoming including the European Just Transition Fund, the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Brexit Adjustment Fund.
b) Build Digital Grant.
c) Any other funding competitions/ initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those administered by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department (and agencies under the aegis of your Department), over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[8].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[8] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Rural and Community Development

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form and/or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Planning for future growth in rural areas including housing, regeneration and renewal. This includes any detail on the 'New Homes in Small Towns and Villages' initiative which would augment the delivery of actions by local authorities, Irish Water, communities and other stakeholders in the provision of services and serviced sites to create 'build your own home' opportunities within the existing footprint of rural settlements to provide new homes to meet housing demand.

b) Detail on sustainable rural development including; strengthened rural networks, economies and communities; regeneration of rural areas and enhanced vibrancy in these areas; the management of urban generated growth in areas under strong urban influence; the encouragement of sustainable growth in areas that have experienced decline or stagnation; and progress on placemaking to counteract physical decline such as vacancy and dereliction.

c) The protection of existing rural economies such as valuable agricultural lands to ensure sustainable food supply and protecting the value and character of the open countryside.

d) Supports related to a sustainable rural economy, which can withstand economic shocks and sustain growth, and measures for economic diversification to create additional jobs and maximise opportunities in sectors, such as agri-business, renewable energy, tourism, fishing and aquaculture, the bioeconomy, and forestry enterprises.

e) Progress relating to a Low Carbon Just Transition, particularly with regard to those impacted by the cessation of Bord na Móna peat harvesting and closure of ESB plants in the wider Midlands.

f) Detail relating to the local link Rural Transport Programme throughout rural communities in the Eastern and Midland Region and the integration of this service with other public transport services, improving linkages of services between towns, villages and rural communities, ensuring fully accessible vehicles operate on all services, while improving the overall customer experience.

g) Detail relating to the provision of sustainable transport options including cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in smaller towns and villages in the Eastern and Midland Region, providing safe cycling routes in small towns and villages across the Eastern and Midland Region, and enhancing pedestrian facilities in all rural communities based in the Region.

h) Progress relating to community development including enabling increased active participation and social integration of minority groups, including the aging population, those with disabilities, non-Irish nationals and Travellers for instance.

i) The role of digitalisation in enhancing rural development and communities, including the provision of broadband and development of smart towns and villages.

2) Where relevant, please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

   a) Our Rural Future- Rural Development Policy 2021-2025, including any prioritised actions or initiatives on foot of this recent publication.
   b) The Town Centre First Approach.
   c) The review of procedures relating to Local Economic and Community Plans.
   d) Any other policy initiatives/ developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

   a) The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
   b) SICAP
   c) Any other funding competitions/ initiatives/ developments that are relevant, including those administered by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department (and agencies under the aegis of your Department), over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[9].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Rural Regeneration and Development Fund				
SICAP				
Other				

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[9] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form and/or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Detail relating to ensuring spatial alignment of enterprise, trade and employment, and the spatial strategy of the RSES, which includes championing the Capital City of Dublin as a smart, climate resilient and global city region; Enhancing the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor; securing Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as Regional Growth Centres, acting as regional economic drivers and supports for their wider catchment areas; and promoting a network of large economically active Key Towns[10] that provide employment and services to their surrounding areas. All of this is supported by Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Self-Sustaining Towns and a network of multifaceted Rural Places.

b) Detail and progress on supports for the national economic agencies, Local Enterprise Offices, Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committees, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, with their plans for job creation and enterprise development with an emphasis on; an enterprise base with increased productivity and more diversification (including diversification of their markets) with high levels of innovation, skills adaptability, and relatively low costs of doing business; and maintaining full-employment.

c) Detail on business and sectoral developments/opportunities that are relevant to the Region.

d) Detail on business and sectoral supports for sectors including Retail, Tourism, Marine, Low Carbon and Circular Economy, and Agriculture, identified as labour-intensive economic activities which are of particular importance to the Region, given their sensitivity for job creation, maintenance and sustainability.

e) Detail on enhancing placemaking, particularly town centre renewal, as a proponent of economic growth.

f) Detail relating to the enhancement of skills, talent and innovation, and supports of the development of sites where high-tech and high potential start-ups can thrive, in conjunction with IoTs and Universities, to create collaborative and innovative growth.

g) Detail relating to SME development in the Region.

h) Detail relating to the progress of the 'Smart Cities' concept throughout the Region.

i) Detail relating to supports, particularly for LEOs, to increase business innovation capacity, to create a distributed network of coworking hubs, to promote Ireland's Edge to strengthen linkages between Irish-owned enterprises and foreign owned enterprises, and to support existing Irish entrepreneurs and to attract overseas entrepreneurs.

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[10] Swords, Maynooth, Bray, Navan, Naas, Wicklow, Longford, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portlaoise.

j) Detail relating to future proofing and anticipating economic structural change, particularly resulting from Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, technological and digital advances, and climate change, including Just Transition.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) IDA Ireland
b) Enterprise Ireland

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Enterprise 2025 Renewed, including detail on implementation and its current status.
b) The National Economic Plan, including its current status.
c) Future Jobs Ireland 2019, including its current status.
d) Regional Enterprise Plans of the Eastern and Midland Region, including implementation of the current plans, and any ongoing work related to the development of new Regional Enterprise Plans.
e) The National SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan, including its current status.
f) The National Remote Working Strategy, including its current status.
g) Any initiatives/ developments relating to Brexit or the Covid-19 Pandemic.
h) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund
b) European Digital Innovation Hubs
c) Regional Enterprise Development Fund and Border Development Fund (in this instance relating only to Louth which is in the Eastern and Midland Region).
d) Any other funding competitions/initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those administered by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department (and agencies under the aegis of your Department), over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[11].

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[11] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund				
Regional Enterprise Development Fund/ Border Development Fund				
Other				

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Access to childcare and education as a critical enabler of balanced sustainable development throughout the Region, to assist in tackling disadvantage and recognising the role of Local Community Development Committees and Local Economic and Community Plans in planning for social infrastructure provision, ensuring active participation and addressing social exclusion in the Region.

b) Investment in childcare services to include support for a cross Government Early Years Strategy and for youth services that provide a pathway to education and employment, and to address the supply and affordability of childcare as a barrier to employment, particularly for low income families

c) Support the development of policies to address the play and recreation needs of children and young people, including the integration of play into public spaces, development of dedicated youth spaces in key urban areas and multi-functional spaces in smaller communities/rural areas.

d) Ensure new buildings and public spaces are designed to ensure accessibility across all societal needs, age, gender and disabilities in line with the principles of universal design and gender equality.

e) Integration of age friendly and family friendly strategies including provision for flexible housing typologies and specialist housing provision by local authorities, to meet the future needs of a diverse and inclusive Region and to ensure the integration of migrants and minority groups including non-Irish nationals and Travellers.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC),
b) National Disability Authority (NDA)

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020, or any update thereof

b) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Any funding initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies of your Department, which can be added into the table below if regionally significant.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[12].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[12] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Education

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Access to childcare and education as a critical enabler of balanced sustainable development throughout the Region, to assist in tackling disadvantage and ensure active participation and social integration of minority groups including non-Irish nationals and Travellers, also recognising the role of Local Community Development Committees and Local Economic and Community Plans in planning for social infrastructure provision in the Region.

b) To ensure the allocation of sufficient sites for schools in appropriate locations to cater for planned population growth in the Region including areas where significant housing is planned, based on an assessment of need carried out in collaboration with the Department and aligned to statutory land use plans, which designate new school sites at accessible pedestrian, cycle and public transport friendly locations.

c) Investment in childcare services to include support for the Affordable Childcare Scheme, quality and supply of sufficient childcare places, support for a cross Government Early Years Strategy and for youth services that provide a pathway to education and employment, and to address affordability of childcare as a barrier to employment, particularly for low income families.

d) Provision and enhancement of playgrounds, sports facilities, and public spaces that provide for a range of recreation and amenity uses, the integration of play and opportunities to be physically active, and maximise the multiple use of such facilities by encouraging co-location of services between schools, colleges, sports providers and other community facilities.

e) Ensure new public buildings and spaces are designed to ensure accessibility across all societal needs, age, gender and disabilities in line with the principles of universal design and gender equality.

f) Promote and facilitate access to arts, culture and heritage, including support for development of the Irish language including in the Gaeltacht areas in Co Meath and throughout the Region.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Schools building programme identifying the need for and delivery of school accommodation.
b) Supporting the further and higher education sector through the delivery of accommodation and facilities
c) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Primary and Post Primary School Buildings
b) Digital Strategy for Schools
c) Any other funding initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[13].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Primary schools building programme				
Post primary schools building programme				
Other				

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[13] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Health

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Facilitating the development of primary care centres, hospitals, clinics, and health facilities to cater for planned population growth in the Region including areas where significant population growth is planned in accordance with local authority statutory land use plans and the spatial strategy in the RSES including; championing the Capital City of Dublin as a global city region; Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as Regional Growth Centres and providing support for their wider catchment areas; and promoting a network of large economically active Key Towns that provide services to their surrounding areas; supported by Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Self-Sustaining Towns and a network of multifaceted Rural Places.

b) Access to healthcare for all including to cater for the specific needs of an ageing population, and for disadvantaged and minority groups, and the role of Local Community and Development Committees (LCDCs) and Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) in planning for the provision of social infrastructure.

c) Addressing gaps in the Region's healthcare system in particular the demand for primary care, acute care, and social care services including the recommendations of the Trauma Steering Group – A Trauma system for Ireland

d) Support for development and expansion of the Midlands Regional Hospital including any necessary supporting infrastructure.

e) Ensuring new public buildings and spaces are designed to ensure accessibility across all societal needs, age, gender and disabilities in line with the principles of universal design.

f) Support for local authorities in implementing public health policy including the objectives of National Sports Policy, Healthy Ireland and the National Physical Activity Plan, with a focus on prioritising active lifestyles and integrating healthy placemaking in the planning and design of new communities.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

a) Health Service Executive
b) Any other relevant agencies under the aegis of your Department.

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

    a) Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025
    b) National Physical Activity Plan
    c) Age Friendly Ireland
    d) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

    a) Hospital and Primary Health Care Building Programme
    b) Any other funding initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[14].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Healthy Ireland Fund				
Other				

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[14] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form and/or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Detail relating to enhancing the competitiveness of the agriculture sector with an urgent need for mitigation as well as real and effective and adaptation mechanisms for the long-term sustainability of the agri-sector including agri- food.
b) Detail relating to measures aimed at enhancing the rural economy.
c) Detail relating to recognising the value of horticultural land, protecting the resource productivity of agricultural land and addressing development pressures. This includes any measures that ensure food security in the Region and promotion of sustainable farming practices that maintain the quality of the natural environment, protect farm landscapes and support the achievement of climate targets.
d) Detail relating to measures addressing the potential impact that Brexit will have on agriculture, food and marine sectors including agriculture and food exports throughout the region.
e) Detail relating to future proofing of the agricultural economy and the establishment of sustainable farming practices and production methods, particularly in light of climate change and the impact of agriculture on this. This may include supports for low carbon and low impact farming such as local agri-food, biomass production, permaculture, appropriate agri-forestry, precision farming, the bioeconomy and incorporating circular economy thinking.
f) Detail relating to any progress relating to the future of former peat production bogs and peatlands, including ensuring a Just Transition.
g) Detailing relating to the transformation of our food systems in line with the sustainable development goals and building climate resilience.
h) Detail relating to marine planning and the sustainable management of Marine Waters including the development of the National Marine Planning Framework, the protection of the marine environment and growth of the marine economy, including sectoral opportunities in the seafood sector and marine energy for instance.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Bord Bia
b) Bord Iascaigh Mhara
c) Marine Institute Ireland

d) Sea Fisheries Protection Authority

e) Teagasc

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Any policy initiative or development related to enhancing the sustainability of the agriculture, food and marine sectors.

b) National Marine Planning Framework

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

c) Any funding competition/ initiative / development that enhances the agriculture, food and marine sectors.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[15].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[15] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Progress in decarbonising our energy system including increasing renewable energy, including offshore potential, upgrading of energy transmission networks and roll out of smartgrids to support renewables and micro production and support for the role of community generation and renewable energy use in industrial areas

b) Progress in decarbonising buildings including in achieving energy efficiencies and retrofitting in existing buildings and Near Zero-Energy Building (NZEB) for new buildings.

c) Progress in decarbonising the transport sector, including transition to low emissions and electric vehicles and facilitating roll out of EV charging infrastructure and priority parking.

d) Progress in accelerating transition to low carbon and circular economy and society, for more sustainable management of natural resources, and realising blue growth and bioeconomy opportunities.

e) Progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with agreed national sectoral plans and 2030 targets, and support for undertaking emissions monitoring at a regional and local authority level.

f) Progress in protecting biodiversity and natural heritage and achieving improved conservation status of protected species and habitats in the Region in line with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, and to support the development of ecological networks and connectivity between protected sites while also addressing the need for management of alien species and conservation of native species.

g) Collaboration between relevant stakeholders and the Bord na Mona transition team to develop partnership approaches to integrated peatland management and incorporate relevant policies such as the Bord na Mona Biodiversity Plan and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans, and in achieving a 'just transition' in the Midlands.

h) Progress in the preparation of a national Landscape Character Assessment to inform the identification of Strategic Energy zones as areas suitable for larger scale renewable energy generation projects.

i) Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in achieving and maintaining at least 'good water status' for all water bodies in the Region and for mitigation of threats to 'At Risk' waterbodies, including delivery of wastewater facilities in the Region and guidance for achieving appropriate riparian setbacks from water bodies.

j) Progress in achieving good air quality for all urban and rural areas in the Region and incorporating the objectives of the EU Environmental Noise Directive

k) The role of digitalisation in enhancing urban and rural regeneration, supporting development of a network of co-working/remote working hubs and smart cities, towns and villages in the Region, including delivery of the national broadband plan and future communications networks.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

a) Commission for Regulation of Utilities
b) Commission for Communications Regulation
c) Digital Hub Development Agency
d) National Digital Research Centre
e) Geological Survey of Ireland
f) Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
g) Electricity Supply Board
h) Bord Gáis
i) Bord na Móna
j) EirGrid
k) Any other relevant agencies under the aegis of your Department.

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Climate Action Plan
b) Just Transition Fund
c) National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP)
d) National Broadband Plan
e) National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (elements relevant to DECC)
f) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Project Ireland 2040 - Climate Action Fund
b) SEAI - Sustainable Energy Communities, Home Energy, Retrofit and EV Grants
c) Any other funding initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[16].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Climate Action Fund				
Just Transition Fund				
Other				

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[16] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Foreign Affairs

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form and/ or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

   a) Detail relating to All Island Cohesion on the Island of Ireland, working together for mutual advantage in areas such as economic development and promotion, co-ordination of social and physical infrastructure provision and environmental management. This includes the Dublin- Belfast Economic Corridor; Investments in transport, energy and communications infrastructure; and tourism development.
   b) Detail relating to the promotion of Dublin as a global city region and the protection and enhancement international connectivity, including ports and airports and promotion of the Region as a gateway to Ireland.
   c) Detail relating to mechanisms in response to BREXIT that mitigate its impact on the economy of the Eastern and Midland Region.

2) Where relevant, please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

   a) Any policy initiatives/developments that enhance the areas listed in 1) a) b) and c) above.

4) Where relevant, please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

4) b. Where relevant, please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[17].

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[17] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	Location	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include detail relating to;

a) Access to high quality further education and life-long learning as a critical enabler of balanced sustainable development throughout the Region, including the allocation of sufficient sites in appropriate locations to cater for planned population growth in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

b) The role of universities and research centres in providing continuing professional development, advanced research, facilities to support business growth and clustering, and providing skills to attract and retain international investment, complemented by;

c) The role of Education Training Boards to deliver labour market focussed programmes and apprenticeships to meet emerging skills needs supported by Regional Skills Fora, providing a pathway to participation, and assist in tackling disadvantage.

d) Progress in the development of multi-campus Technological Universities (TUs) to lead the development of skills and talent in the Region, including TU Dublin, support for Athlone Institute of Technology (IoT) to achieve TU status by merging with at least one other IoT, , development of Wicklow County campus in association with IoT Carlow; and for the Midlands Research and Innovation Centre in Athlone.

e) To progress regeneration and economic synergies in proximity to education and health campus development in the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) including Grangegorman, St. James Hospital-Diageo lands, a new Maynooth Research and Technology Park, and the Dublin Enterprise Zone (in proximity to Blanchardstown IT).

f) The development of Technology and Innovation Poles anchored by Regional Scientific Centres, and the development of sites where high-tech and high potential start-ups can thrive, in conjunction with IoTs and Universities.

g) The enhancement of skills, talent and innovation and fostering of collaboration between enterprise, higher education institutions and public sector, to identify areas for investment in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) as part of a smart specialisation approach.

h) Progress in rolling out the 'Smart Cities' concept throughout the Region, with a focus on the Regional Growth Centres of Athlone, Dundalk and Drogheda, the potential to develop challenge-based programmes to develop new solutions to identified challenges, and for networked knowledge sharing supported by the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum based in Maynooth University.

i) Future proofing and anticipating economic structural change, particularly resulting from Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, technological and digital advances, and climate change, including Just Transition.

j) Benchmarking Ireland's performance in RDI against other comparable economies and progress towards improving our comparative performance.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Grangegorman Development Agency
b) Higher Education Authority
c) Irish Research Council
d) SOLAS
e) Science Foundation Ireland
f) Skillnets Ireland CLG

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024
b) Innovation 2020
c) Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions, or any update thereof
d) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020
b) SFI Frontiers for the Future Funding Programme
c) Project Ireland 2040 Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund, and other relevant challenge-based research and innovation funds
d) Any other funding initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies of your Department, which can be added into the table below if regionally significant.

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[18].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County/HEI	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
EU Horizon 2020				

[18] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

SFI Centres for Research				

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) Detail relating to the enhancement of the tourism sector within the counties[19] of the Eastern and Midland Region, both in urban and rural areas, and any tourism supports in line with the Settlement Strategy of the RSES which includes; championing the Capital City of Dublin as a smart, climate resilient and global city region; securing Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as Regional Growth Centres, acting as regional economic drivers and supports for their wider catchment areas; and promoting a network of large economically active Key Towns[20] that provide employment and services to their surrounding areas; supported by Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Self-Sustaining Towns and a network of multifaceted Rural Places.

b) Detail relating to enhancing the tourism potential of many specific assets of the Region. This includes for instance; The amenity potential of waterways including the River Shannon and Lough Ree; Boyne Valley heritage sites and World Heritage site at Brú Na Bóinne; Numerous Greenways and Blueways; The Wicklow and Slieve Bloom Mountains; Lough Boora Discovery Park and the wider peatlands.

c) Detail relating to enhancing access to the countryside and coastal areas to ensure maintenance of the existing tourism network, and, any support for the maintenance of, and enhanced access to state and semi-state lands such as National Parks, Forest Parks, Waterways, etc., together with Monuments and Historic Properties, for recreation and tourism purposes.

d) Detail relating to the progress of Visitor Experience Development Plans in the Region.

e) Detail relating to any support for strategies linking the River Shannon Blueway, The Royal and Grand Canal Greenways and the proposed Barrow Blueway right across the Midlands, incorporating the towns of Longford, Athlone, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portarlington.

f) Detail relating to the implementation of Fáilte Ireland's regional tourism brands based in the Region, including Dublin- Surprising by Nature, Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

g) Detail relating to investment in the tourism product of the Region including investment in the sustainable tourism potential of our culture and heritage infrastructure.

h) Detail relating to the identification of destination towns within the Region for the prioritisation of investment and supports to drive tourism growth in the Region, to

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[19] Counties located within the Eastern and Midland Region are Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.
[20] Swords, Maynooth, Bray, Navan, Naas, Wicklow, Longford, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portlaoise.

spread the benefit of tourism throughout the Region and to encourage the increase of tourism product development.

i) Detail relating to improved visitor experiences, nature conservation and sustainable development activities within the Dublin Bay Biosphere in cooperation with the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Partnership.

j) Detail relating to the development of a sustainable Strategic Greenway Network of national and regional routes, with a number of high-capacity flagship routes that can be extended and /or linked with local greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure, and, the delivery of sustainable strategic greenways, blueways, and peatways projects in the Region.

k) The promotion of the role of arts and culture in recognition of its importance to people's identity and the potential for economic development through a unique cultural tourism offering throughout the Region.

l) The promotion of equality of access to and engagement with arts and cultural services and in the promotion of culture and heritage led urban and rural regeneration.

m) The enhancement of the Region's Gaeltachts including the implementation of language plans, the identification of Gaeltacht Service Towns and Irish Language Networks in the Region, and the promotion of the development of the Gaeltacht in Meath in a manner that protects and enhances the distinctive linguistic and cultural heritage, whilst meeting the needs and aspirations of both residents and visitors alike.

n) The enhancement of objectives of the National Sports Policy, including working with local sports partnerships, clubs, communities and partnerships within and beyond sport, to increase sport and physical activity participation levels locally.

o) Detail relating to any supports for the clustering of the film and audio-visual sector in the Dublin and Wicklow areas and to support training of film workers and crew around the Region, as well as exploiting opportunities for the industry outside of these hubs.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

Where appropriate, your response should include;

a) Sport Ireland
b) Údarás na Gaeltachta
c) Tourism Ireland
d) Fáilte Ireland

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

a) The ongoing implementation of People, Place and Policy- Growing Tourism to 2025 and the Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021.
b) The ongoing work of the Recovery Oversight Group for the Tourism Sector
c) Any policy initiatives/developments that enhance the Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media sectors.

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation. This should include any mechanisms intended to assist Covid-19 Recovery.

Specifically, your response should include but is not limited to;

a) Relevant funding competitions/ initiatives/ developments that support the tourism sector in the Eastern and Midland Region.
b) Sports Capital Programme
c) Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF)

4) b. Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[21].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

6) Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form.

Name:

Position:

Email:

Contact Phone Number:

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[21] The Eastern and Midland Region covers the counties of Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

Section 25A. (1) Report (Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

Department of Transport

Instructions for completing this form: You may wish to complete this from by typing directly onto the form or submitting relevant additional information. When submitting additional information, please indicate which question this relates to as part of same. Please also indicate as part of this form, under the relevant question, that additional information has been submitted.

1) Please outline any progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include details on progress relating to;

j) **Integration of Planning and Transport Policy** to achieve more sustainable settlement and travel patterns as identified in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), and in the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP), which was prepared as part of the RSES. This provides the spatial framework for alignment of key transport infrastructure and investment throughout the Region, to ensure that investment is targeted in the right locations with a focus on compact growth and sustainable transport in the designated settlements including; Dublin as Capital City; Athlone, Drogheda and Dundalk as Regional Growth Centres; and a network of Key Towns throughout the Region; Bray, Maynooth, Swords, Navan, Naas, Wicklow-Rathnew, Graigecullen (Carlow), Longford, Mullingar, Tullamore and Portlaoise.

k) **Protect and enhance strategic connectivity** to support economic competitiveness including; investment in the trans-European TEN-T road, rail and port network; improved access to international gateways Dublin Airport and Port, improved road and rail links on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and south to Rosslare Europort on the Eastern Corridor; collaboration to ensure resilient cross border flows and address Brexit; the potential of rail freight to support increased exports and movement of goods; enhanced regional connectivity including connections to the North Western and Southern Regions; the future role of regional ports as strategic assets, whilst supporting complimentary uses including offshore renewable energy.

l) **Delivering key transport infrastructure** as set out in Tables 8.2 – 8.5 of the RSES, including;
   a. **Delivery of key public transport projects within the Dublin Metropolitan Area** delivery of Bus Connects, Metrolink, DART expansion and LUAS extension programmes, along with park and rides and new stations to provide interchange with bus, LUAS and Metro at Kishoge, Heuston West, Cabra, Glasnevin, Pelletstown and Woodbrook to provide a fully integrated metropolitan transport network; undertake appraisal for further extensions to Metrolink and LUAS networks as part of the Review of the GDA Transport Strategy.
   b. **Delivery of key public transport projects in the Region** to support compact growth and regeneration. Rail infrastructure projects include; feasibility for high-speed rail between Dublin-Belfast and Dublin-Limerick Junction/Cork; undertake appraisal for extension to the Dunboyne/M3 Parkway line to Navan during the Mid Term Review of the GDA Transport Strategy; construction of the National Train Control Centre; provide an appropriate level of commuter rail service in the Midlands and South-East. Bus Projects include; delivery of Regional Bus Corridors connecting major regional settlements to Dublin; Bus network reviews for the Dublin Metropolitan Area and largest settlements, with a view to providing local bus services; Review of bus services throughout EMRA including services to small towns and villages and the rural transport programme.
   c. **Delivery of roads projects** including on-going management and protection of national road networks and the following road projects; M7 Naas to Newbridge bypass widening, Osberstown Interchange and Sallins Bypass; N2 Slane Bypass; N2 Rath Roundabout to

Kilmoon Cross; N2 Ardee to south of Castleblaney; M4 Maynooth to Leixlip; M4 Mullingar to Longford (and Sligo); M11 from Jn 4 M50 to Kilmacanogue; N3 Clonee to M50; N52 Ardee Bypass; N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan; M50 Dublin Port South Access.

    d. **Provision of transport in rural areas,** working with the NTA to develop and expand the Local Link Rural Transport Programme to seek further integration with other public transport services, including HSE and school transport; better linkage of services between towns, villages and rural areas; ensure fully accessible vehicles operate on all services; enhance the customer experience; increase patronage among children and young people; and encourage innovation in the service.

m) **Enabling Access for All;** through better design of transport infrastructure and services to ensure accessibility across all societal needs, age, gender and disabilities in line with the principles of universal design and gender equality; upgrading infrastructure to allow for new interchange and bus hub facilities, new fare structures, improvements to passenger information, bus waiting facilities and integrated timetabling of bus and rail into a coherent national and regional network.

n) **Shift to sustainable mobility,** with a focus on improvements to walking and cycling provision in cities, towns and villages; to support healthy and active lifestyles including progress in the delivery of the National Cycle Plan and the NTA Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan and in achieving mode share targets in the Smarter Travel Policy, investment in smarter travel initiatives, behaviour change and demand management measures, implementing the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) to reverse the vehicle-dominated road hierarchy and integrating permeability and accessibility in line with the '10 minute' settlement concept whereby a range of services are accessible by walking, cycling and high quality public transport.

o) **COVID related Public Realm and Active Travel interventions;** accelerated measures for walking, cycling and placemaking initiatives to improve accessibility and permeability in the public realm, and safe routes to schools; to incorporate monitoring measures to inform the implementation of permanent solutions, and support the delivery of strategic policy objectives including the National Cycle Plan, National and Regional Greenways and Dublin Metropolitan Area Cycle Network.

p) **Preparation of Local Transport Plans** in conjunction with the NTA for settlements throughout the Region to set out priorities for public transport infrastructure and services, pedestrian and cycle improvements, and road enhancements to include, but not limited to Athlone, Dundalk, Drogheda, Arklow, Ashbourne, Balbriggan, Longford, Mullingar, Portloaise, Naas, Navan, Newbridge, Tullamore and Wicklow-Rathnew and certain settlements or development areas within the Dublin Metropolitan Area

q) **Delivering National and Regional Greenways** and development of flagship greenways in the RSES; the Dublin-Galway Eurovelo Route, the Shannon Wilderness Corridor and triangular navigation route encompassing the River Shannon and the Royal and Grand Canals, the cross-border East Coast Trail, the Dublin Mountains and Wicklow Way, the Barrow and Boyne Blueways, the Slieve Blooms and Midland peatways.

r) **Supporting Climate Action** Decarbonisation of transport through a transition to electric vehicles and electrification of public transport and local authority fleets, lower carbon fuels and technology; and integration of measures for measuring and monitoring of the impact of transport policies against agreed targets for the reduction of GHG emissions, and the impact of an accelerated shift towards remote working in response to COVID-19 in terms of reduced demand for work related commuting. Ensuring the resilience of critical infrastructure that is capable of adapting to extreme weather events for example, coastal rail lines in the Region.

s) **Roll out of EV Charging Infrastructure** and innovations in the transport and freight handling sector to response to trends towards micro mobility and electromobility, and deployment of emerging technologies that support better journey planning, demand management options, new models of carshare and bikeshare, and 'mobility as a service' applications.

2) Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES outlined above which are relevant to that agency.

For example, your response may include reference to;

- d) Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE)
- e) Iarnród Éireann
- f) Commission for Rail Regulation (CRR)
- g) Dublin Bus
- h) Bus Éireann
- i) Dublin Airport Authority
- j) Irish Aviation Authority
- k) Commission for Aviation Regulation (CAR)
- l) Dublin Port Company
- m) Transport infrastructure Ireland
- n) Road Safety Authority
- o) National Transport Authority
- p) Commissioners of Irish Lights

3) Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES that are relevant to your organisation, to include;

- a) Planning Land Use and Transport (PLUTO) – Outlook 2040
- b) Draft National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI)
- c) Review of Ireland's Sustainable Mobility Policy
- d) Connecting Ireland Rural Transport Programme
- e) Smarter Travel Policy and Smarter Travel Areas, and any update thereof
- f) Any other policy initiatives that are relevant to your organisation

Note: With the adoption of Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (NPF) and the RSES, key state agencies and sectoral bodies will need to consider their strategies to ensure consistency. The RSES is aligned with the NTAs Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). EMRA are currently engaging with the NTA to inform the upcoming review of Transport Strategy, which will incorporate a re-examination of travel demand across the GDA based on the most recent forecasts of population and employment distribution and to inform the requirement for investment in transport infrastructure to deliver on the policies and projects in the RSES

4) Please provide details of any funding competitions/initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your organisation.

Specifically, your response should include;

- b) EU 's Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport Fund
- c) National Development Plan (NDP) transport investment Projects and Programmes Tracker
- d) Regional Cycle Design Offices and Active Travel teams in Local Authorities
- e) Any other policy initiatives/developments that are relevant, including those by agencies under the aegis of your Department.

4). Please complete the following table relating to the funding programmes administered by your Department, over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Eastern and Midland Region[22].

Please include additional table rows as required. Where information is deemed commercially sensitive or similar, please provide the level of detail that is suitable.

Funding Programme	County	Project Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Active Travel Investment programme				
COVID programme				
Greenways funding				
NTA Sustainable Transport Measures Grants				
Maritime transport funding				
Other				

5) Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.

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