

Regional Authorities of Ireland

National Report on Regional Planning Guidelines Implementation 2012-2014



MIDLAND REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Údarás Reigiúmach Lár na Tíre



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Introduction

This report represents the second National Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) Implementation Report jointly prepared by the eight Regional Authorities.

Since the publication of the first National Annual Report on RPG Implementation in 2011, significant progress has been achieved in the co-ordination of planning across the State. The objectives of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and RPGs are being successfully integrated into Development Plans and Regional Authorities continue to play a pivotal role in supporting the alignment of land use plans from the national to regional and local level.

From 2011 to 2014 the continued integration of Core Strategies into Development Plans has resulted in a more rational, evidence-based approach to the identification of future development land requirements. This supports greater co-ordination and cost effectiveness in delivering essential physical and social infrastructure, supporting environmental protection and an enhanced environment for investment and economic recovery.

In recent years it has been a primary focus to ensure that the Core Strategies in the Development Plans were guiding the prioritisation of development lands in the Local Area Plans. In this regard, significant, evidence-based decisions were made by elected representatives to amend their Local Area Plans (LAPs) to ensure consistency with the Development Plan Core Strategies and many LAPs were reviewed or amended.

‘Putting People First - Action Programme for Effective Local Government’, which was published in October 2012, sets out a reform programme involving the most fundamental changes in local government in the history of the State, from regional and county level through to the municipal level of governance. While structures are changing, including the regional tiers, regional planning is recognised as an influential and beneficial instrument, supported by the Government in the long term.

Under the reformed structures three Regional Assemblies will form the regional tier of local government from mid-2014. The Programme for Government and the ‘Action Programme for Effective Local Government’ continue to place a high value on the role of planning in supporting regional and national economic recovery, through greater co-ordination between the National Spatial Strategy, Regional Planning Guidelines and Development Plans as envisaged in the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010.

Preparation for a successor to the NSS will accelerate in the second half of 2014. Experience gained in implementing the NSS and the wider societal, fiscal, economic and demographic changes since 2002 will all be considered. From a demographic perspective particular regard will be had for the population projections from the Central Statistics Office released towards the end of 2013 and new population targets from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government expected in late 2014. The new NSS will establish a path for future Regional Spatial and

Economic Strategies¹ (RSEs) which will replace the Regional Planning Guidelines from 2016. In the interim however, the NSS and the RPGs 2010-2022 remain in force until replaced by RSEs, which will include an economic development strategy alongside regional spatial planning guidance.

The economic element will establish a broad framework for subsequent integrated local authority policy development and associated action; and it will outline the role of other relevant Government Departments and agencies. Local authorities, departments and agencies will participate in the formation of the new strategies and adhere to them in their ongoing functions. As a consequence the role of the local authority in economic development and enterprise support and promotion will be strengthened and clarified.

Until such time as the new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies are prepared the three newly formed Regional Assemblies will continue to implement the RPGs 2010-2022 by:

- 1) Ensuring proper oversight of the alignment of plans at national, regional and local levels; and
- 2) supporting implementation of the recommendations of the 2009 NSS Review and Outlook Report and wider objectives of the RPGs through consensus building and co-ordination of key stakeholders in the regional development area such as Government Departments, development agencies and the private sector.

In a similar manner to the 2011 Annual report, this Report for 2012-2014 summarises key outputs in areas such as regional planning and governance, co-ordination and management of land-use planning and settlement priorities, delivery of key infrastructural requirements to support balanced regional development and other relevant initiatives that have been implemented to support long-term strategic regional planning and economic development.

Section 1 outlines **key achievements in relation to the functions** of Regional Authorities with regard to regional and local planning.

Section 2 outlines **key achievements in relation to gaining wider organisational support** for regional development objectives, including infrastructure and economic development.

Section 3 outlines how the RPG **monitoring and evaluation framework** has been established to date.

¹ Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), RPGs are designed to set an overall strategic planning framework in each Regional Authority area for a period of 12 years, they are, however, reviewed every 6 years from the date of being made. Therefore, it is proposed that the new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies will be prepared for adoption in 2016 to replace the existing suite of Regional planning Guidelines.

Section 1: Achievements in Regional Planning

The Planning & Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 (P&D Act 2010) changed the relationship between Development Plans and the RPGs in a significant way. Under the P&D Act 2010 there is a statutory requirement for Development Plans to be consistent with the RPGs and any relevant Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the P&D Act 2010. This requirement places a greater obligation on Planning Authorities with regard to their interaction with Regional Authorities and compliance with the RPGs, national legislation and ministerial guidelines.

The majority of Development Plans now include a 'Core Strategy' which makes them consistent with the development objectives of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and the RPG's. Substantial progress has been achieved during the period from 2012 to 2014, as reflected in Table 3 of this report.

The requirements of the P&D Act 2010 and associated guidelines provide for a specific level of engagement between the Regional Authorities and the Planning Authorities in relation to the preparation or review of Development Plans. This requires the Regional Authorities to evaluate and prepare reports on Draft Plans and proposals, to determine the extent to which such Development Plans and proposals are consistent with the RPGs.

Considerable progress has been made from January 2012 to mid-2014 in achieving full compliance with the legislative requirements in respect of the adoption of City and County Development Plan Core Strategies and in aligning the numerous Town and Borough Development Plans with the County Development Plan Core Strategies. Work is on-going at the Local Area Plan level to make these plans consistent with the requirements of Section 18 of the P&D Act 2010.

Overall, the RPGs and their associated processes have become significantly more important, integrative and engaged in the overall system of land-use, transport and environmental management. Considerable progress has also been made in terms of the implementation of the wider policy objectives contained in the RPGs. Since January 2012 Regional Authorities have made particular progress in the development and implementation of economic policies which contribute to the betterment of the regions. An overview of the successful initiatives that have been undertaken is contained in Section 2 of this report.

In order to support the important functions placed on Regional Authorities under the 2010 legislation, governance structures were put in place in each Region, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the 2010 Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) publication '*Implementing Regional Planning Guidelines – Best Practice Guidance*'. Details of these arrangements are set out below.

(1.1) Governance

All Regional Authorities have established RPG Implementation Steering Groups consisting of elected members, government departments, development agencies and local and Regional Authority officials. Their remit is to prepare and review reports on the consistency of Development Plans and their Core Strategies, with NSS and RPG objectives. Additional functions of such groups are to

consider technical reports, monitor and oversee the implementation and promotion of the RPG's through the work of specialist technical committees and working groups.

Regional Planning Guidelines Implementation Officers continue to work with and advise Local Planning Authorities in relation to the promotion of greater consistency of Development Plans with the RPGs. Furthermore, Regional Authorities have made substantial progress in the promotion of wider integration and development of inter-regional strategies and furthering inter-authority co-operation. This progress has been achieved through the delivery of spatial and transport planning, economic development, infrastructure provision and environmental strategies, examples of which are outlined in Section 2 of this report.

Table 1 outlines the structures and groups formed, the frequency of meetings and the reports prepared for each region in the promotion, monitoring and delivery of the RPGs between January 2012 and May 2014. It can be seen that the aforementioned work was of significant importance to Regional Authorities and constituted a sizeable amount of the work activities undertaken by the Authorities during this time period.

Table 1: RPG Regional Planning Governance - January 2012 to May 2014

Indicators	Border	Dublin & Mid-East	Midlands	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West	Total
No. of meetings of RAs/ Joint RAs at which RPGs were considered	14	10	26	26	24	29	23	152
No. of RPG Technical reports presented at meetings of RAs/ Joint RAs	46	111	45	68	48	25	30	373
No. of RPG Steering (Implementation) Group meetings	2	0	2	9	7	4	4	28
No. of RPG Technical Group Meetings	7	3	9	9	10	8	4	50
No. of Sub-Groups Established	1	4	1	0	1	1	0	8
No. of Sub-Groups Meetings	3	6	3	0	3	2	0	17
Other Steering Groups	0	7	0	10	0	8	5	30
Total Per Region	73	141	86	122	93	77	66	658

Note: RA = Regional Authority

(1.2) Core Strategy Progress

Most of the Development Plans in place throughout the country are now aligned with the RPGs in accordance with the provisions of the P&D Act 2010². Table 2 below outlines the number of statutory plans currently active in each of the eight regions.

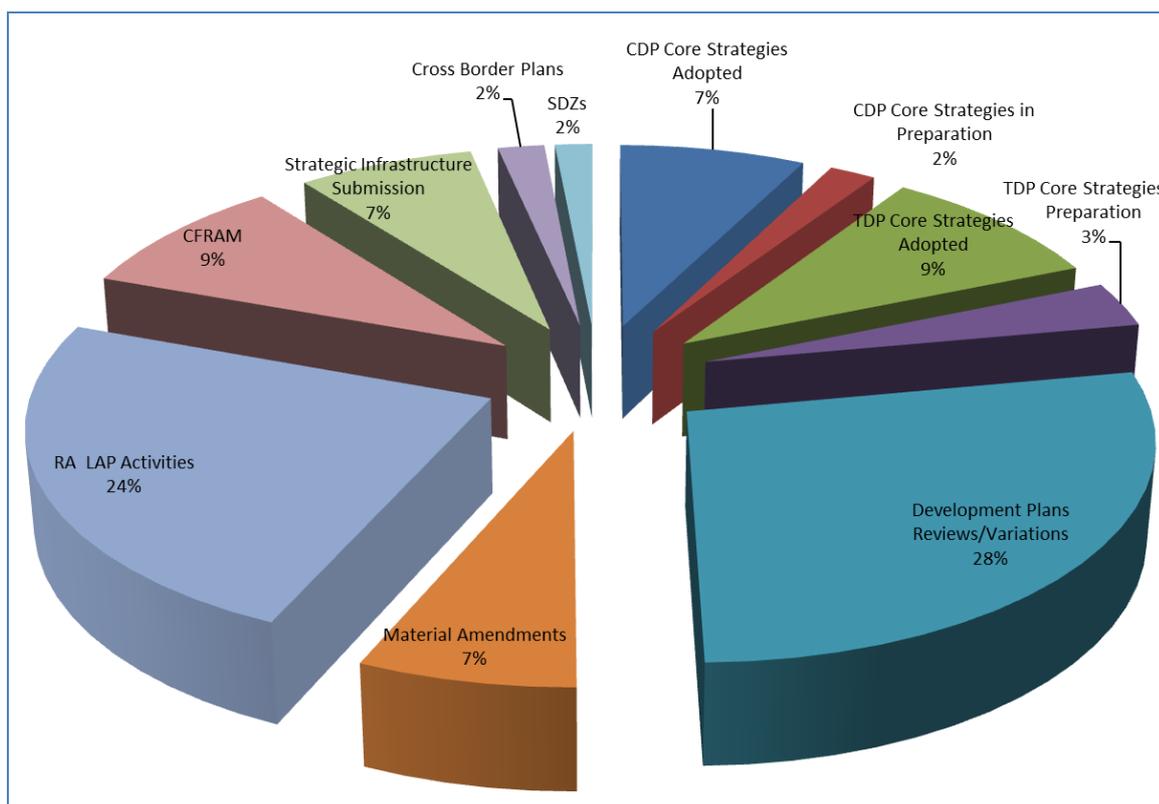
² See Appendix A

Table 2 - Statutory Plans and Planning Authorities in each Region January 2012 - May 2014

Category	Border	Dublin Mid-East	Midlands	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West	Totals
No. of City or County Councils	6	7	4	4	7	3	4	35
No. of Town or Borough Development Plans ³	11	8	4	5	13	12	4	57
Local Area Plans ³	14	94	35	24	44	26	32	269
Strategic Development Zones	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	8

The National Annual Report on RPG Implementation 2011 illustrated significant progress in the alignment of Development Plan Core Strategies with their respective Regional Planning Guidelines. This process was continued over the 2012-2014 period, as outlined at Table 3. This work was centrally driven by the Regional Authorities, through the statutory processes as provided for at Section 27(A)-(C) of the Act but also in an informal advisory capacity.

Figure 1: Overview of Regional Planning Guidelines Implementation Activities 2012 – 2014



³ Not all Town Councils have individual Plans-these may be covered by Local Area plans or otherwise provided for in the respective County Development Plan

Table 3: Regional Planning Guidelines Implementation Activities January 2012 – May 2014

Category	Border	Dublin & Mid-East	Midlands	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West	Totals
CDP Core Strategies Adopted	1	7	1	1	7	0	3	20
CDP Core Strategies in Preparation	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	5
TDP Core Strategies Adopted	3	7	4	2	4	6	1	27
TDP Core Strategies in Preparation	0	0	0	5	1	0	1	7
Development Plans Reviews/Variations	21	2	9	4	4	21	13	74
Material Amendments	6	0	4	2	2	2	2	18
RA LAP Activities ⁴	7	14	1	20	2	2	18	64
CFRAM	4	1	1	2	0	1	15	24
Strategic Infrastructure Submission	2	1	0	10	3	0	3	19
Cross Border Plans	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
SDZs	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
Total Per Region	49	35	20	47	23	36	57	267

Note: CFRAM refers to Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme, commenced in 2011 to meet the requirements of the European Union Floods Directive; CDP - City or County Development Plan; SDZs - Strategic Development Zones; CDP - County or City Development Plan; TDP - Town Development Plan; LAP - Local Area Plan; RA - Regional Authority.

(1.2.1) Other Activities

A wide range of activities and initiatives were conducted over the course of 2012 to 2014 to promote the implementation of the RPGs, of which the core strategies formed part. The RPGs, by definition, contain diverse objectives that reflect the differing priorities, the inherent potential in each region and the wide range of implementation actions employed across the eight areas. Some of these initiatives are reflected in Table 3.

Vertical policy integration through the formal processes associated with the P&D Act is further supported by lateral policy integration at regional level across a wide range of agencies, organisations and departments. These processes have shaped RPG policy and require continued monitoring and input.

The Regional Authorities regularly contribute to the ongoing Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies, Cross Border Initiatives, tourism, amenity and biodiversity studies and actions, and EU projects on aspects such as water quality, energy efficiency and renewables that feed into the achievement of RPG objectives and lay the foundations for future reviews. The RPG Implementation Officers also contribute to Steering Groups for a number of projects such as 'ECOPlan' which seeks to integrate green infrastructure into spatial planning and the 'Methodology for generation and evaluation of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Alternatives' (EPA-Strive projects). Other regional-level contributions include:

⁴ See section on Local Area Plans for explanation of figures

- Regional economic development in the preparation of the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary (Mid-West Region);
- Midlands Food Initiative (Midlands Region);
- Profile of the Border Region 2013;
- The Dublin Economic Action Plan (2009) and Economic Action Plan for the Mid-East Region (Dublin & Mid-East Region);
- Health Profile of the Greater Dublin Region prepared by the Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities in conjunction with the Institute of Public Health (Dublin and Mid-East Region);
- EPA Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Effectiveness Review – Review of SEAs for all RPGs (West Region);
- South East region Bioenergy Implementation Plan 2013 – 2020. The Bioenergy plan sets out targets for the contribution of Bioenergy to the total final energy consumption for the south east region for heat, electricity and transport. The targets are based upon national and regional market conditions and take into account expected growth in consumption and availability of potential bioenergy resources. (South-East Region)
- Through the Territories of Rivers Action Plans (TRAP) Project, the South West Regional Authority has worked with European partners, State agencies and IRD Duhallow to deliver a best practice structure of implementing the South Western River Basin District Management Plan at a catchment level. This has been endorsed at national level by the EPA and at a local level by the Draft Cork County Development Plan. (South-West Region)

Input into national frameworks and guidance is also essential to ensure that adopted regional objectives are achieved. The diverse and complex range of activities and initiatives ultimately underpin the targeted development proposals in each Regional Authority area and support the vision of the RPGs.

Examples of other implementation activities include contributions to documents and initiatives that had the potential to impact on the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines, draft Government policy, Government plans and guidance documents. They include:

- Our Ocean Wealth – Towards an Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland;
- Revisions to the Wind Energy Development Section 28 Guidelines 2006;
- National Peatland Strategy;
- Irish Water Investment Plan 2014-2016;
- Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland;
- Our Ocean Wealth – Towards and Integrated Marine Plan;
- National Reform Programme under Europe 2020;

- DECNR Telecom Duct Infrastructure;
- Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland;

At a sub-regional level contributions include:

- Submissions in relation to planning applications (non-strategic infrastructure) where developments have the potential for regional-level impact; and
- Submissions on plans and strategies produced by the local authorities in the region such as county-level tourism strategies, heritage plans and biodiversity plans, etc.

The implementation of the RPGs and work carried out under EU projects has enabled Regional Authorities to work on initiatives in partnership with various regional stakeholders, state agencies and the private sector and progress implementation of RPG objectives.

Activities covered are varied though there is a common underlying principle which seeks to make the individual regions better places in which to live, work and do business through the reinforcement of policies and objectives in all areas of the RPGs.

In addition to the activities listed above and outlined in Section 2(2), the Regional Authorities have been involved in a number of joint projects at a national level in the development of methodologies and indicators to measure and monitor spatial development progress at a regional level in the context of RPG policy. Further detail is provided at Section 3 of this report

(1.2.2) Key Findings

Table 4A illustrates the continued progress in Core Strategy alignment over the period, with the majority of plans aligned with RPG policy.

Table 4A: implementation of Core Strategies by Region

Type of Plan	Border	Dublin & Mid-East	Midlands	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West	Totals
CDP/CDP	6 of 6	7 of 7	3 of 4	4 of 4	6 of 6	3 of 3	4 of 4	33 of 34
BDP/TDP	11 of 11	8 of 8	4 of 4	5 of 5	10 of 10	9 of 12	4 of 4	51 of 54
Total	17 of 17	15 of 15	7 of 8	9 of 9	16 of 16	12 of 15	8 of 8	84 of 88

Note: CDP/ CDP - City/County Development Plan; BDP/ TDP – Borough/Town Development Plan

Of the four core strategies awaiting implementation, a number have specific circumstances that are addressed in the more detailed notes that accompany Appendix A.

Table 4B below outlines the alignment of core strategies to date with the provisions of the RPGs and is addressed in greater detail at Appendix A. Column 4 represents the figures obtained from the DECLG Housing Land Availability (HLA) Returns Survey in 2010 which serve as a pre-core strategy/ introduction of the 2010 P&D Act requirements baseline figure. Nationally, a total of **42,058 hectares** of zoned undeveloped housing land was recorded.

Figures for the HLA up to 2012 represented a reduction in undeveloped residentially zoned land of some **12,728 hectares**; however this survey is in the process of revision to reflect Residential Land Availability (RLA). This is a detailed dataset which will more accurately reflect the amount of serviced residential land that is available in each area, and, as such, will not be directly comparable with the baseline figures outlined at table 4B or Appendix A. The RLA is a work in progress between the DECLG and Local Authorities. The data derived will be used in future iterations of this report.

Table 4B Core Strategy Progress

1. Regional Authorities	2. Plan Type		3. Core Strategy Adopted/ Plan Varied	4. Undeveloped Housing Lands Pre-Core Strategy (from 2010 HLA)
Border				HA(s)
	County Development Plans	CDP	6 of 6	7,082
	Borough Development Plans	BDP	2 of 2	363
	Town Development Plans	TDP	9 of 9	1,710
	SUB-TOTAL		17 of 17	9,155
South-East	City Development Plans	CDP	1 of 1	405
	County Development Plans	CDP	5 of 5	4,510
	Borough Development Plans	BDP	3 of 3	566
	Town Development Plan	TDP	7 of 7	334
	SUB-TOTAL		16 of 16	5,815
Midlands	County Development Plans	CDP	3 of 4	4,347
	Town Development Plan	TDP	4 of 4	601
	SUB-TOTAL		7 of 8	4,948
West	City Development Plans	CDP	1 of 1	270
	County Development Plans	CDP	3 of 3	2,972
	Town Development Plans	TDP	4 of 4	585
	SUB-TOTAL		8 of 8	3,827
Mid-West	City Development Plans	CDP	1 of 1	249
	County Development Plans	CDP	3 of 3	4,923
	Town Development Plans	TDP	5 of 5	482
	SUB-TOTAL		9 of 9	5,654
Dublin & Mid-East	City Development Plans	CDP	1 of 1	502
	County Development Plans	CDP	6 of 6	6,920
	Town Development Plans	TDP	8 of 8	<i>TDP figures contained in County Development Plans</i>
	SUB-TOTAL		15 of 15	7,422
South-West	City Development Plans	CDP	1 of 1	144
	County Development Plans	CDP	2 of 2	4,368
	Town Development Plans	TDP	9 of 12	725
	SUB-TOTAL		12 of 15	5,237
NATIONAL TOTALS			84 of 88	42,058

Note: CDP/ CDP - City/County Development Plan; BDP/ TDP – Borough/Town Development Plan; HLA – Housing Land Availability Returns (DECLG).

(1.2.3) Core Strategy and Sub-County Level Plans

Regional Authorities are not statutorily obliged to make submissions on Local Area Plans, but remain as prescribed bodies during the consultation phases as set down in the P&D Act. The Local Area planning regime varies considerably from region to region, as can be seen at Table 2 which illustrates the number of LAPs in each region. Similarly, the level of complexity and potential implications of each LAP on the implementation of the RPGs is taken into account when considering these plans at a regional level. Table 3 summarises the number of LAP processes where action was taken by the Regional Authorities over the 2012-2014 period. These actions range from submissions to Local Authorities, reports to the DECLG and/or informal liaison with individual planning departments to ensure that alignment with the objectives of the RPGs are maintained.

(1.3) Regional Population

(1.3.1) Regional Population Trends

Volume 1 of the 2011 Census was published on 26th April, 2012 and provides figures in relation to demographic and geographic changes across the country. The results indicate a total population increase of 8.2% within the State from 4,239,848 in 2006 to 4,588,252 in 2011. Table 5 provides an outline of regional figures during the period 2006-2011 at State and NUTS III level⁵.

Table 5: Population by Regional Authority Area and State in 2006 and 2011

Regional Authority	2006	2011	Aggregate town area 2011	Aggregate rural area 2011	Change in Population 2006-2011	
					Actual	%
	Persons					
Border	468,375	514,891	190,845	324,046	46,516	9.9
Dublin	1,187,176	1,273,069	1,244,528	28,541	85,893	7.2
Mid-East	475,360	531,087	336,134	194,953	55,727	11.7
Midlands	251,664	282,410	126,538	155,872	30,746	12.2
Mid-West	361,028	379,327	178,244	201,083	18,299	5.1
South-East	460,838	497,578	225,720	271,858	36,740	8.0
South-West	621,130	664,534	375,241	289,293	43,404	7.0
West	414,277	445,356	169,632	275,724	31,079	7.5
State	4,239,848	4,588,252	2,846,882	1,741,370	348,404	8.2

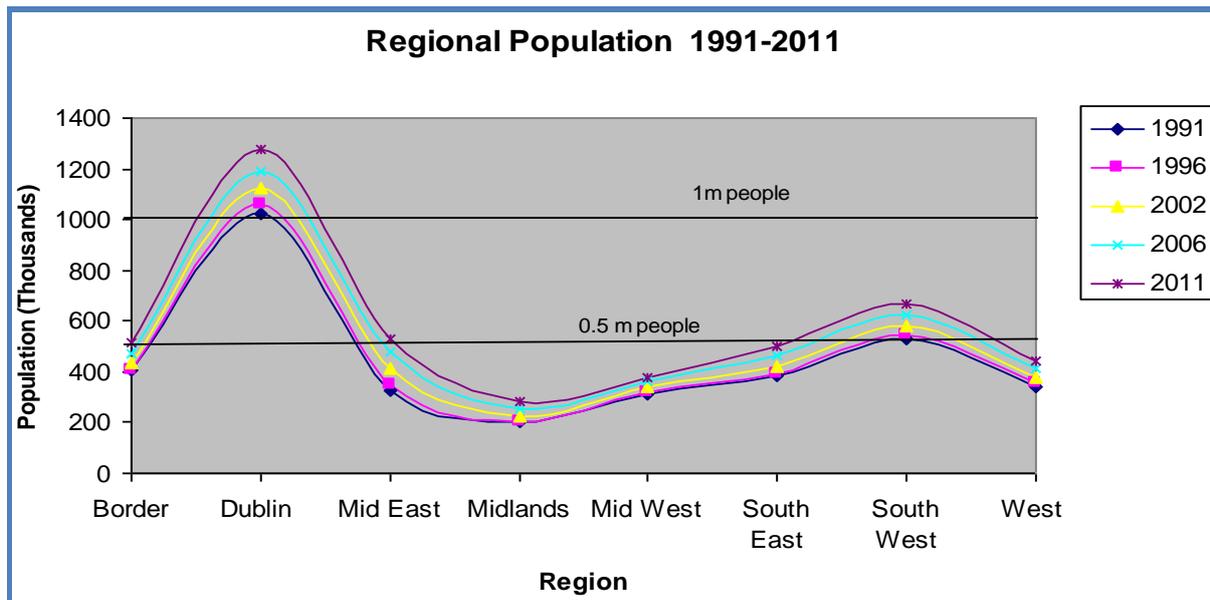
Source: CSO (2011) Census of Population 2006 – 2011. *Volume 1, Table 4.*

(1.3.2) Historic Trends: 1991-2011

Over the 20 year period from 1991-2011 there was an increase in national population of 1.06 million people (a 30% increase). As seen from Figure 2 below, all regions have shown a consistent growth in population over each consecutive census period. Within this growth pattern, the role of regions as facilitators of this growth varies, with individual regional population share and rate of growth showing a mixed picture. Over this 20 year period, the highest percentage increase was in the Mid-East Region (63%), followed by the Midlands (39%). Two other regions, namely the South-East and West are largely in line with national growth. The Border region shows growth just below national trends (28%); the remaining three regions show a growth rate below the national rate over this period - Dublin and South-West regions both show an increase of 24% with the Mid-West being lowest at 22%. (It is noteworthy that there are greater variations at the county level within the constituent regions).

⁵ NUTS III regions are the Regional Authority areas (classified under the Nomenclature of Units for EU Territorial Statistics).

Figure 2: Regional share of population as a percentage of total population 1991-2011



Source: CSO (1991-2011) Census of Population 1991-2011.

The share of total population within the Dublin Region has decreased from 29% in 1991 to 27.75% in 2011 and has shown a consistent, albeit modest, reduction in population share during each intervening census period. In contrast the Mid-East Region's share of population has risen from just over 9% in 1991, to 11.5% over the same period. There are a variety of reasons for this change which may include house price differential between the regions, access to credit, a younger cohort having families thereby influencing household formation, housing demand and housing type requirements, changing travel patterns (commuting) due to the functional extent of the gateway and land use zoning patterns. Gateway development requires a holistic approach with a focus on both planning and wider spatial planning issues. The percentage increase in population in the hinterland area is now slowing while there is an increase in population growth in the metropolitan area. Current economic conditions are affecting trends and patterns.

The Midlands is the only other region to show an increase in its share of population in 2011 in comparison to 1991 figures (5.8% in 1991 to 6.2% in 2011). The remaining regions have retained a relatively steady percentage share of population over the past 20 years, the Border (c.11%), Mid-West (8%), South-East (11%), South-West (14.5%) and West (10%)⁶.

(1.3.3) Regional Share of Planned Growth

The planned population growth at a regional level provides for additional population capacity of approximately 776,576 people⁷ up to 2022. This is based on targets contained within all existing RPGs 2010-2022. The percentage share of future population growth shows that the Dublin Region accounts for the highest share of planned growth (c.25%). This is unsurprising given the critical mass of the gateway within the region and its functional influence. The RPG's for the GDA, which includes the Dublin and Mid-East regions accounts for almost 39% of planned growth over the next decade in

⁶ All percentage figures have been rounded up or down to nearest whole number.

⁷ In limited cases, some of the 2022 targets set out in Regional Planning Guidelines are slightly lower than those set out in the DECLG Review Gateway And Hub Population Targets August 2009 to give a variance of c.10,000 population.

the State. The second largest region for planned population growth is the South-West (15.5%). The Border, South-East, West and Mid-West account for 10-11% each, with the Midlands accounting for just under 4.5% of planned regional growth. This highlights the diverse nature of regional areas, each with their own growth challenges.

(1.3.4) Regional Growth Rates

Over the past 5 census periods, the strongest rate of growth within the State was during the period 2002-2006 at 2%⁸. This decreased to 1.59% in the most recent census period (2006-2011).

Looking at regional growth rates, the period from 2002 to 2006 saw notable annual regional growth across all regions - more so than the previous decade or indeed the following censal period. This growth was most significant in the Mid-East and Midlands, and to a lesser extent in the West and South-East. The Mid-East and Midlands regions continue to show the greatest rate of growth. Along with the Border region, they are the only other regions to show a rate of growth above the national population growth rate in the period 2006-2011. Notably however, the rate of growth in these regions has reduced and in particular within the Mid-East region (from 3.6% per annum between 2002-2006 to 2.24% between 2006 and 2011). Much of this growth may be attributed to a combination of commuter travel patterns, a young population base and housing market factors.

Dublin, starting from a relatively low baseline, is the only region to show an increased growth rate between the two most recent inter-censal periods. An examination of growth over the 20 year period between 1991 and 2011 indicates the Mid-West region has shown the lowest percentage per annum growth rate.

Table 6: Regional Population Growth Rates (% per annum compound) 1991-2011

Region	1991-1996	1996-2002	2002-2006	2006-2011	1991-2011
Border	0.20	1.00	2.00	1.91	1.23
Dublin	0.60	1.00	1.40	1.41	1.09
Mid-East	1.30	2.90	3.60	2.24	2.48
Midlands	0.30	1.50	2.80	2.33	1.66
Mid-West	0.40	1.20	1.50	0.99	1.00
South-East	0.40	1.30	2.10	1.55	1.31
South-West	0.50	1.00	1.70	1.36	1.12
West	0.50	1.30	2.20	1.46	1.35
State	0.60	1.30	2.00	1.59	1.33

Source: CSO (1991-2011) Census of Population.

⁸ This refers to percentage per annum compound growth rates. The compound annual growth rate is the rate that population grows over a period of years, taking into account the effect of annual compounding. This is sometimes called "growth on growth" because it measures periodic growth of a value that is itself growing periodically, so each year the new basis is the previous basis plus the growth over the previous period (Source: <http://www.wikinest.com>).

(1.3.5) Urban / Rural Trends by Region

The ratio of population living in urban areas⁹ and rural areas¹⁰ within the State in 1996 was 58:42 respectively. In 2011 this changed to an urban/ rural ratio of 62:38 percent as depicted in Figure 3. At a regional level, there is a varied demographic spread between urban and rural population characteristics. The Border and West regions have the highest proportion of population within rural areas (63% and 62% respectively); however there has been a gradual growth in urban areas over the past 15 years within the all regions. (The Dublin region, as a mostly urban region within the State has consistently retained a 98% urban population).

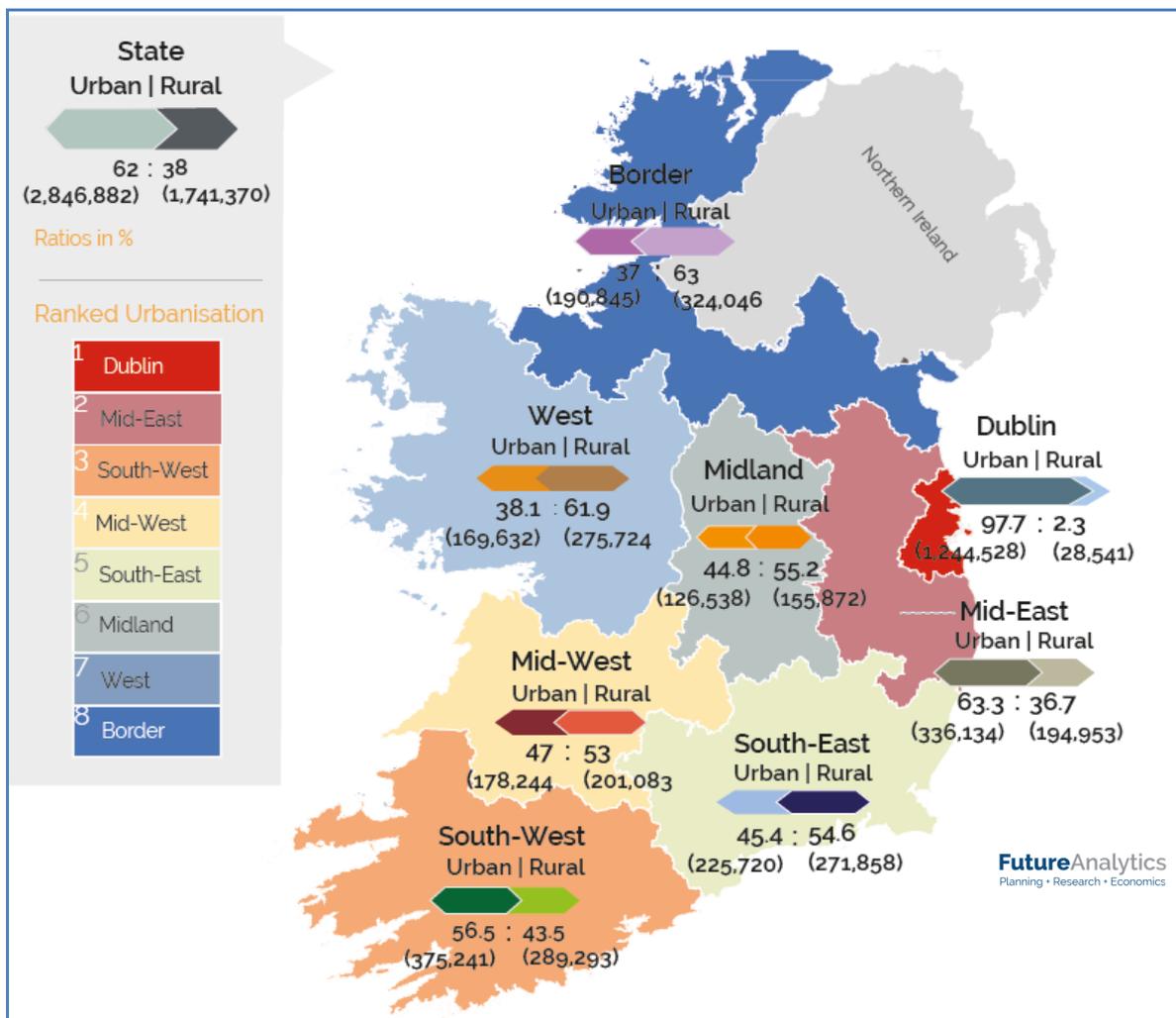


Figure 3: Urban-Rural Share by Population Ratio and Absolute Share for each Region 2011 Source: CSO, Census, 2011.

(1.3.6) Population Change in the Gateways and Hubs

The legal boundary of cities and towns as defined by the CSO has understandably changed over time as urban expansion of settlements and their environs occurs. In addition, administrative settlement boundaries of some gateways, hubs and higher tier settlements as defined in various RPG's differ to CSO boundaries. Therefore, it may be necessary to scrutinise trends within the wider context of gateways such as the Dublin Metropolitan Area, Cork Metropolitan and Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP) area and the Limerick-Shannon Gateway, which includes Ennis hub within its catchment area.

⁹ Population in aggregate town areas as defined by CSO for the purpose of this report.

¹⁰ Population in aggregate rural areas as defined by CSO for the purpose of this report.

Such analysis can reveal that certain parts of the gateway may be performing better than other areas. The 2012 Gateway and Hubs Development Index (prepared by the Regional Assemblies) examined trends in the Gateway and Hubs using a specific suite of indicators. The outputs from that study are currently assisting the regional authorities in their analysis of the performance of the Gateways and Hubs. In the context of this Annual Report, some key observations relating to gateways and key growth areas, from a regional planning perspective include:

Border Region

The Gateways and Hubs within the Border Region continue to experience strong population growth, and with the exception of Sligo, are all likely to show positive growth towards the RPG 2016 population targets. The Letterkenny and Dundalk Gateways experienced solid population growth during the last inter-censal period between 2006 and 2011. While the Sligo Gateway continues to experience difficulties in maintaining and growing the town's population, on a positive note, the trend of the declining town population experienced between 2002 and 2006 has now been arrested. Despite its recent strong population growth, Dundalk has the greatest challenge ahead in terms of meeting its RPG growth target up to 2016. Cavan Town continues to experience significant population growth and is likely to meet its 2016 RPG target, whereas Monaghan Town had a more modest population growth during the last inter censal period (2006 to 2011), but is nonetheless also likely to meet its 2016 RPG growth target.

Dublin Region

The expansion of the commuter belt over the last censal period denotes strong population growth beyond the Mid-East region into the Midland and Border regions. This dispersal pattern gives rise to spatial planning challenges regarding consolidation and targeted growth within the Greater Dublin Area, and in particular the metropolitan area, as advocated within the RPGs.

In the Dublin region, North Fingal has experienced high growth relevant to the population levels of 2006. Build out in the eastern part of the Dublin region has also continued over the current census period. Within the city, there are a number of emerging patterns of change between inner city and the rest of the city. Growth continues in many parts of the inner city - consequent in part to regeneration initiatives and apartment building in areas such as the Docklands, with a modest decrease in some outer areas. Consolidation of the existing footprint of the metropolitan area within metropolitan and large growth towns, balanced against targeted growth in the hinterlands, remains a challenge. Strategic Development Zones such as Adamstown (South Dublin), Cherrywood (Dun Laoghaire Rathdown), Grangegorman (Dublin City) and the new Strategic Development Zone for the North Lotts and Canal Docks in the Dublin Docklands (Dublin City) remain key areas for strategic development within the Dublin region. Long term solutions for water and waste remain priorities to deliver the growth required to meet RPG growth targets in the Greater Dublin Area.

Mid-East Region

At a county level, Counties Meath and Kildare have shown strong population growth both in absolute and percentage terms. The large growth towns remain the central areas for population; however it is noteworthy that within some of the main regional growth centres, population growth has gravitated to the suburbs of the towns. While it is inevitable that settlements will expand from

their core in line with population increase, management of increasing pressures on the outer edges of these towns and their hinterlands remains an area of focus for settlement policy. Infrastructural provisions remain a barrier to realising the potential of some of the settlements within the RPG hierarchy.

Mid-West Region

The Mid-West Gateway and Hub has delivered a modest growth over the period 2006-2011, which is below the growth forecasts provided for in the Mid-West RPGs. While Limerick City has recorded a decline in population, the suburban areas of the City have recorded significant growth during the last inter-censal period. The amalgamation of Limerick City and County local authorities, together with the fast tracking of the Regeneration Programme under the auspices of the combined authority and the implementation of Limerick 2030 – An Economic & Spatial Plan for Limerick, is already addressing the need to align the future spatial and economic planning objectives for the enlarged City and Environs area, in support of the RPG targets.

The Shannon Town segment of the Limerick-Shannon Gateway has achieved a significant (14%) growth for the period 2006-2011. The Ennis and Environs Hub town remains an important growth node in the region, and the provision of additional water and wastewater infrastructure will secure the on-going development of this significant Hub town. The advanced amalgamation of North Tipperary and South Tipperary County Councils in 2014 is already having a significant impact on the development and assessment of regional and local policies affecting both the county and town Core Strategies and RPG targets for the region. The key challenge for the Limerick-Shannon Gateway and Ennis Hub Town is to attract significant population growth to the Gateway and Hub centres, and other significant service towns e.g. Newcastle West, Nenagh/ Thurles/ Templemore and Kilrush/ Shannon in order to achieve the sustainable development of these important nodes for the Mid-West.

Midlands Region

The linked-gateway still has significant progress to make up to 2016, with Mullingar and Tullamore having experienced modest growth. While all the urban areas experienced growth, Portlaoise has significantly out-performed, having almost achieved its 2022 population target. Modest growth of around 5% was achieved in Longford Town in tandem with similar levels in the adjacent rural EDs. The Eastern Development Area has exceeded population growth relative to targets, although the majority of this increase has been focussed on appropriately designated settlements. Modest population growth in the West Development Area has been focussed on Birr Town and is generally in line with RPG provisions. The general trend of high population growth in the southern and eastern areas relative to the rest of the region remains apparent, while the need to focus on accelerated growth in the linked-gateway are challenges to be addressed as part of the on-going review of national population targets and through current Development Plan review processes.

South-East Region

Overall the population growth rates in the South-East region grew by an average rate of 8% over the period 2006 to 2011, with the designated Hub towns showing particularly strong population growth. Wexford town grew by 10.3% to 19,918 persons, facilitated in part by recent boundary changes to the borough administrative area. Kilkenny City also performed relatively strongly over the period with population growth rates of 10.1%, reflecting population growth rates which are close to the projected growth targets contained within the South-East RPGs. However the designated Gateway of Waterford City performed poorly with a population growth of only 4.7% over this period. While this underperformance is due to a number of reasons, it is manifesting itself in a spatial pattern that has seen very strong population growth and expansion of the surrounding commuter towns such as Tramore at the expense of Waterford City. The amalgamation of Waterford City and Waterford County local authorities may provide the opportunity for a strategic economic development and spatial strategy for Waterford City; such a strategy may address some of the underlying issues that have led to the underperformance of Waterford City as the Gateway for the South-East Region.

South-West Region

The Cork Gateway contains Cork City Council functional area and the County Metropolitan area. The extent of the Gateway is clearly defined in the South-West RPG's. It's evident from the 2011 census that Cork City's population is continuing to decline but the rate of decline has reduced compared to other census periods. The County Metropolitan area is continuing to grow strongly and has compensated for the decline in the City but overall the Cork Gateway census 2011 population is below the RPG projection which was provided for 2010. Population growth within Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP) Ring is out performing other areas and the 2022 RPG target has been exceeded. According to the Census 2011, population in the Mallow Hub has increased but it is still below the RPG 2010 projection. In Kerry, the population has declined in the Tralee-Killarney Linked Hub towns but the surrounding rural areas within this linked Hub have increased in population. Population growth within the Northern and Western spatial planning areas, as identified in the RPGs, are broadly in line with RPG targets.

West Region

At a regional level the 2011 census figures indicate relatively close alignment of actual growth in the Galway Gateway, Linked Hub of Castlebar-Ballina, Tuam Hub and the County Town of Roscommon with the RPG population targets. While the Gateway experienced modest growth of 4.3% for the period 2006-2011, the total population is 2,871 below the 2010 RPG population target and therefore the Gateway may have difficulty reaching its 2016 target. The Galway Metropolitan area includes areas adjacent to the city boundary which are inextricably linked to and function as part of the greater city area (including Oranmore and Barna which grew by 37% and 23% respectively). The influence of the city extends widely into County Galway where its population increased by 10%. Commuting from the wider county area to the city continues with stronger growth (an average of 12.4%) experienced in electoral divisions immediately adjoining the city. This has implications for the strength of the Gateway core area. Overall the pace of growth from 2002-2011 slowed. Natural increase¹¹ is the main reason for population growth but net migration¹² is also occurring. The Tuam

¹¹ Natural Increase is the number of births minus the number of deaths.

Hub supports the Gateway and is growing well with an increase of 20% in the population 2006-2011 and is on target to meet 2016 RPG targets. The Linked Hub of Castlebar-Ballina in County Mayo has reached the 2010 target and while Castlebar has a larger population than Ballina, they have both shown growth in their environs areas at 21% and 105% respectively. Significant growth in the rural hinterland near the Hubs is affecting the strength of the urban core which has experienced population loss. Roscommon Town is also progressing well towards its population targets with a 13% increase in population over the period 2006 to 2011.

Conclusion

Gateways and hubs are the main centres for regional growth around the country however Section 1.3.6 of this report highlights a mixed picture in terms of their performance. While many of the gateways and hubs continue to experience strong population growth in line with RPG targets (in some cases exceeding expectations), others are showing more modest levels of growth.

A key challenge for future regional planning policy will be to ensure higher levels of consistency right across the gateway and hub hierarchy, between planned regional growth and the realisation of this growth to support critical massing within these priority growth areas.

(1.4) Alignment with RPG Policy

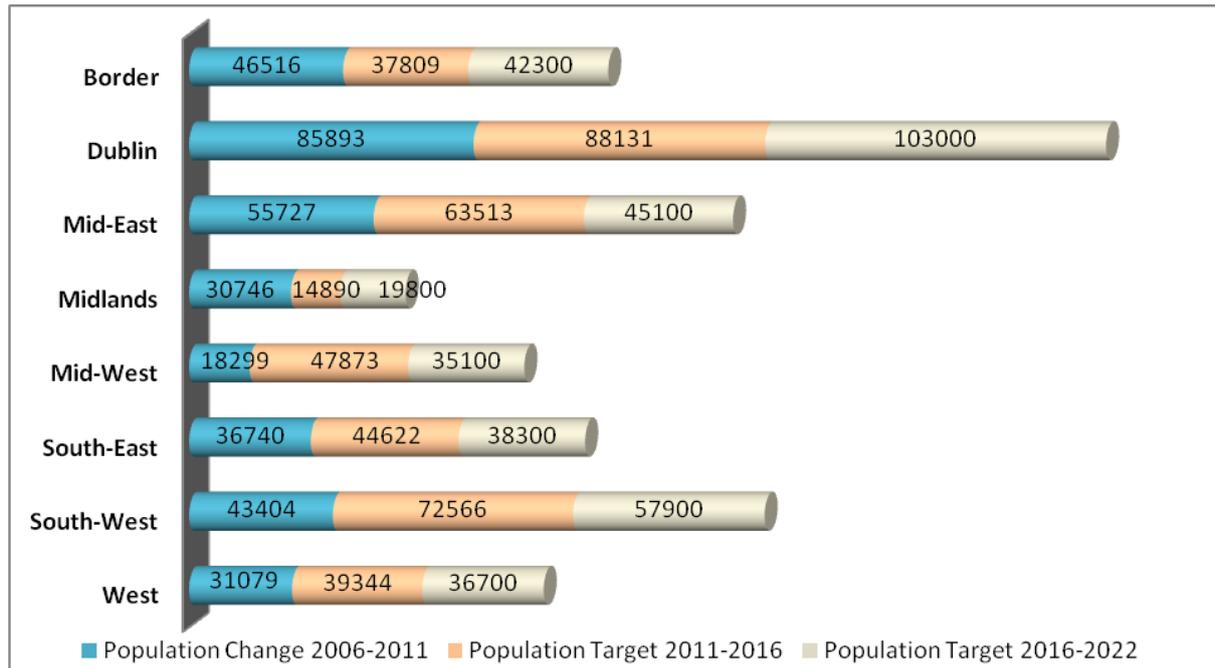
In 2012, the CSO published full census data on population figures which vary marginally from the preliminary figures referenced in the 2011 Annual Report. The revised figures are set out in Figure 4 and update the data used in the previous 2011 Annual Report. While the table shows broad alignment between population targets and population growth there is, of course, considerable variation in these figures.

The notable exceptions to the general trend are the Mid-West and South-West regions, where the orange portions of the bars are significantly larger than the turquoise, illustrating that accelerated growth is required over the current Census period to achieve the population targets defined for 2016 by the RPGs.

In 2013 the CSO published Regional Population Projections for the eight Regional Authority Areas 2016-2031. One set of these projections, M2F2, are based on a scenario with an internal migration pattern towards the Dublin and Mid East Regions with fertility set to fall by 2026 and remain steady thereafter. It concludes that the total population is set to increase in 2031 by 613,000 nationally at a 0.6% annual increase. 401,400 of this population is projected in the Dublin and Mid East Regions, with a 1.0% annual increase. This would then account for 42.4% of the 2031 population. The population in the other regions will increase more slowly between 0.2% annually in the Border and West to 0.5% annually in the South-East and South-West Regions. These CSO regional projections also suggest that the RPG targets figures for 2022 generally may not be reached within this population growth scenario.

¹² Net migration is a measure of the movements of persons into and out of the State. By deducting the natural increase in population at county level from the corresponding population change it is possible to derive county net migration figures. It is important to note that these figures will also include movement of persons between counties in Ireland

Figure 4: Regional Population Change (Census 2006 - 2011) and RPG targets 2016 & 2022



Source: CSO (2006/2011) Census, DECLG Population Targets

Subsequent to the CSO Regional Projections the Housing Agency produced a report “Overview of the Housing Supply Requirements in Irelands Urban Settlements 2014-2018”. This used the CSO projected population scenario to determine the population growth in CSO identified urban settlements (population of over 1,000 people) and applied a household composition to that population to attain a housing requirement. It identified a need for 79,660 units in urban settlements over a five year period across the Country, 47% of which is required in the Dublin Region. The annual demand nationally for housing units, increases year on year to 2018. All the identified principle cities have a housing requirement over the period of the report; Cork requires 4,415 units, Galway 2,316 units, Limerick 2,635 units, and Waterford 739 units. This report highlights that there is a disparity amongst demand in urban settlements due to the migration trends. However it is also limited as it does not examine existing housing supply either built or not built but approved through the planning system.

The CSO is expected to release projections later in 2014 for urban settlements, which may lead to further pressure on the RPG targets. The trends and the impact of current migration patterns and rates of natural population increase will need to be considered in the context of regional growth targets when being examined in any future review of regional planning. This review should also have regard to the regional restructuring proposed in the Local Government Reform Act 2014. It is essential that this is addressed as there are various external factors applying pressure on the planning system to deliver market-led housing. Whilst there is an acceptance that planning policy has to reference current trends and analysis, any future policy must be prepared within the current framework of the National Spatial Strategy and RPGs.

Section 2: Securing Broader Support for Regional Policy

Significant progress that has been made during the period from 2012, to 2014 in ensuring effective integration of RPGs into local authority development plans. However, the RPGs implementation process has a longer term objective in ensuring that a strategically focused local planning process enables a more co-ordinated government department, agency and wider stakeholder support for regional planning and development objectives, particularly relating to:

- 1) Social and physical infrastructure provision;*
- 2) Wider policy integration between regional planning and important related areas such as spatial and economic development; and*
- 3) Cross-authority development issues in areas such as retail strategies, marine development, re-use of peatlands and development of renewable energy resources.*

(2.1) Social and Physical Infrastructure Provision

The RPGs have identified strategic infrastructural priorities for Regional Authority areas by identifying the main growth areas and setting out priority settlements for future investments in line with the NSS and National Development Plan objectives. These strategic infrastructural priorities have, or are being, transposed into lower level development plans ensuring significant policy correlation between the planning tiers. This process will assist effective prioritisation of future infrastructural investment at a regional and local level, whilst promoting the growth of designated settlements.

Within the context of tight fiscal restraints and the negative consequence of reduced capital spending, the Regional Authorities have also been pro-active in their involvement with state agencies such as An Bord Pleanála, EirGrid, Irish Water and An Bord Gais in supporting and facilitating significant infrastructural projects such as the Great Island Gas Pipeline in the South-East Region.

It is government policy that the economic recovery in Ireland will be enterprise-driven and export-led. Improvements in physical, technological and social infrastructure are necessary pre-conditions for economic growth and industrial advancement. The four main components of the investment strategy are:

- 1. Economic infrastructure** – encompassing transport networks, energy provision and telecommunications capacity;
- 2. Investment in the productive sector and human capital** – such as direct supports for enterprise development; science, technology and innovation advancement; supports for tourism, agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and capital investment in education infrastructure;
- 3. Environmental infrastructure** – including our waste and water systems and investment for environmental sustainability;
- 4. Critical social investment** – such as the health service, education services and social housing programmes.

Alignment of land-use planning with transport planning, water services, energy supply and waste management as supported in the RPGs and Development Plans Core Strategies, provides the basis upon which strategic decisions can be made to facilitate greater alignment and integration between infrastructural investment programmes, planning policies and strategies at all levels in the planning hierarchy.

(2.2) Wider Policy Integration, including Economic Development

The difficulties in the current economic climate warrant a renewed focus on aligning spatial planning with investment at a national and regional level. Regional Authorities have a key role to play in improving Ireland's competitiveness by contributing towards improving the competitiveness factors. Each RPG document incorporates an economic development strategy for its region providing background economic information, a high level strategy for economic and enterprise development, and a framework to harness the economic potential of committed public investment programmes under the National Development Plan 2007-2013.

The important work undertaken by Forfás in the preparation of the Regional Competitiveness Agendas, which informed the development of the RPGs, has shown that all regions have different characteristics and potential i.e. critical mass, stage of development, skills profile and innovative capacity. There is, therefore, a strong interdependence between planning, development and the creation of attractive environments for regional and enterprise growth, and there is a need to improve further collaboration between Regional Authorities, Local Authorities and Development Agencies to align policies and activities.

Implementation of the RPGs is supported by Regional Steering Committees which include Elected Members of the Regional Authorities, Local Authority Managers and representatives of Government Departments, State Agencies as well as economic development agencies such as the IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Údarás Na Gaeltachta.

The Action Plan for Jobs 2013 noted that IDA Ireland (who support foreign investment) and Enterprise Ireland (indigenous enterprise with export potential) had their best years for jobs growth in 2012, for ten years and five years respectively¹³, with the numbers employed in the private sector growing in 2012¹⁴. The Action Plan for Jobs 2014¹⁵ contains 385 actions involving all Government Departments and 46 Agencies. Encouragingly the 2014 Plan states that 90% of actions were delivered in 2013. The Plan also states that to further improve access to finance for micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Ireland, key priorities for 2014 include:

- increasing new lending to SMEs;
- increasing participation in Government sponsored access-to-finance schemes for SMEs such as the Microenterprise Loan Fund and the Credit Guarantee Scheme;

¹³ These are national figures and do not represent a full representation of the jobs distribution across the state. This is an area that requires further investigation by the Regional Authorities to see how FDI can be attracted to less successful regions.

¹⁴ DJEI (2013) *Action Plan for Jobs 2013*. Available from: www.djei.ie/publications/2013APJ.pdf.

¹⁵ DJEI (2014) *Action Plan for Jobs 2014*. Available from: www.djei.ie/publications/2014APJ.pdf

- raising the level of awareness amongst SMEs and entrepreneurs of the business supports available; and
- enhancing the financial capability of SMEs. Such funding sources are critical to the implementation of RPG regional economic strategies and meeting the objectives of the National Reform Programme.

The Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority (NTA) are also members of RPG Steering Committees. Currently the NTA are developing a national transport model which is expected to be launched in 2014. The transport model will provide detailed information on modal split, journey times, origin-destination information and network capacity. Using this model, individual city and county transport strategies will be developed. The availability of a national transport model and forecasting which incorporates RPG population targets will provide significant opportunity for providing evidence-based land use and transportation planning. The NTA are also rolling out a five-year funding framework in a number of cities around the country with a series of projects including bike schemes, real-time bus/ train information, bus corridor provision and traffic management. The Department of Transport are also actively involved with the implementation of a number of *Smarter Travel* initiatives.

Many of the Regional Authorities have been closely involved in the roll out of Metropolitan Area Networks (broadband) infrastructure around the country in conjunction with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The availability of such infrastructure significantly enhances the attractiveness of the main towns in the regions and is a critical tool for economic development in these areas.

The active involvement of multiple state agencies in supporting economic development throughout the regions is central to implementing the objectives of the RPGs spatial, infrastructure and economic strategies.

The following are included as examples of Regional Authority activities which will assist with economic development:

The **Border Regional Authority** is a partner on the Wood Footprint Project. It is an EU funded (URBACT II) Project which focuses on the Wood Manufacturing sector. The project is geared towards assisting business owners who are currently active, or were formerly active, within the furniture industry in County Monaghan. It looks at ways of dealing with vacant premises from an urban renewal point of view, as well as the future sustainability for those businesses who wish to remain in the industry. The project has a total of 10 EU partners and has provided the opportunity to network with other European towns and cities where the furniture industry has weakened and subsequently diversified. The ultimate output from the project will be a Local Action Plan which will include a series of actions which will assist business owners in developing, expanding and diversifying their businesses. The Local Action Plan will be completed in draft in the third quarter of 2014 and subsequently put on public display, with a view to finalising the document by December 2014. The project is led by a Steering Committee that includes business owners from the furniture industry, Monaghan County Council and Enterprise Board, Cavan and Monaghan Education Board and Elected Representatives.

The **South-East Regional Authority** is a Lead Partner in an INTERREG part-funded project entitled 'ACT' (Advanced Communication Project). ACT is an Ireland-Wales INTERREG IVA project designed to assist and support Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in South-East Ireland and West Wales to better understand and utilise social media to take advantage of the opportunities that modern communications tools, such as Facebook, Twitter etc., offer for business growth. The project is a partnership between 4 public bodies; the South-East Regional Authority, Local Enterprise Office Carlow and two Welsh partners – Swansea Metropolitan University and University of Wales: Trinity Saint David.

The **Midlands Regional Authority** (MRA) is currently involved in the STEP EU project that looks at best practice in energy efficiency in public buildings, relevant in the context of the green economy and the potential for innovation in the area in accordance with green economy and R&D objectives in the RPGs.

In addition, in the context of addressing niche food industries and promoting the rural economy in the region on a collective basis, MidlandsIreland.ie, the regional Brand managed by the MRA under objective EDO 2 of the RPGs, in association with Bord Bia, Origin Green, Failte Ireland, Lakelands and Inland Waterways and the County Enterprise Boards in Laois, Longford Offaly and Westmeath have produced a Regional Food Directory. This Directory was launched as part of a regional food event on April 7th 2014 incorporating one-to-one clinics with food development mentors, a digital marketing workshop and a Regional Producers Showcase – designed to introduce producers and buyers and increase awareness of regional food produce.

The **Mid-West Regional Authority** together with Limerick City Council (as the lead authority), Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary County Councils have prepared and adopted the Mid-West Area Strategic Plan (MWASP 2010-2030) as a 20 year strategic land use and transport vision for the Mid-West Region. This plan is the realisation of a number of key objectives of the RPGs, to strengthen and promote the 'Limerick-Shannon Gateway' and 'Ennis Hub Town', and the provision of balanced regional development in the Mid-West Region. MWASP is an evidence-based strategic framework approach for the coordination of spatial and transportation planning and focused infrastructural investments in the Mid-West Region. Implementation of the Plan will ensure that the region reaches its full potential while ensuring the protection of the environment and quality of life for all its citizens.

During the reporting period the **South West Regional Authority** was a Lead Partner in the ATC4Excellence Project which is funded by Directorate General (DG) Enterprise and promotes the development of world class clusters in Europe. The main objective of this project is to promote excellence in cluster management. The development of clusters in the South-West Region through the ATC4Excellence project has supported a number of the economic and demographic objectives of the RPG's. The RPG's highlight that the South West Region has current opportunities in developing the tourism sector and, by improving internationally competitive clusters in the region, the project assisted in promoting the sustainable growth of enterprises in this sector as well as in others.

The **Dublin Regional Authority** led an economic study utilising an evidence-based approach to examining Dublin's role in the Irish and global economy. The study was a collaborative project between the Regional Authority, UCD, four local authorities and Creative Dublin Alliance. The Mid-

East Region, together with Kildare, Meath and Wicklow Local Authorities, has initiated a joint economic action plan.

The **West Regional Authority** has been involved in GRISI+ (Geomatics Rural Information Society Initiative), an INTERREG IVC project which seeks to improve and modernise economic development policies for rural areas, contributing to the revitalisation of more remote areas, by enhancing their attractiveness to new inhabitants, entrepreneurs and tourists. With a strong emphasis on the use of ICT, the outcomes will provide decision-makers with policy support tools for the economic development of rural territories.

(2.3) Cross-Authority Development Issues

In order to achieve many of the key objectives of the RPGs, collaborative actions between administrative areas are required, particularly where significant socio-economic and geographic entities are shared between different Authorities. Therefore Regional Authorities are involved in a range of co-ordination type projects, networks and studies, acting with, or on behalf of, their constituent local authorities and other bodies, with the general objective of facilitating the development of cost-effective, regional approaches to various areas of policy. The following are included as examples of cross-authority activities:

The **South West Regional Authority** plays an active role in the implementation of the Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP), a sub-regional initiative, jointly sponsored by Cork City Council and Cork County Council, to provide a vision and strategy for the development of the Cork City-Region up to 2020. CASP is a key collaborative action in the South West Region. It links regional and national strategic spatial planning policies to the planning processes of both Cork City and County Councils and plays a key role in the planning process by providing a coherent, long-term spatial context, within which more detailed statutory Development Plans can develop.

The **Mid-West Regional Authority** (and South West Regional Authority) in cooperation with Clare (lead authority), Kerry, Limerick City and County Councils and 25 stakeholders, has prepared a Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary 2013 to 2043. The SIFP is an inter-jurisdictional land and marine based framework plan to guide the future development and management of the Shannon Estuary. The stakeholders included a wide range of state departments (DECLG, DAHG, DOT), state agencies (NPWS, OPW, EPA, NMS, Marine Institute, IFI), semi-state agencies (Shannon Foynes Port Company, Shannon Development, Shannon Airport Company) and other stakeholders comprising the Shannon River Basin District Project and the Clare Energy Agency. The Plan seeks to encourage, facilitate and promote a balanced approach to harnessing the Estuary's economic growth potential, whilst simultaneously ensuring careful protection, management and enhancement of the natural environmental resources of the area. The SIFP identifies the nature and location of future potential development, economic growth and employment opportunities that can be sustainably accommodated in the Shannon Estuary and is consistent with EU, national and regional spatial, economic, social, environmental and planning objectives.

Within the GDA, the **Dublin Regional Authority** is an active member of the EU network entitled 'PURPLE.' The PURPLE network comprises peri-urban regions across Europe including Catalunya, Dublin, Flanders, Frankfurt Rhein-Main, Île de France, Mazovia, MHAL (Province of Limburg), Nord Pas de Calais, Regio Randstad, Rhône-Alpes, Surrey South-East England, South Moravia, Stockholm,

West Midlands & Wielkopolska. The network enables peri-urban regions across Europe to work together and raise awareness to maximise locational advantages as a result of their proximity to large urban areas while minimising adverse impacts on landscape, environment & character. PURPLE is working to raise awareness of the specific peri-urban agenda at European, national and regional levels. In the longer term, PURPLE regions wish to share experience and best practice with each other and with other regions, designing and developing partnerships for EU projects.

The Dublin Regional Authority is a partner in an EU Life+ project - the Celtic Seas Partnership, along with WWF-UK, University of Liverpool, the Natural Environment Research Council and Seaweb. This project aims to bring together key marine stakeholders, government and the scientific community within the Celtic Seas and in the DRAs context, Dublin Bay, to find workable ways of implementing the Water Framework Directive and to inform marine management at a European Level, to reduce conflicts between different marine activities and provide data and information resources at a Celtic Seas scale. A consultation process engaging all the stakeholders in Dublin Bay is to commence in 2014.

The **Border Regional Authority**, along with five other participating countries, was successful in their application to the Northern Periphery Programme in 2013 for an Interreg V preparatory project. The 'Slow Adventure Experiences across Northern Europe' (SAENE) project is a proposed three-year Northern Periphery Programme (NPP) 'main' project on the development of 'slow adventure'. This is anticipated to involve eight countries in Northern Europe, plus Canada. It is expected that an application to the NPP for approximately €1.5 million will be made in the summer of 2014. The project will be 60% match-funded by the NPP programme.

The 2014-17 project (if approved) will aim to facilitate, implement and promote new services and products that enable and encourage people to enjoy and experience the outdoors, engaging with remote, wild and nature-rich places in 'slow adventure' activities. These slow adventure activities will draw upon the Region's remarkable natural resources, as well as the rich cultures and histories of the partner regions, such as hunting and fishing, love of and respect for nature and wildlife, relationships between food and the land/sea, and traditions of human-powered (sustainable) travel within and between areas.

The **South East Regional Authority** has been actively engaged with a number of European partners in the CLIMATLANTIC project, this project is part-funded by the EU INTERREG IVB Atlantic Area Programme. The project's overall aim is to develop strategy(s) that will achieve, through regional and local level interventions, reductions in the carbon footprint in the European Atlantic Area with consequent increasing of cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable development. In parallel with the development of the common strategy, project partners worked on a series of pilot demonstration actions to validate the priorities of the Strategy. The pilot action in South-East Ireland was developed between the SERA and Carlow County Council. Energy efficiency measures were identified in the main energy consuming activities of the local authority; water supply and treatment, wastewater treatment, building usage and public lighting. A number of energy saving initiatives were undertaken which led to approximately a 1.5% reduction in energy consumption by Carlow County Council. The pilot action, "*Assessment and Demonstration of Measures to Reduce Electricity Consumption by Local Authorities*" was shortlisted for a national award in the Joint Local Authority Initiative category in the Excellence in Local Government Awards organised by Chambers

Ireland and was awarded a Commendation Certificate at the awards ceremony held in Dublin in November 2013.

The **West Regional Authority** has prepared a 'Small Towns Study' in which three small towns were selected to investigate the basis for their decline and examine approaches which may be useful in addressing the issues highlighted in the sample towns, and indeed, common issues in other small towns in region. The towns were examined under eighteen sustainable town indicators within economic, social and environmental themes. Successful actions taken in other small towns or good practice examples are highlighted both domestically and internationally. The methodology developed can be applied to any small town and implemented through a stakeholder action plan.

Outdoor recreation can yield considerable dividend in terms of social and community benefits, promoting healthy lifestyles and where properly planned supporting environmental conservation and economic development. It is for this reason that the West Regional Authority has prepared a Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy to capture the significant potential in this area. The Strategy examines ways to optimize the use of existing amenities to further develop and promote the sector.

The **Midlands Regional Authority** has engaged in the preparation of a Co-ordinated Sustainable Transport Plan which is a central objective in the transport and infrastructure strategy of the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines. Phase 1 of this project, which was funded by and carried out in association with the National Transport Authority, was completed in a collaboration with senior planning and transportation staff from the Local Authorities of the Region. This initial phase resulted in the preparation of a baseline report. This report outlines regionally significant transport patterns and movements in the region, and identified 17 strategic objectives that will form the basis of an overarching framework in Phase 2. This will be followed by a series of focused action plans in Phase 3. The Midlands Regional Authority continues to work closely with the NTA and is currently concentrating on updating baseline information following the recent release of CSO POWSCAR data to input into Phase 2.

In the reporting period, Regional Authorities facilitated regional forums on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Flood Risk Assessment, the provision of which has informed participants from various Local Authorities on best practice initiatives, legislative changes, events and conferences/ workshops. The impetus for such forums arose out of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Review of SEA Effectiveness in Ireland, which was supported by a Review of SEA Effectiveness in the RPGs 2010-2022 prepared by the West Regional Authority. Through the organisation of these regional forums, Regional Authorities have promoted stronger lines of communication between the environmental authorities and local authorities. These fora have provided a platform on which the local authorities can share and learn best practice and also develop the tools necessary to consider and address key environmental issues which impinge on sustainable economic growth within the regions.

Section 3: Regional Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation

(3.1) Introduction

Effective monitoring mechanisms are essential in measuring whether plans are achieving their intended objectives. In order to understand and assist practitioners in identifying trends, performance and effectiveness of plans, it is now widely known and accepted that evidence-informed planning is a prerequisite to good decision-taking and policy-making. Given the absence of national spatial planning indicators and the variety of other indicator sets which have a different focus, the National Annual Report on RPG Implementation 2011 recognised the necessity for an effective monitoring framework for the regions. The **Regional Indicators Report – Monitoring Framework for Implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines** was prepared and published jointly by the eight Regional Authorities in late 2013 to fulfil this need.

The development of regional indicators has been guided by the National Steering Committee (NSC) which comprises the designated local authority managers in the regions, DECLG executive and the directors of the Regional Authorities.

(3.2) Methodology

In 2011, the Regional Planners Network (RPN), which consists of the seven RPG Officers developed a methodology for the project, they conducted a literature review, drafted indicators under four themes and presented them at a workshop with key stakeholders such as the CSO, ESRI, EPA, Local Authorities, DECLG, etc. At this point, the number of indicators exceeded one-hundred. Following this workshop, feedback was reviewed and the indicators were revised and refocused. The RPN identified three themes which were linked with a key question (see Fig. 7). A report was presented to the NSC for their approval.

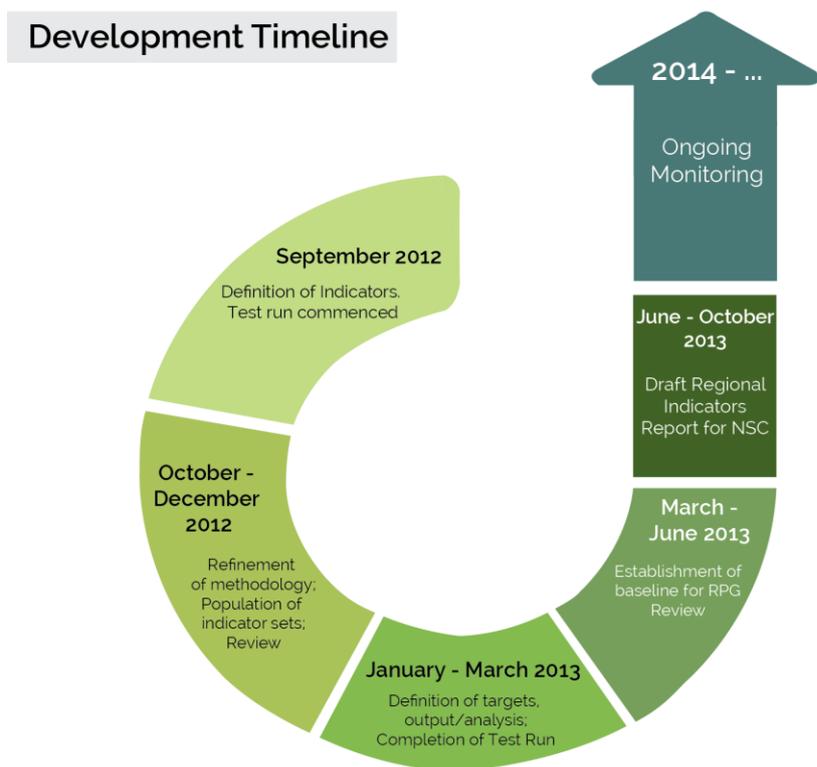


Figure 5: RPG Indicator Report Development Timeline

Subsequently, as Figure 5 depicts, the RPN sought to define the final set of indicators and a 'test-run' on a number of the indicators commenced to determine the added value of the indicator and the

type of outputs and information ultimately provided. Targets were assigned and the outputs and analysis were considered. Once the RPN were satisfied with the approach, data for the full indicator set was collected. Consultants were contracted to assist with the presentation of the indicators to ensure they could be easily understood and used by a variety of stakeholders. A Draft Report was presented to the NSC and the report was published in December, 2013.

The development of indicators was an iterative process with multiple stakeholders involved at each stage. There were a number of key challenges to overcome during the process including reaching agreement on common aims and objectives across the eight Regional Authorities, ensuring the a set of usable indicators was provided for all regions and that indicators were applicable at regional level, yet transferable to sub-regional, national and even European level. The RPN overcame the challenges by considering relevant guidance and emerging information from other indicator projects, consulting widely, involving all relevant stakeholders with an interest in or who weredeveloping indicators at the same time. This process of refinement ensured that the indicators had a regional dimension (wherever possible), duplication was avoided, the indicators were linked to relevant policies, sourced from readily available and reliably data and easy to understand and communicate.

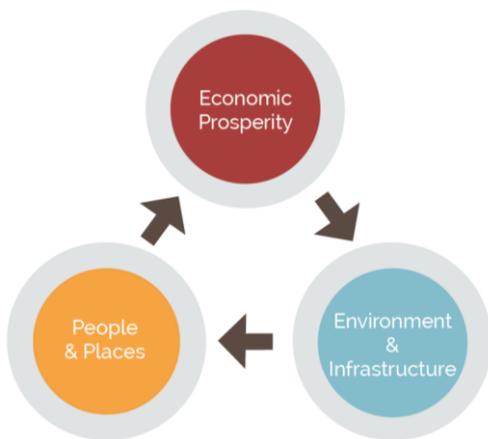
Other relevant projects considered are listed below:

- KITCASP (Key Indicators for Territorial cohesion and Spatial Planning) project which has the potential to inform regional indicator development¹⁶;
- Sustainable Development Indicators for Ireland (Comhar 2009) carried out for the EU Europe 2020 strategy (for which cross-sectoral data is currently gathered for annual returns to the EU);
- Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (DECLG, 2012);
- European Spatial Planning Observatory Network (ESPON)¹⁷;
- Towards a Spatial Monitoring Framework for the Island of Ireland: A Scoping Study (ICLRD, 2011);
- Sustainability Indicators Framework (Dublin City Council, 2011);
- ‘Measuring Ireland Progress’ series (Social and Economic Indicators published by the CSO);
- The DECLG MyPlan system, which gathers data on statutory development plans;
- University of Limerick SEMPRES Project on Sustainable Development Indicators;
- ICBAN Spatial Planning Initiative (Data Capture Strand of the Project which focuses on gathering and collation of cross border data);
- North West Cross Border Group SPACEial Project; and
- Regional Assemblies Gateway Development Index 2007 and Gateway and Hubs Development Index 2012.

¹⁶ The KITCASP project Team and the Regional Planners Network continue to engage with each other and the lead partners (NIRSA, NUI Maynooth) to capitalise on potential synergies that could exist between the two projects.

¹⁷ ESPON 2013 Programme, the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion, is a transnational planning and related research programme with a European focus and seeks to inform a better understanding of spatial planning and territorial cohesion policies at local, regional, national and transnational levels in Europe.

(3.3) Regional Indicators



The 'Key Question', upon which the three main themes – People and Place, Economic Prosperity and Environment and Infrastructure, sought to answer was “are we achieving sustainable regions?”

Figure 6: Regional Indicator Themes

The three themes are linked to the pillars of **sustainable development**. Within each theme, common RPG aims were identified and **24 indicators** are linked to the aims and overall themes.

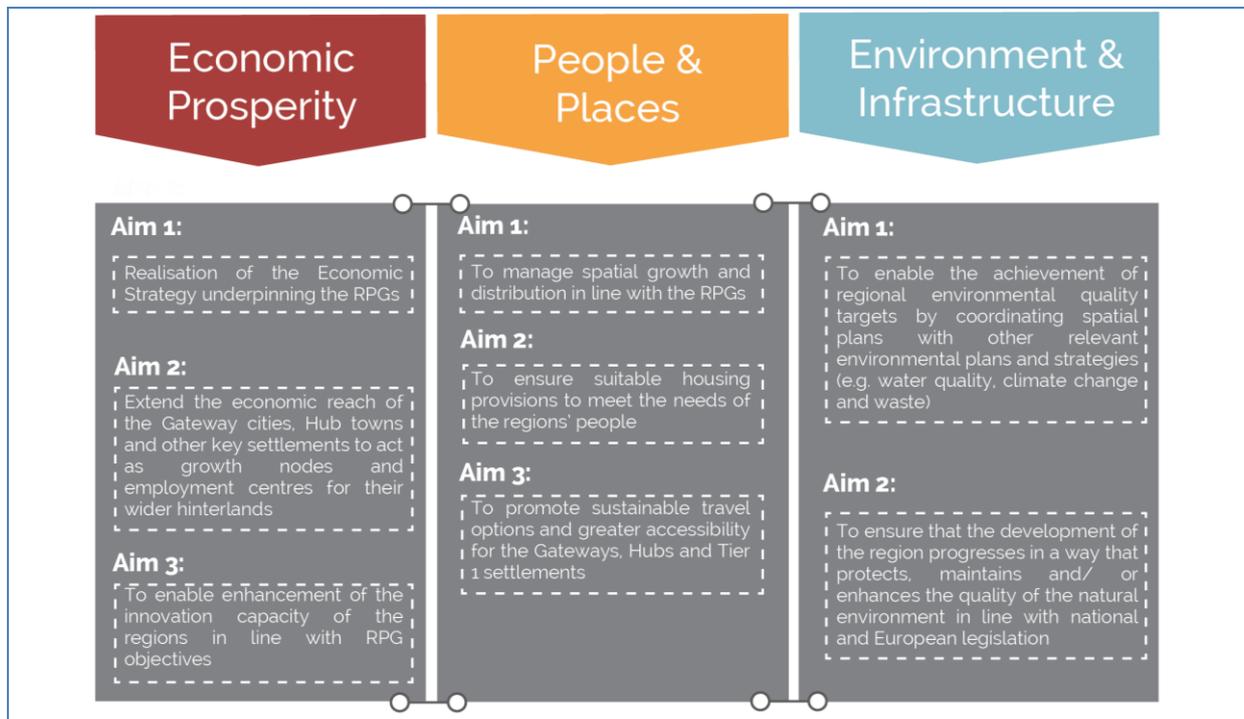


Figure 7: Regional Indicator Themes and Associated Aims

Figures 8, 9 and 10 provide a sample of the outputs from three indicators, of one indicator from within each theme as follows –

- Economic Prosperity: GVA contribution by Sector;
- People and Place: Key Cohort Groups for Dependency Rates; and
- Environment & Infrastructure: Urban Wastewater Compliance for all RPG Settlements 2011)

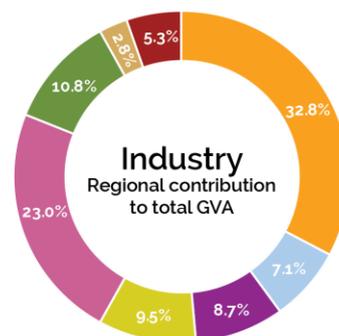
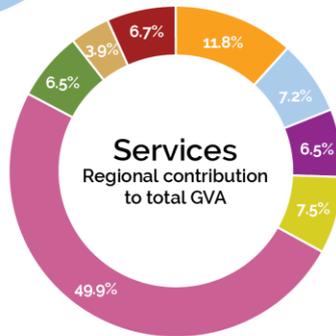
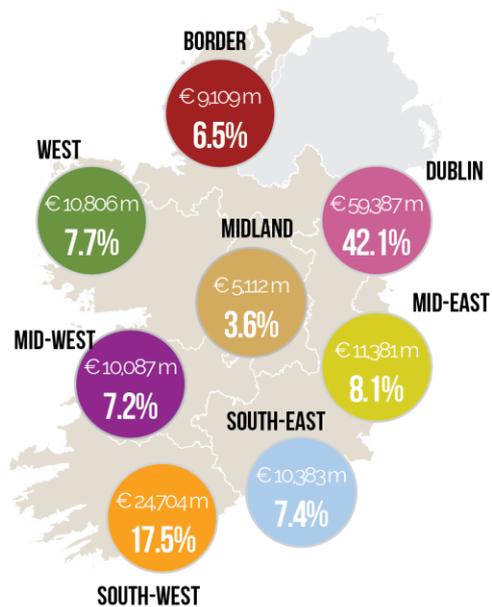
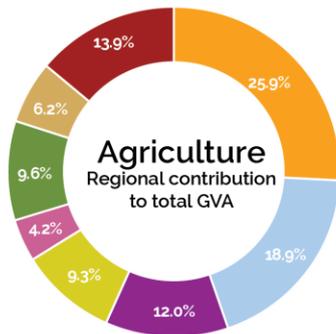
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



GVA contribution by Sector in percentages and total GVA, per region

Definition: GVA
A productivity metric that measures the difference between output and intermediate consumption. See footnote or glossary for additional details.

REGION
Contribution to total GVA (National)
€10806m
7.7%



TARGETS

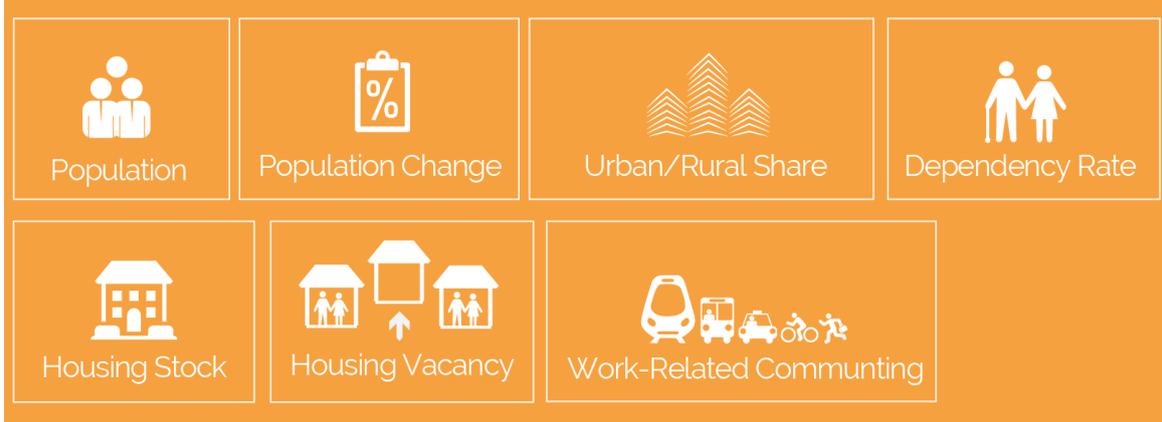


regional GVA by sector output from baseline figure

Figure 2.6 - GVA contribution by sector in percentages and total GVA, per region (2010).

Figure 8: Regional Indicators – Economic Prosperity & GVA Contribution per Sector

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Key Cohort Groups for Dependency Rates

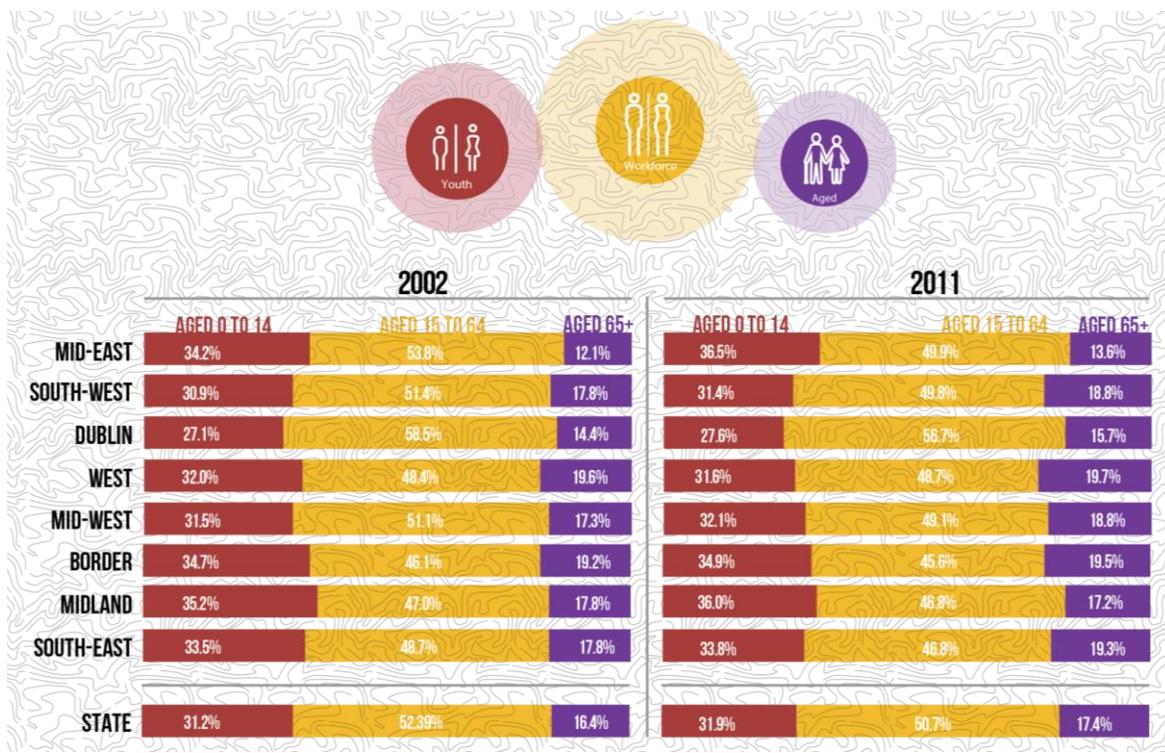
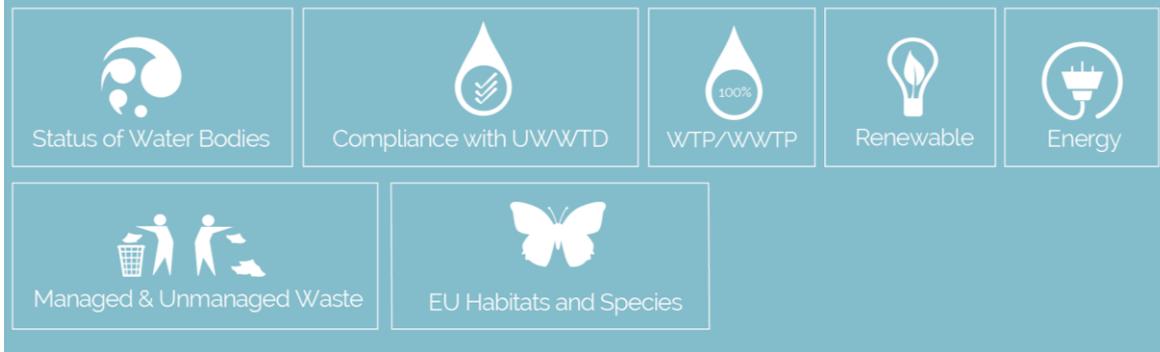


Figure 9: Regional Indicators – People and Places and Dependency Rates

While the regional indicators were being developed, the RPN conducted a gap analysis to identify those indicators which are critical to spatial planning and economic development, such as broadband speeds and travel accessibility, but information is not currently available at the regional level to populate such indicators. It is therefore essential that data providers consider carefully how they can eliminate the information gaps for future monitoring of the RPGS. A number of useful indicators were omitted due to unsubstantiated data at the relevant spatial scale or due to data access difficulties. The RPN sought to remain focused on 'key indicators' which would address common RPG aims and were applicable across the regions. Importantly they also sought to reduce the overall number of indicators to ensure that monitoring remains manageable.

ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) Compliance for all RPG Settlements 2011

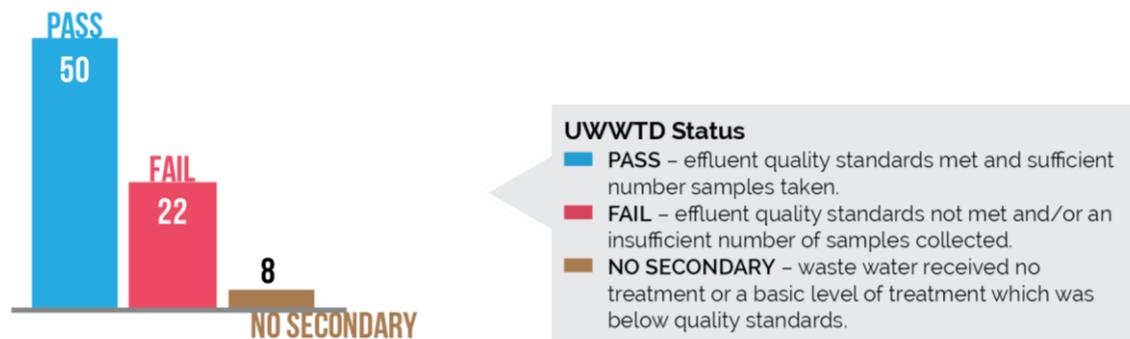


Figure 4.10: Urban Waste Water treatment Directive (UWWTD) Compliance for all RPG Settlements (2011)⁶⁵

Figure 10: Regional Indicators – Environment and Infrastructure and UWWTD Compliance

The Regional Indicators Report provides an instrument to assess the implementation of the RPGs, providing baseline information which will inform the review of the NSS and the new RSEs. The most appropriate ‘indicators’ were selected to better inform future decisions at a range of governance levels. Decision-making at a regional level will inform actors at county and local level to provide better outcomes through local spatial and economic plans.

The dataset used to populate the indicator set can be downloaded at www.MyPlan.ie and supporting information was distributed to Local Authorities, Government Departments, State Agencies and other data providers. This process represents the first step in regional monitoring which can be replicated by the new Regional Assemblies but it is recognised that it is an iterative process and the indicator set must evolve over time, particularly as better and more reliable datasets become available to populate more relevant and robust indicators.

Section 4: Conclusion & Future Work Priorities

Significant advancements have been made since the making of the 2010 Regional Planning Guidelines and the introduction of the Planning and Development Act 2010. Regional and Local Authorities have supported and brought about the necessary amendments to ensure that there is greater consistency between planning policy at a regional, county, city, town and local level.

In late 2013, the eight Regional Authorities jointly prepared and published the '**Regional Indicators Report 2014**' to provide an instrument to assess the impact of the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.

Building on the work of other related studies, the Regional Indicators Report provides a tool and methodology for the effective evaluation and assessment of the outputs of the RPGs. This monitoring framework represents a milestone. It is the first innovative approach to the monitoring of spatial policy within landuse plans prepared under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The framework has been achieved through the selection of the most appropriate indicators to better inform future decisions at a range of governance levels and the baseline will inform the review of the National Spatial Strategy and the new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.

From mid-2014, significant change will occur in the configuration, functions and delivery of regional governance and regional planning. Strategic planning and oversight will be the key role of the new Regional Assemblies. RPGs will be recast as Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) and relevant economic agencies will be required to input into and adhere to these strategies.

The **Key Priorities** in respect of the implementing and monitoring the RPGs and preparing for the new RSES are:

- Respond to the new regional structures and functions including operational, procedural and administrative aspects.
- Develop and support co-ordination between Regional Assemblies and the key agencies and sectors which support investment and employment opportunities (such as IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, etc.). Effective working relationships should be established which are ready to enable preparation and facilitate the development of the new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.
- Review and identify key infrastructure investment priorities which are required to achieve Government objectives; and consider whether responsive changes in policies or priorities are required to facilitate the implementation of the necessary investments.
- Continue to implement the RPGs by ensuring consistency between Development Plans and RPGs, by responding to policies and projects as required in the context of the RPGs and by reviewing the implications of population projections for the regions for sustainable planning and economic development.
- Launch the RPG Indicators Report 2014 which will monitor achievements regionally and nationally.

While this is the final National Annual Report on RPG Implementation published by the Regional Authorities, the preparation of future reports under the aegis of the Regional Assemblies is required to highlight the progress achieved in achieving consistency between Local Authority Development Plans and the RPGs or future RSES. Regional Assemblies must continue to monitor the progress of local authority plans and utilise the platform put forward by the Regional Indicators Report 2014 to track the overall progress made in meeting RPG objectives or future Regional Strategies.

RPGs are an essential and dynamic element of the broader planning process in Ireland. Together with the 2011 annual implementation report, this publication outlines that there is a greater level of consistency between Development plans, local area plans, the RPGs and national plans and strategies when compared with the situation prior to the enactment of the P&D (amendment) Act 2010. During the next reporting period, it is expected that those outstanding Development Plans will be reviewed and progressed to ensure that they are consistent with regional planning provisions. Future implementation will fall under the responsibility of the new Regional Assemblies to secure overall regional, and therefore national, economic recovery.

APPENDIX A Core Strategy Alignment

Part 1: City & County Development Plans

Regional Authority	Plan Name	Plan Period	Core Strategy Adopted (Date)	Land (ha) or Units identified for Plan Area in CDP Core Strategy, if adopted and Average Density				Where Core Strategy Approved, Consistency with 2010 RPGs (Yes / No)			
				Area (ha)	No. Units	Density Assumptions or Average Density	Applicable Period	Fully	Substantially	Not	
BORDER	Cavan	2008-2014	September, 2011	129	1,496	12	2008-2014	Yes			
	Donegal	2012-2018	June, 2012	186	4,761	12	2012-2018	Yes			
	Leitrim	2009-2015	July, 2011	75	510	7	2009-2015	Yes			
	Louth	2009-2015	January, 2012	55	1,102	20	2009-2015		Yes		
	Monaghan	2013-2019	February, 2012	135	2,289	14	2013-2019	Yes			
	Sligo	2011-2017	May, 2011	195	1,555	8	2011-2017	Yes			
	Totals	6 of 6									
SOUTH-EAST	Carlow	2009-2015	January, 2014	156	3,120	20	2014-2020		Yes		
	Kilkenny	2008-2014	May, 2011	179	n/a	n/a	2008 -2014	Yes			
	South Tipperary	2009-2015	September, 2011	567	8,505	15	2009 -2015		Yes		
	Waterford	2010 -2016	February, 2011	692	12,296	18	2010 -2016		Yes		
	Wexford County	2007-2013	December, 2011	787	9,344	20	2013 -2019		Yes		
	Total	5 of 5									
	Waterford City	2007-2013	November, 2012	241	4,800	20	2013-2019		Yes		
Total	1 of 1										
MIDLANDS	Laois	2011-2017	October, 2011	273	4,167	n/a	2011-2018	Yes			
	Longford	2009-2015	September, 2012	112	1,956	12	2009-2016	Yes			
	Offaly	2009-2015	February, 2012	382	6,999	n/a	2009-2015	Yes			
	Westmeath	2008-2014	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Total	3 of 4									
WEST	Galway City	2011-2017	January, 2011	307	9,414	30.6	2011-2017	Yes			
	Total	1 of 1		The above includes the Ardaun LAP area							
	Galway County	2009-2015	July, 2011	264	5,536	20.9	2009-2015	Yes			
					<i>The above excludes Ballinasloe Development Plan Area as these figures cannot be separated in the County Core Strategy</i>						
	Mayo County (New Development Plan imminent)	2008-2014	October, 2011	90	545	6.1	2008-2014	Yes			
					<i>The above excludes the Castlebar/ Ballina Linked Hub TDPs</i>						
	Roscommon County	2014-2020	April, 2014	81.3	1,435	17.7	2014-2020	Yes			
Total	3 of 3										
MID-WEST	Limerick City	2010-2016	April, 2012	272	9,110	50	2010-2016	Yes			
	Total	1 of 1									
	Clare	2011-2017	February, 2011	537	n/a	5-30	2011-2017	Yes			
	Limerick County	2010-2016	December, 2011	734	11,002	10-35	2010-2016	Yes			
	North Tipperary	2010-2016	November, 2011	504	5,833	10-25	2010-2016	Yes			
Total	3 of 3										
DUBLIN & MID-EAST	Dublin City	2011-2017	July, 2011	503	47,646		2011-2020		Yes		
	Total	1 of 1									
	South Dublin	2010-2016	September, 2010	627	35,000		2011-2022		Yes		
	Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	2010-2016	September, 2011	643	20,000		2010-2019	Yes			
	Fingal	2011-2017	March, 2011	1,500	31,000		2011-2020		Yes		
	Kildare	2011-2017	April, 2011	1,074	28,030		2011-2020	Yes			
	Wicklow	2010-2016	September, 2010	1,158	21,000		2010-2019	Yes			
	Meath	2013-2019	December, 2012	330	12,942		2013-2019	Yes			
Total - Note 6	6 of 6										
SOUTH-WEST	Cork City	2009-2015	September, 2011	200.58	15,233		2010-2016	Yes			
	Total	1 of 1									
	Cork County	2009-2015	July, 2011		30,498 (ex. Town Co.)		2010-2015	Yes			
	Kerry County	2009-2015	September, 2011	471	5,650 (ex. Town Co.)	12 units/ ha (for the County)	2010-2016	Yes			
Total	2 of 2										
Totals City & County Development Plans		33 of 34									

Part 2: Borough & Town Development Plans

Regional Authority	Plan Name	Plan Period	Core Strategy Adopted (Date)	Land (ha) or Units identified for Plan Area in CDP Core Strategy, if adopted and Average Density				Where Core Strategy Approved, Consistency with 2010 RPGs (Yes / No)		
				Area (ha)	No. Units	Density Assumptions or Average Density	Applicable Period	Fully	Substantially	Not
BORDER	Drogheda BCDP	2011-2017	November, 2011	105	3,893	38	2011-2017			No
	Sligo BCDP	2010-2016	October, 2011	43	1,000	23	2010-2016	Yes		
	Cavan Town and Environs	2008-2014	September, 2011	36	426	12	2008-2014	Yes		
	Buncrana & Environs TDP	2008-2014	June, 2013	34	456-653	16	2008-2014	Yes		
	Bundoran & Environs TDP	2008-2014	June, 2013	23	332	15	2008-2018	Yes		
	Letterkenny & Environs TDP	2009-2015	June, 2013	66	1,401	20	2009-2018	Yes		
	Dundalk & Environs TDP	2009-2015	August, 2011	50	1,750	35	2009-2015	Yes		
	Monaghan TDP	2013-2019	February, 2012	42	756	18	2011-2019	Yes		
	Clones Town TDP	2013-2019	February, 2012	7	126	18	2011-2019	Yes		
	Carrickmacross TDP	2013-2019	February, 2012	7	126	18	2011-2019	Yes		
	Castleblayney TDP	2013-2019	February, 2012	13	234	18	2011-2019	Yes		
Totals	11 of 11									
SOUTH-EAST	Kilkenny City BCDP	2008-2014	May, 2011	52	1,560	30	2008-2014		Yes	
	Clonmel BCDP	2008-2014	October, 2011	99	1,485	15	2008-2014		Yes	
	Cashel TDP	2009-2015	September, 2011	16	160	10	2009-2015		Yes	
	Carrick-on-Suir TDP	2008-2014	September, 2011	20	300	15	2008-2014	Yes		
	Tipperary Town TDP	2007-2013	September, 2011	45	675	15	2007-2013	Yes		
	Dungarvan TDP	2012-2018	September, 2012	64	1,026	16	2012-2018		Yes	
	Wexford TDP	2009-2015	September, 2012	n/a	n/a	n/a	tbc	Yes		
	Enniscorthy TDP	2008-2014	September, 2012	n/a	n/a	20	2012-2018		Yes	
	New Ross TDP	2011-2017	February, 2011	39	504	20	2011-2017	Yes		
	Carlow TDP	2009-2015	December, 2012	87	1,434	24	2012-2018		Yes	
Total	10 of 10									
MIDLANDS	Tullamore TDP	2010-2016	May, 2013	129	4,515	35	2010-2016		Yes	
	Athlone TDP	2014-2020	February, 2014	151	5,285	35	2014-2020	Yes		
	Longford TDP	2009-2015	March, 2013	82	1,950	30	2009-2016		Yes	
	Birr TDP	2010-2016	February, 2012	53	637	12	2010-2016		Yes	
	Total	4 of 4								
WEST	Ballinasloe TDP	2009-2015	July, 2011	36	592	16.4	2010-2016	Yes		
	Castlebar Town & Environs TDP	2008-2014	October, 2011	20	376	18.8	2010-2016		Yes	
	Ballina Town & Environs TDP	2009-2015	October, 2011	22	377	17.1	2010-2016		Yes	
	Westport Town & Environs TDP	2010-2016	March, 2012	24	737	30.7	2010-2016		Yes	
	Total	4 of 4								
MID-WEST	Ennis & Environs TDP	2008-2014	December, 2011	88	2,640	30	2008-2014	Yes		
	Kilrush & Environs TDP	2008-2014	September, 2011	19	380	20	2008-2014	Yes		
	Nenagh Town & Environs TDP	2013-2019	September, 2012	73	736	25	2013-2019	Yes		
	Templemore & Environs TDP	2012-2018	April, 2012	24	144	15	2012-2018	Yes		
	Thurles & Environs TDP	2009-2015	November, 2010	28	676	25	2009-2015	Yes		
	Total	5 of 5								
DUBLIN & MID-EAST	Arklow Town & Environs TDP	2011-2017	March, 2011	n/a	2,150	-	2011-2017		Yes	
	Athy TDP	2012-2018	March, 2012	79	1,667	-	2012-2018		Yes	
	Naas TDP	2011-2017	April, 2011	150	3,610	-	2011-2017		Yes	
	Navan TDP	2009-2015	May, 2014	89	4,070	-	2009-2015		Yes	
	Kells TDP	2013-2019	October, 2013	19	518	-	2013-2019	Yes		
	Trim TDP	2014-2020	May, 2014	15	518	-	2014-2020	Yes		
	Wickow TDP	2013-2019	December, 2013	n/a	3,980	-	2013-2019	Yes		
	Bray TDP	2011-2017	March, 2011	n/a	2,000	-	2011-2017		Yes	
	Total	8 of 8								
SOUTH-WEST	Tralee TDP	2009-2015	September, 2011	43	910	25	2010-2016	Yes		
	Listowel TDP	2009-2015	September, 2011	13	326		2010-2016	Yes		
	Killarney TDP	2009-2015	December, 2011	25.4	760	30	2010-2016	Yes		
	Youghal TDP	2009-2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Midleton TDP	2013-2019	January, 2013	11.4	400	36	2011-2020	Yes		
	Mallow TDP	2010-2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Macroom TDP	2009-2015	June, 2013	24	565	24	2011-2020	Yes		
	Fermoy TDP	2009-2015	January, 2013	14	510	36	2011-2020	Yes		
	Skibbereen TDP	2009-2015	September, 2013	30	590	20	2011-2020	Yes		
	Clonakilty TDP	2009-2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Kinsale TDP	2009-2015	October, 2012	12	423	35	2010-2016	Yes		
	Cobh TDP	2013-2019	December, 2012	3.53	113	32	2011-2020	Yes		
Total	9 of 12									
Totals Borough & Town Development Plans	51 of 54									

Appendix A Notes

Border Regional Authority - In accordance with the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) Letterkenny Town Council, Bundoran Town Council and Donegal County Council have decided not to review the Letterkenny and Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015 (as varied) and the Bundoran & Environs Development Plan (as varied). Therefore these development plans will be implemented in line with the period of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied), thereby being the operational plans until 2018. These figures include Town Council area only. Environs figures are included within the county figure.

Midlands Regional Authority - Westmeath County Development Plan is the subject of a Ministerial Direction under S. 31 of the Act. This direction impacts on the Core Strategy element of the Plan and as such, is not deemed to be in effect.

West Regional Authority - Ballinasloe was not allocated a population target in the RPGs (West), however it is a Development Plan area. Figures for Ballinasloe are contained within the total County Galway Figure.

The RPGs do not contain figures for the Westport Town & Environs Development Plan and Castlebar and Ballina are a Linked Hub in the West Region. The Mayo County Development Plan 2008 – 2014 Core Strategy outlines a population allocation (1430/1170) and resulting number of (596/487) housing units for Castlebar and Ballina (housing units do not include an additional 50% (normally applied to zoning as per Dev Plan Guidelines)); The County Core Strategy outlines (20 and 22 ha) of proposed undeveloped residential land zoning with a consequential number of housing units (376/377 - see above). In the Town & Environs Development Plans, the live planning permissions and unfinished housing estates are added to the number of units from the proposed zoning (20/22ha) to provide total figures for Phase 1 residential. Both plans outline total housing units which are in excess of the figures stated in the County Core Strategy, therefore the Town & Environs Dev. Plans are considered to be substantially consistent.

Westport Town and Environs Development Plan as varied includes 46ha of residential zoned land which is in excess of the 24ha outlined in the County Development Plan Core Strategy, however it takes account of a range of housing densities and will provide for 703 units which is similar to the no. allocated in the CDP and is considered generally consistent with the approach in the RPGs.

Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities - As per Table 4 the County Plan figures are inclusive of Town Development Plans for Dublin and Mid-East Regions.

The Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities have continued to play a significant role in the comprehensive vertical alignment of spatial plans nationally, regionally and locally. This structure, which is informed by environmental and social considerations, underlines a strong evidence basis for future plan-led economic growth and development.