



16 February 2016

To each Cathaoirleach
Cc: To each Chief Executive

**Re: Ireland 2040 – Our Plan
National Planning Framework**

Dear Cathaoirleach,

Ireland 2040 – Our Plan, the NPF will be the long-term, national 20-year strategy for the spatial and place-making development of Ireland that will assist in shaping future growth and change. On 2nd February, I launched the first consultation stage on the plan with An Taoiseach and Minister of State Damien English. Collectively, influencing the pattern of development in Ireland over the next 20 years will require a range of expertise, perspectives and inputs. As part of this consultation period, an *Issues and Choices* paper has been prepared to encourage debate and is available to view and download at the following dedicated website www.ireland2040.ie.

I believe that Local Government is one of the key stakeholders in the preparation of a National Planning Framework for Ireland and your engagement with a plan for Ireland's future is central not only to its preparation, but also to its implementation. In this context, I would like to invite you to engage with the consultation process at pre-draft stage with a view to making a submission at this stage in the process.

As part of the process in engaging with Local Government and where the timeframe allows, I am requesting that the topic of *Ireland 2040* is included on the agenda of your next monthly Council meeting as a means of discussing what the aspirations of your Council are for Ireland's future and how Ireland might look in 2040.



If this is not achievable in the timeframe, there may be an opportunity to utilise the various organisation structures that are established and operational within local government that will enable consideration of the *Issue and Choices* paper, generate debate and facilitate discussion. These include, but are not limited to Municipal District Meetings, Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

Written submissions at this first stage of the plan process can be made online through the dedicated website www.ireland2040.ie, by email (to npf@housing.gov.ie) or in writing to NPF Submissions, Forward Planning Section, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0) by 12 noon on Thursday 16th March 2017.

I look forward to receiving your submission and engaging in this important first step in planning for Ireland's future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Coveney', written in a cursive style.

Simon Coveney T.D.

Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government