



**MINUTES OF JOINT PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT SPC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SPC**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

**1 Implementing the National Planning Framework 2040;**

The Chair welcomed members of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC. He also welcomed the MSc students who are studying spatial planning in DIT to the meeting.

The Purpose of this Special Joint meeting of the Planning and Property Development SPC and the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC is to attend a presentation regarding the upcoming Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy, given by Ms. Bernie Quinn of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly.

The Chair welcomed Bernie Quinn of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly who is one of the Planners working in the Assembly. As the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy detailed document has not yet been published it was not possible to hand out a hard copy. Bernie gave a brief history of how the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly evolved.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy is a policy document to set out the vision for the development of the region over the next 12-20 years to 2030. It will support the implementation of the Project Ireland 2040, the National Planning Framework and the 10 year National Investment Plan. This all sets the framework for local planning and economic development. There are 11 chapters covered in The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Bernie spoke about the main areas highlighted below.

**The Spatial Strategy** is a theoretical approach making sure that policy is consistent with the National Planning Framework population targets and key growth areas. This is an integrated land use and transport strategy which identifies the key growth areas within the region of which Dublin City and Suburbs would be a key settlement and includes evidence based capacity analysis, looking at the functional area of urban centres. How many people are commuting into these key settlements from surrounding areas, have they a functional role or are they merely commuter driven, what is their carrying capacity in terms of infrastructure and environment.

**The Economic Strategy** is a new element in regional planning and did not exist previously in the Regional Planning Guidelines. This strategy is aligned with National and Regional level policy such as Enterprise 2025, Action Plan for Jobs, The Dublin Regional Enterprise Strategy and Local Economic and Community Plans. There is a

focus on Economic Engines such as Dublin, Athlone, Dundalk, Drogheda and the Dublin to Belfast Economic corridor. What are the existing drivers, building on regional strengths to facilitate effective regional development? There is an Economist as part of the team who has worked up the economic strategy. One of the key elements of the economic strategy is the recognition of the importance of human capital so skills and also the importance of infrastructure in order to facilitate economic development.

**Transport Strategy** is an integrated spatial strategy for roads, public transport and green modes of travel. It is a requirement of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to be consistent with transport strategy throughout the process. Thus working with the National Transport Authority to help define commuter patterns, mode shares and trip profiles for settlements across the region.

**Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans** will set out a clear and concise plan for future sustainable growth of the capital city region. Identifying the key change parameters for the city in question, i.e. population, employment, housing, retail, travel patterns and key renewal, development and amenity areas. Work out a sequence of infrastructure prioritisation, delivery and co-ordination: to deliver compact regeneration and growth. Dublin City and Suburbs population is expected to grow by 20%-25% between 2016 and 2040 with a minimum target population of 1,408,000.00.

The Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for Dublin can identify large scale regeneration areas that can deliver significant population and /or employment growth. It will prioritise public transport, walking and cycling initiatives and focus on underutilised, infill, brownfield and state owned lands and help co-ordinate relevant agencies and government departments for phased delivery of critical infrastructure. The Urban Regeneration and Development fund of 2 Billion over 10 years can help unlock development potential.

Bernie then explained that the Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy will go before the members of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly on the 5<sup>th</sup> October. It will then go on public display from October to December, anyone can make a submission. The whole process would hope to be finished by early spring 2019. It would then be a requirement for Local Authorities to vary or amend their Development Plan within a certain timeframe to ensure it is consistent with the Regional Strategy.

Discussion followed and the main concern is that the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy is due to be adopted very close to the Local Elections. Councillors are worried that they may be in the middle of an Election and that it can take up to 2 months for things to bed down, between the fall and rise of a Council.

MAPS is very new and the Dublin one is very wide with a lot of rural area. The wider the area the less you get out in term of Strategic out comes. The feeling is that there needs to be a very strong voice for Dublin. The feeling is that until the governance structure for Dublin is sorted out it will be hard to implement.

From an economic side there needs to be a very strong focus on the type of Industry, how we are doing Smart Cities, this all predetermines education and training needs.

What is the input that the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC will be making into this strategy, can the members make a submission. It was pointed out that submission can be made through the 38 Councillors who are members of the RSES or anyone can make a submission when the Strategy is on public display. Originally it was hoped that the strategy would have been on public display and that this meeting would have been on during the formal consultation period. It was pointed out that there was input from semi state bodies and that the private sector can make submissions during the public consultation period. Also at the pre-draft stage there would have been submissions made by the private sector. It is also very important that the message is out on the international market that Dublin is open for business. There is a perception on the international market that Ireland is closed, headlines about housing problems that we do not have the capacity. It is vital that during this time of Brexit it is important that forward planning can be shown, it is reassuring for the International market.

**Councillor Andrew Montague**  
**Chairperson**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Attendance:**

**Members:**

Cllr. Andrew Montague (chair)  
Cllr. Deirdre Heney (chair ED&E SPC)  
Cllr. Gaye Fagan  
Cllr. Paul McAuliffe  
Cllr. Áine Clancy  
Cllr. Anne Feeney  
Cllr. Daithí De Róiste  
Cllr. Norma Sammon  
Cllr. Dermot Lacey  
Ms. Geraldine Lavin  
Ms. Ann Mulcrone  
Ms. Valerin O'Shea  
Mr. John McCrane  
Mr. Odran Reid  
Mr. Graeme McQueen

**Officers**

Mr. Richard Shakespeare, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. John O'Hara, City Planner  
Ms. Máire Igoe, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Mary Mac Sweeney, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Niamh Lambert, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Aileen Mac Dermott, S. Staff Officer (C)  
Ms. Sharon Beatty, Staff Officer  
Mr. Conor O'Hanlon, Clerical Officer

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Kieran Binchy	Cllr. Greg Kelly	Ms. Denise Brophy
Cllr. Patrick Costello	Cllr. Paddy Bourke	Mr. John Lombard
Cllr. Hazel De Nortúin	Cllr. Gary Gannon	Mr. Evanne Kilmurray
Cllr. Janice Boylan	Cllr. Noeleen Reilly	Ms. Geraldine Lavin
Cllr. Cathleen Carney Boud	Cllr. Mary Freehill	Mr. Martin Harte