

# Presentation to Dublin City Council Planning and Urban Forum SPC

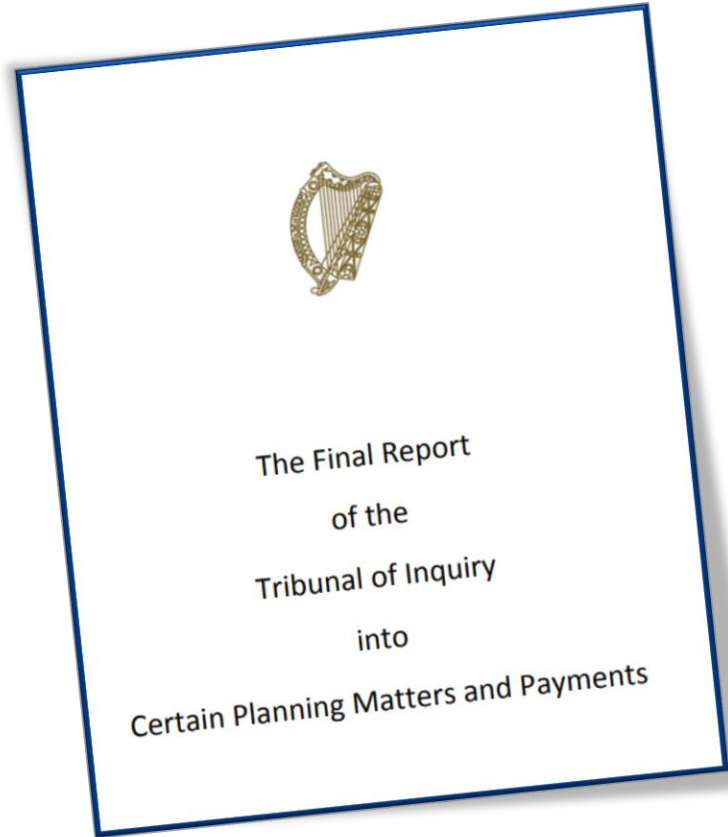
## Briefing on The Office of the Planning Regulator

**Niall Cussen: Chief Executive and Planning Regulator**



**Oifig an  
Rialaitheora Pleanála**  
Office of the  
Planning Regulator

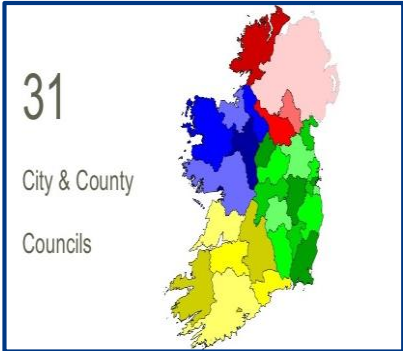
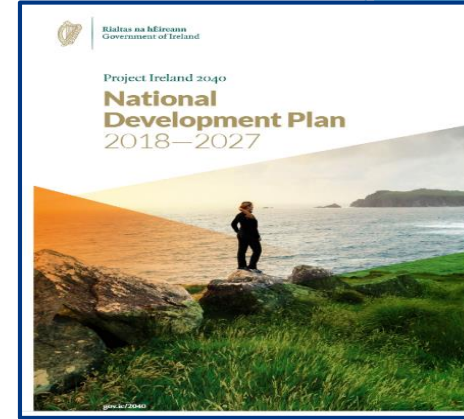
# Purpose of the OPR



**Implementation of key recommendation of Mahon Tribunal to strengthen independent oversight of the planning process through...**



Assessment of statutory plans of local govt system for fit with statutory (Government/EU) policy and legislative requirements



Reviews and examinations of local authority and Bord Pleanála systems and procedures in the delivery of planning services to the public



Building knowledge and information base in planning through training for local authority members and staff, public information, research



# Assessment of Statutory Plans

OPR will evaluate local authority/regional assembly plans at strategic level

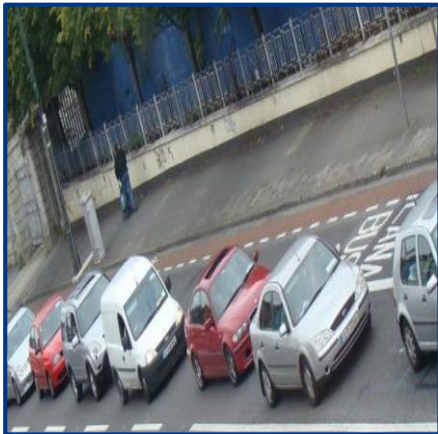


**Pre-plan making stage  
(issues papers)**

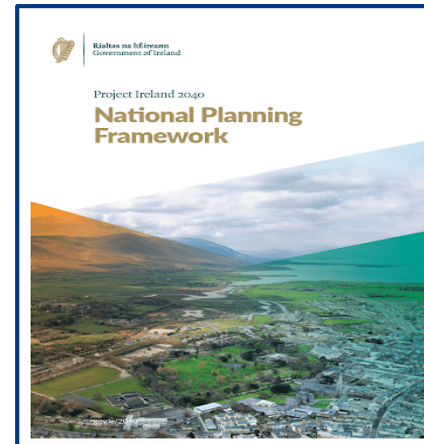


**Draft plan/  
amended draft stages**

**FOCUS**



**Climate change**



**Consistency with  
National Planning  
Framework (Brownfield  
Targets)**

**Regional Spatial and  
Economic Strategies**

**Guidelines and  
Directives issued by  
Minister**

OPR is developing – with stakeholders – an objective plans assessment methodology



# Reviews of Planning Authorities

OPR can at any time or at request of the Minister or on foot of complaints, review systems and procedures used by all planning authorities, including An Bord Pleanála

**Methodology:** almost finalised – to be published shortly

**Reviews:** first two to be done this year, four next year, building to a programme whereby every planning authority is reviewed on a six year+cycle

**Review process will be an important resource for the planning sector**



# Research & Public Awareness

Statutory mandate to conduct education, research and training programs

- ✓ **Training:** for elected members and officials – four events: attended by over 500 members to date (*low take-up by DCC members to date – why?*)
  
- ✓ **Research:** into matters relevant to the OPR's functions or at the request of the Minister
  
- ✓ **National Planning Knowledge Group** established & considering topics - eg
  - ▶ Assessment of climate impacts in forward planning decisions
  - ▶ GIS tools to assist forward planning
  - ▶ What would DCC's SPC consider are important topics?

**We want people to engage more with the planning process, so we're doing things like this.....**

# Eco-Eye, RTE 1 January 2020

