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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

# New approaches to regional spatial planning in Ireland:

Aligning national and regional spatial planning policy and practice

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# Setting the scene

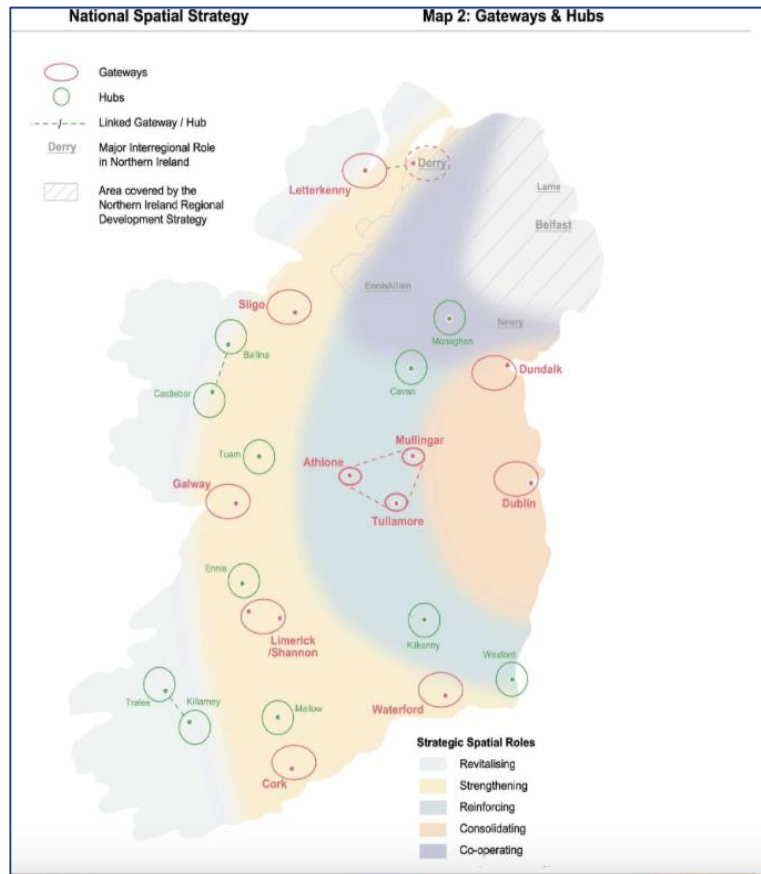
1. National planning context – From NSS to Project Ireland 2040

1. Regional Planning in Ireland:

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
- The strategy development process

1. Challenges facing multi-level spatial planning and governance in Ireland

# National spatial planning in Ireland

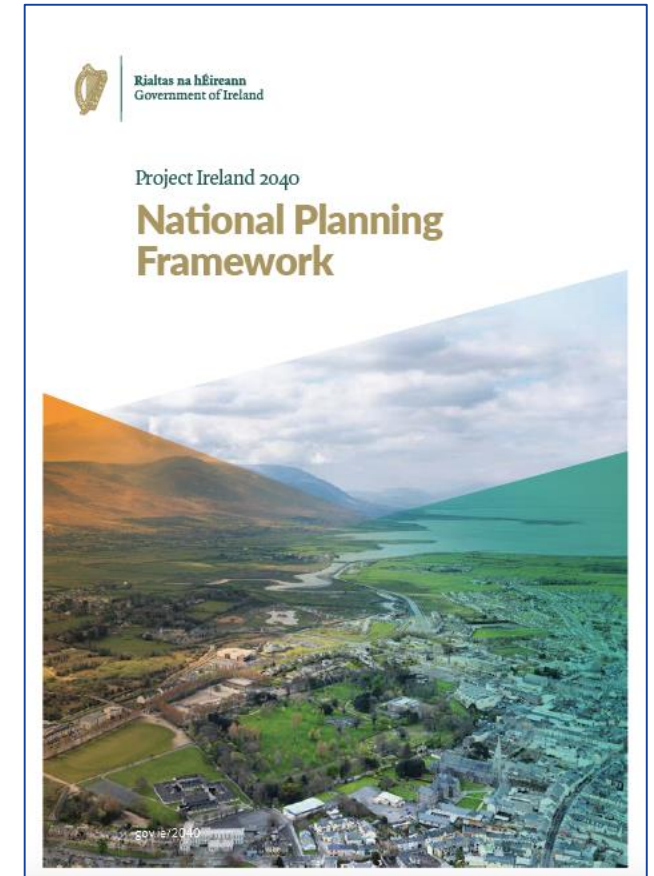


National Spatial Strategy (2002-2020):  
***Balanced*** regional development

Gateways and hubs as key spatial units

- Gateway Innovation Fund
- Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 (regional authorities obliged to *take account of the NSS*)
- 2 regional assemblies / 8 Regional Authorities

National Planning Framework: Project Ireland 2040: ***Equitable*** growth

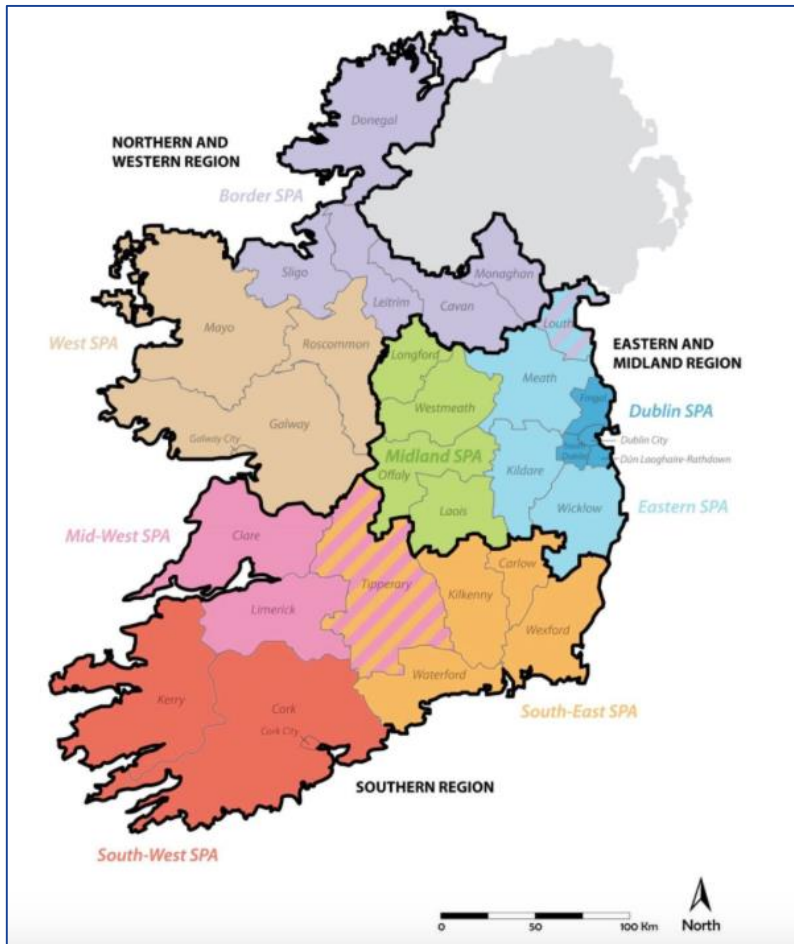


# Architecture of planning in Ireland



Source: National Planning Framework, 2018

# Regional planning in Ireland



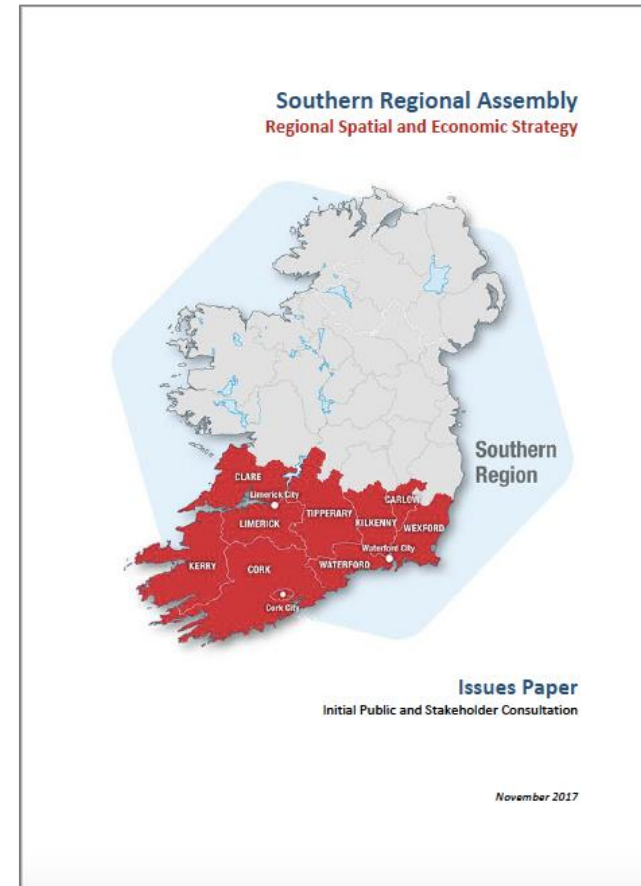
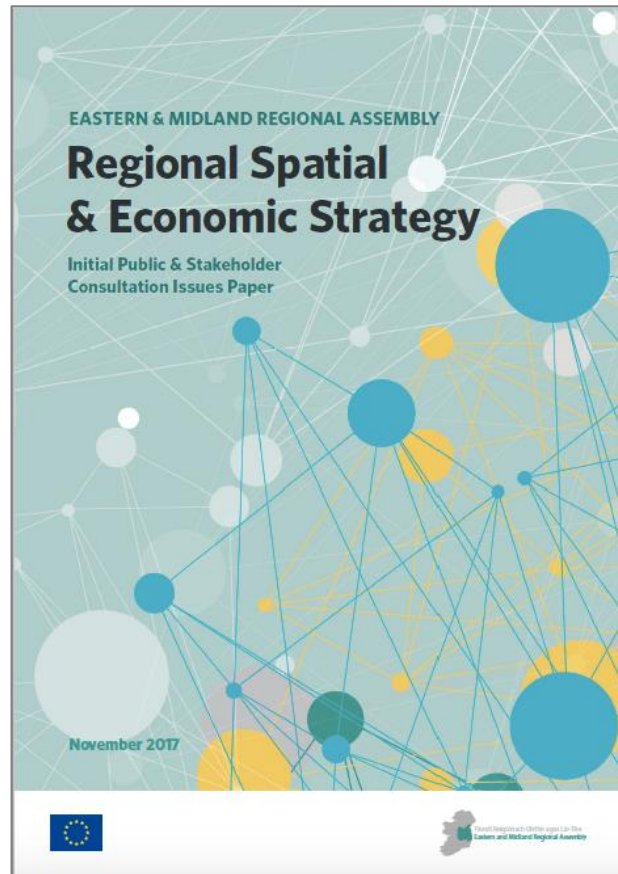
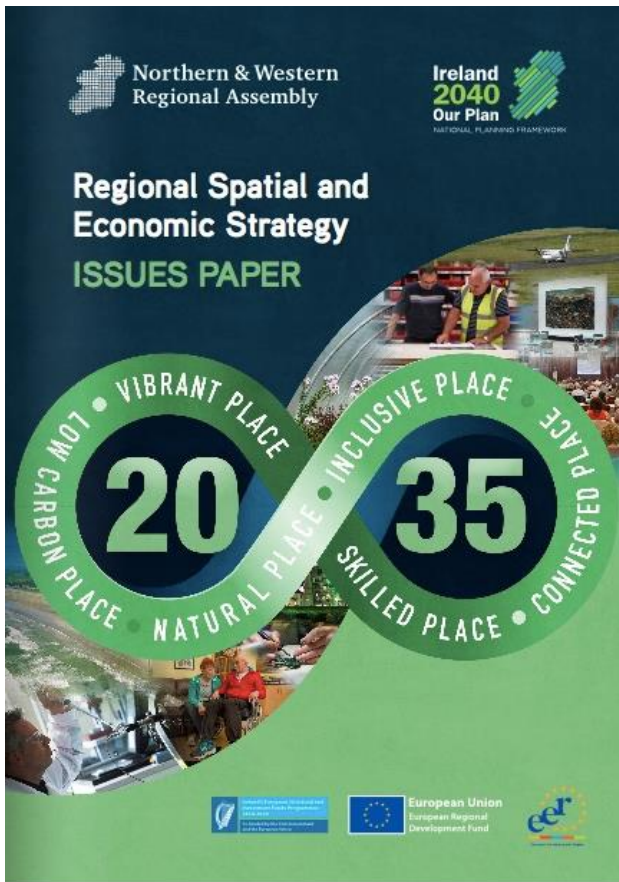
- June 2014: 8 regional authorities dissolved
- January 2015: 3 regional assemblies established
  - Sub-areas – Strategic Planning Areas (SPA's)
  - Members nominated by constituent local authorities
- Key roles:
  - \*\* Prepare Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) and MASP's
  - Ensure consistency between RPG/RSES and local authority plans/programmes
  - EU Programmes

# Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES's) – rationale and process

- RSES links National Planning Framework, City / County Development Plans and Local Economic and Community Plans.
- **October 2017** - Regional Assemblies commenced the preparation of the RSES's, as a replacement to the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) 2010 -2022
- RSES – ***give details to the principles*** outlined in the National Planning Framework



# Issues papers – November 2017



# Opportunities of the new arrangements

- For the first time, RSES will align economic development and spatial planning functions to enable ***region-appropriate and specific*** approaches aligned to NPF
- Alignment with National Investment Plan should ensure capital funding is available and strategically deployed
- RSES have the **potential** to guide the plans and policies of local authorities, state agencies and private sector investment in the medium-term to ensure development is plan-led
- Regional Assemblies will produce 12-year **Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans (MASP's)** recognising the reality of city-regionalism – **statutory underpinning**



# Key challenges

- **Policy integration**

- How will RSES align with traditional sectoral-based approach to policy across government departments? And existing strategies e.g. NTA Transport Strategy for Dublin?
- Redirecting growth within the region e.g. within and close to cities/urban centres rather than on their fringe?

- **Regional governance**

- Authority of the regional assemblies?
- Effectiveness of a nominee-based regional layer of governance – independence and strength of role in fostering collaboration across local authorities?
- Identification of appropriate boundaries and governance of Metropolitan Areas?

- **Challenge of clarifying relationships, competences and “subsidiarity”**
  - Mature multi-level governance framework needs clear functional demarcation
  - **NPF (p. 136)** ““In order to enhance co-ordination of development more generally in town locations that straddle administrative boundaries, **Government** will work with the relevant local authorities in developing preparation of joint urban/local area plans, utilising current Local Area Plan (LAP) legislation” (p. 136)
  - Role of National Regeneration and Development Agency
  - Metropolitan governance framework – between the regional and the local?
  - Urban authorities as level of government often closest to citizens have a key role (Urban Agenda of the EU, 2016) – what role for local authorities in a strengthened regional governance structure?



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# // Thank you

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